

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee



Ervin “Red” Wolfe (1920 – 1991) Inducted in 1991

Red put Minnesota on the map in the jazz world. His playing career started at age 11 in Sauk Centre, Minnesota. In 1991, he celebrated his 60 years in the music business. His warmth and humanity made him a favorite with everyone. In 1937 he started playing professionally in Minneapolis. He served in the navy as a bugler in WW II, and worked for the Minneapolis Star & Tribune. He took early retirement in 1978 to devote full time to music. He played jazz festivals throughout the Midwest and did concert tours and special bookings. In the past 10 years, he and other musician friends have brought their music to more than 100,000 school children teaching them how and why jazz music began. Red was the founder of the Echoes of Ellington Band that present a historical journey into the music of Duke Ellington Orchestra who was popular in the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

