

Jack Mouse

Born in Emporia, Kansas, jazz drummer Jack Mouse is a 1964 graduate of Emporia High School and was inducted into the Emporia High School Hall of Fame in 2018. He began playing at the age of four, and by his late teens was already performing with such musical greats as Buddy Morrow, Michael "Peanuts" Hucko and Red Norvo. Upon graduating from the College of Emporia in 1968, he spent three years as a featured soloist touring and recording with the "Falconaires," the official jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has since performed with such outstanding jazz artists as Stan Kenton, Clark Terry, Herb Ellis, Joe Williams, Carl Fontana, James Moody, Randy Brecker, Billy Taylor, Frank Wess, Kai Winding, Kenny Burrell, Jon Faddis, Bob Mintzer, Sammy Nestico, Marc Johnson, Chuck Israels, Steve Rodby, Dianne Reeves, Sheila Jordan, Lou Marini, Four Freshmen, Jack Reilly Trio, Bunky Green Quartet, Dan Haerle Trio, Johnny Smith, Phil Wilson, John LaPorta and many others.

The Jack Mouse Group's 2012 CD **Range of Motion** (Origin Records) features his original compositions. The album received extensive international radio airplay, including 5 weeks on the Jazz Week Top 50 Chart and 9 weeks on the CMJ Top 40 Chart, and many rave reviews: "A sure-handed, high energy drummer who dazzles with brushes. A splendid album, well-written and quarterbacked by Mouse...Thumb up!" (*All About Jazz*)

Jack's 2015 release **Snakeheads & Ladybugs** is a CD of freely improvised duets with multi-instrumentalist Scott Robinson. It was released on the Tall Grass Records label established by Jack and his wife, jazz vocalist Janice Borla. His 2016 release **Three Story Sandbox** (Tall Grass), a recording of free improvisations with Robinson and Borla, was selected as a February, 2016 "Editor's Pick" by *DownBeat Magazine*. His current release **Intimate Adversary** (Tall Grass), another collection of original compositions, is garnering wide critical acclaim.

A longstanding member of the Janice Borla Group, Jack can be heard on **Whatever We Imagine** (P-Vine, Japan), **Lunar Octave** (DMP), **Agents of Change** and **From Every Angle** (Blujazz), named one of *DownBeat*'s "Best CDs of 2007," and **Promises to Burn** (Tall Grass), among *DownBeat*'s "Best CDs of 2014." Also a member of the Dan Haerle Trio, he is heard on **Truth of the Matter** (Seagull) and **Standard Procedure** (Blujazz), one of *DownBeat*'s "Best CDs of 2005." Jack's multi-faceted career has been the subject of recent interviews in *Modern Drummer* and *Jazz Improv* magazines. He has authored articles for *Percussive Notes* and the *IAJE-Illinois Newsletter*.

Currently Coordinator of Jazz Studies at North Central College, Jack has also served on the faculties of the American Conservatory of Music, Benedictine University, Saskatchewan School of the Arts, Clark Terry Great Plains Jazz Camp, National Stage Band Camps, Jamey Aebersold Combo-Improvisation Camps, Janice Borla Vocal Jazz Camp, Birch Creek Music Performance Center, International Peace Gardens, and the Melville Jazz Retreat. Jack has presented clinics and workshops at jazz festivals, music conventions, colleges and high schools throughout the world, and presents clinics online through the ALIVE Project. As a member of the Bunky Green Quartet he was among the first musicians to introduce jazz education to the Montreux Jazz Festival. He is a staff artist/clinician for Yamaha Drums, Sabian Cymbals, Aquarian Drum Heads and Vic Firth Drum Sticks. In 2018 Yamaha Drums honored Jack by creating a custom drum set built to his specifications.

In 2016 Jack and Janice launched Flashpoint Creative Arts, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the understanding and practice of improvisation as an essential life skill. In 2019 they were made Paul Harris Fellows by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International in recognition of their work with young people with autism spectrum disorder.