

# Jack Mouse

Jazz drummer Jack Mouse began playing at the age of four, and by his late teens was already performing with such musical greats as Buddy Morrow, "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 scores of outstanding jazz artists, including Stan Kenton, Clark Terry, Herb Ellis, Joe Williams, Carl Fontana, James Moody, Doc Severinsen, Randy Brecker, Billy Taylor, Frank Wess, Kai Winding, Kenny Burrell, Jon Faddis, Bob Mintzer, Marc Johnson, Chuck Israels, Steve Rodby, Dianne Reeves, Sheila Jordan, Lou Marini, Jack Reilly Trio, Bunky Green Quartet, Johnny Smith, Phil Wilson, John LaPorta and many others.

The Jack Mouse Group's 2012 CD ***Range of Motion*** (Origin) 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*).

His 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, vocalist Janice Borla. His 2016 release ***Three Story Sandbox*** (Tall Grass), a recording of free improvisations with Robinson and Borla, was an "Editor's Pick" by *DownBeat Magazine*. His 2019 release ***Intimate Adversary*** (Tall Grass), another collection of original compositions, continues to garner wide critical acclaim.

A longstanding member of the Janice Borla Group, Jack can be heard on *Whatever We Imagine*, *Lunar Octave*, *Agents of Change*, *From Every Angle* (named one of *DownBeat*'s "Best CDs of 2007") and *Promises to Burn*, among *DownBeat*'s "Best CDs of 2014." As a member of the Dan Haerle Trio he is heard on *Truth of the Matter* and *Standard Procedure*, one of *DownBeat*'s "Best CDs of 2005."

Jack is a staff artist/clinician for Yamaha Drums, Sabian Cymbals, Aquarian Drum Heads and Vic Firth Drum Sticks. In 1995 the Yamaha Corporation custom built a 16" Maple Custom Series bass drum for him to his specifications. Then in 2017 Yamaha graciously agreed to custom build a complete set of Phoenix Series drums, including a 16" bass drum, again to his specifications.

Jack's multi-faceted career has been the subject of interviews in *Modern Drummer* and *Jazz Improv* magazines. He has published articles in *Percussive Notes* and the *IAJE-Illinois Newsletter*. In 2012 he was the recipient of an Aquarian Award of Achievement presented by Aquarian Drum Heads in acknowledgement of his contributions as a performer and jazz educator. He was inducted into the Emporia High School Hall of Fame in 2018, along with mentor and longtime friend, drummer Roy Burns.

Assistant Professor of Music and Coordinator of Jazz Studies at North Central College since 1996, 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 Melville Jazz Retreat. He has presented clinics and workshops at jazz festivals, music conventions, colleges and high schools throughout the world and online. As a member of the Bunky Green Quartet he pioneered jazz education at the Montreux Jazz Festival.

In 2017 Jack and Janice launched Flashpoint Creative Arts, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the 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 Flashpoint's work with young people with autism spectrum disorder. In 2020 Jack and Janice served as artistic directors of Rotary's Jazz Quilt fundraiser.