

# Volunteer Spotlight



## Meet Ron Bliss

Ron Bliss is a member of our Community Advisory Board (CAB), and a long time volunteer and friend of Jazz 93.5. See what he has to say about his love of Jazz.

### **When did you first start listening to jazz?**

Over 60 years ago (at the age of 10 or 11), I recall going over to my uncle's house to hear some brand new jazz LPs on his equally new stereo system. It felt like I was in the middle of a live jam session. That's how I became a jazz aficionado.

### **Any special memories or songs?**

Two Jazz remembrances worth mentioning. First, hearing The Ramsey Lewis Trio in a live performance at a small Youngstown, Ohio bar back in the mid '60s. Wow, just wow! That's the way jazz should be heard. Second (also from that era), going to my college campus burger joint and playing Vince Guaraldi's "Cast Your Fate to the Wind" on the juke box. "Cast your Fate..." stayed in that juke box for my entire four years. I still believe it to be one of the finest jazz pieces ever written. I still listen to it.

### **What do you like the most about jazz?**

What I particularly like about Jazz is the freedom it affords musicians to express their individual creativity. No two performances are ever alike.

### **Any musical words of wisdom for us?**

This quotation is not from me, but from Kurt Vonnegut, one of my favorite author's "Music is, to me, the proof of existence of God. It is so extraordinarily full of magic, and in tough times of my life, I can listen to music and it makes such a difference." I embrace these thoughts completely.