

Scholarship Slides Trombonist Upwards

by Richard Regent

Dave Bock is the young trombonist who was awarded a 2004 **Unlimited Jazz, Ltd.** Scholarship and the **Wisconsin Conservatory of Music** Summer High School Jazz Camp Award. In July 2004, Dave packed up his trombone to travel to California to attend the **Sacramento Traditional Jazz Camp** for a week. He vividly recalls, "Kids were grouped into ten 7-piece jazz bands with banjo, tuba, bass, trombone, clarinet, percussion and trumpet. We were taught how to play traditional jazz. It was great fun, lots to learn and all showed an interest to play jazz." Dave really appreciates his Unlimited Jazz Scholarship.

At 15 years old, Dave was still not old enough to drive a car in Wisconsin. So his parents gave him rides to auditions, rehearsals and gigs. Recently, Dave began carpooling to musical events with his neighborhood school friend, Ken Hanner. Ken plays the guitar and saxophone and teaches both instruments at Kashmir Music, but most importantly he is a 17 year old licensed driver.

Even now at 16 years old, Dave has the unbeatable quality of being the youngest musician in the **Dixie Doodlers**, a seven-piece Dixieland band out of New Berlin. Dave plays trombone in the front row, but if necessary, can fill in on other instruments. Dave's friend Ken eventually joined the Doodlers and plays banjo in the rhythm section. Dave keeps in touch by instant-messaging with another friend, Andy Schumm, who is a part time member of Dixie Doodlers and now away at the University of Illinois. Andy plays piano, trumpet and banjo.

Although Dave's primary musical instrument is his trombone, he does an amazing job on tuba, trumpet, piano, string bass, kazoo and the unusual Eb Alto Horn as well. Dave recently played gigs on tuba with **Norrie Cox Goodtime Jazz** and **Riverboat Ramblers** and frequently sits in to play the tuba or trombone with **New Rampart Street Paraders** at the Organ Piper Pizza.

Last year he formed a band he named **Dave Bock's Gut-Bucket Five** to play at the annual **Tribute to Bix Beiderbecke Festival** in Racine, Wisconsin. His talented young musical friends played and improvised music that was very well received. This year, on March 13 in the afternoon, Dave and his band, renamed **The Past Jazz Masters**, will be again playing in the Bix roaring 20's jazz programs in Racine. Dave says, "This involves responsibility. Last year it all came together OK. As far as leadership goes, it was a growing experience".

Dave, a Junior at the Mukwonago High School, active in **Pep Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and the After School Jazz Band**, lives with his parents, two brothers and a dog in a country home near Mukwonago. For the past year he helps a musician friend on weekends to categorize and organize over 7,000 records in a 78 rpm collection. Dave occasionally goes along with his Mom to local rummage and estate sales. While Mom looks for antiques, Dave searches for records, many times finding rare and valuable early original 1920's jazz recordings. Dave plays music at least one hour a day between school studies and helping around the home, sometimes along with the music of an old 78 rpm record.

Besides musicianship Dave is a Dixieland and Jazz Historian. He has an old Victrola 78 rpm player in his room along with a large record collection. He carefully puts a 78 on the turntable, winds up the machine, lowers the stylus and enjoys listening to the records. If you have a few hours, Dave will explain the details of the music, the musicians and the style of each recording. His walls are decorated with appropriate old records, record sleeves and vintage music advertisements. Dave particularly likes the Red Hot Jazz web site where he first got an interest in the history of the original 1920's musicians, and where he finds and listens to old recordings.

When Gary Lavann, trumpeter, introduces each of the Dixie Doodlers at gigs, he always amazes and energizes the audience when he says, "Dave Bock on trombone, who is 16 years old!" Dave deserves his well-earned applause. Bravo, Dave!