



RIALTO  
SQUARE

NIU JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
WITH GUESTS  
CARL FONTANA - CONTE CANDOLI - LOUIE BELLSON



As a student of the NIU Jazz Ensemble in the late 80s, I had the privilege of witnessing and playing in some truly incredible performances. A few concerts that stand out were at the Rialto Theatre.

The energy in the room was electric as they took to the stage and began playing. Each young musician brought their unique style and flair to the performance, and it was genuinely awe-inspiring every year to see them play at such a high level musically. Alan Hood's solos on the flugelhorn and trumpet are always exciting and electric. His soulful playing of one of the tunes brought a sense of warmth and intimacy to the concert, and it was clear that he was genuinely passionate about his craft.

Overall, I will never forget these concerts; they were many incredible experiences. It was a true honor to share the stage with all of the jazz



*Alan Hood*



*Ron Modell*

for jazz was contagious, and it was clear that he genuinely cared about every student who came through the NIU Jazz program. He was always willing to go above and beyond to help us grow and develop as musicians, and his dedication to our success was truly inspiring.

giants that Mode brought to NIU and the great student performers. I feel fortunate to have been a part of such unforgettable performances.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Ron Modell's role in bringing such incredible talent to the NIU Jazz Ensemble. As the ensemble's director, Ron was a true champion of jazz education, and he worked tirelessly to promote and support the next generation of jazz musicians. Ron's passion

But perhaps Ron's most significant contribution to jazz education was his ability to bring such incredible guest artists to perform with the ensemble. His connections in the jazz world were unparalleled, and he used them to allow us to learn from some of the most excellent musicians of our time.

In the end, Ron's legacy as a director at NIU and promoter of jazz education will continue to inspire and influence generations of musicians to come. I feel fortunate to have had the chance to learn from him, and I know that his impact on the jazz world will be felt for years to come.

## Rob Parton

Northern Illinois University – MM 1989  
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*Rob Parton*

Ron Modell's autobiography "Loved Being Here With You" is available in paper back on Amazon or Barnes & Noble

[Amazon](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)



Inset: Lynne Lichtenauer, former Executive Director  
Rialto Square Theatre



*Above:*  
Conte Condoli

*Right:*  
Carl Fontana





*Above:*  
Louie Bellson

*Right:*  
Ron Modell  
Montreux Jazz Festival  
1996





*l to r: Bud Brisbois, Ron Modell and Bill Chase  
photo courtesy of Ron Modell*



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

with

**CARL FONTANA, CONTE CANDOLI & LOUIE BELLSON**

February 10, 1990 – The Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet, Illinois

**Director & Emcee** – Ron Modell

**Trumpets** – Al Hood\*, Ed Sloka\*, Scott Hall, Anthony Wiggins, Mark Hoffman. **Trombones** – Tom MacTaggart\*, Ryan Miller, Eric Caliendo, Ed Partyka (b-tb). **Reeds** – Matt James\*, Ian Nevins (as), Ken Partyka\*, Bill Kotrba (ts), Brian Budzik (bs). **Rhythm** – John Blasucci (p), Larry Kohut (b), Eric Montzka (d), Mark Banach(g), Bill Elliott (perc).

*\* Lead*

**1. Carl Fontana intro.**

**2. I've Got A Right To Sing The Blues**

c: Harold Arlen, Ted Koehler / a: Sammy Nestico / Carl Fontana(tb)

**3. Emily**

c: Johnny Mandel, Johnny Mercer / a: Bill Rogers / Carl Fontana(tb)

**4. Conte Candoli intro**

**5. Hip Shakin'**

c: Frank Foster / a: Walt Levinsky or Dick Lieb (?) / Conte Candoli(tp)

**6. It Might As Well Be Spring**

c: Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II / a: Bob Ojeda / Conte Candoli(tp)

**7. A Night In Tunisia**

c: Dizzy Gillespie / a: Med Flory for Super Sax / Conte Candoli(tp), Al Hood(tp), Sax Section

**8. Louie Bellson intro.**

**9. Ya Gotta Try**

c & a: Sammy Nestico / John Blasucci(p), Louie Bellson(d), Ken Partyka(ts), Bill Kotrba(ts)

**10. Cinderella's Waltz**

c & a: Don Menza / Mark Hoffman(tp), Louie Bellson(d)

**11. If I Were A Bellson**

c/a: Frank Mantooth / Louie Bellson (d), Brian Budzik (bs)

**12. Tune intro**

**13. Three Ton Blues**

c & a: Pete Christlieb / Ken Partyka(ts), Conte Candoli(tp), Carl Fontana(tb) ), Louie Bellson(d),

**14. Tune Intro**

**15. Sing, Sing, Sing**

c: Louis Prima / Conte Candoli(tp), Carl Fontana(tb),  
Louie Bellson(d)

**16. We Love Being Here With You**

c: Peggy Lee and Bill Schluger a: Phil Kelly / Ron Modell vocal

**Rialto Theater Executive Director** - Lynne Lichtenauer

**Sound Engineer** - Gary Emmert.

**Producers** – Ron Modell & Bill Lichtenauer,

**Mastering Engineer** – Ken Sluiter,

**Graphic Design & Layout** – Larry Bowman.

**Special thanks to:** Lynne Lichtenauer (RIP), Ron Modell, Eric Lichtenauer, Pete Christlieb, Jack Bowers, Mike Barone, Greg Tipps

