

# Select emails with memories of Pete Douglas

(Select emails as of 7/19/20)

- Denise wrote: "My deepest sympathies to the Douglas family. Pete's passing is a major blow to the jazz community. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to perform at his venue. I will cherish the memory of Pete showing me his photo album of the many jazz icons who have graced his stage. He was so proud of what he had accomplished. He will be sorely missed ... RIP, Pete" -- Denise Donatelli on Facebook
- He was a rare and generous human being and an important force in the world of music. His standards were high and he was fearless. Pete was unafraid to impose his worldview on us all. As a result, jazz has remained more centered and less commercial. -- Steve Conrad
- I am truly sorry to hear about the sad news and would like to send you and Pete's family my heartfelt condolences. I only talked with Pete a couple of times but got the sense of warmth and of someone who cared about the music. I am sad not to be meeting him in August but we are all looking forward to be there and celebrate his memory through music. Much love. -- Ohad Talmor
- I have fond memories of going to see young Bobby Hutcherson with the audience passing bottles of wine around and generally enjoying the great vibe. MJF owes Pete for getting Tim Jackson started on his brilliant career which has made the Monterey Jazz Festival one of the world's premier Jazz events. Best, Terry O'Connor, President, Monterey Jazz Festival.
- Sorry to hear about Pete. He was pissed at me on an off for years! A singular character who created a great scene. I spent many pleasurable Sunday afternoons in that beach house. -- Jesse Hamlin
- I was very saddened to hear of Pete's passing. I was formerly Executive Director of the Arts Council of San Mateo County and am very aware of the incredible contribution made by Pete and the PCDDS to the richness of cultural offerings on the Peninsula. San Mateo County has been very fortunate to have been home to this wonderful venue. After many years of absence from attending a BCDDS event, I recently attended a jazz concert with my son and was reminded about the diversity of programming offered there and the artistic excellence, incredible location, ocean vista, loyal and very enthusiastic attendees! I had a chance to speak briefly to Pete and then my son and I spoke with Linda at some length about the future of BCDDS. I am very hopeful that Linda and the heirs to Pete's estate will be able to find a way for this marvelous and unique performance venue to continue. -- Julia Orazem
- Such devastating news. The passing of a legend and truly the end of an era; but we fervently hope not the end of an institution. There are not words adequate to express enough appreciation for all the memorable times that we have spent at Bach the almost 50 years that we have been coming. Bach has always been a supremely important part of our lives. It is the epitome of the jazz experience and is an irreplaceable treasure. Pete's presence will always linger and influence our lives. We hope that in some way it can continue to exist and we know that you will do all that you can to make that happen, as you have been so important and pivotal in its operation for so long. Wherever Pete is now, I'm sure there will be superb music. Karl and Theresa Robinson (Bach contributors)
- Please allow me to express my deepest condolences over our loss of Pete. I am very saddened to hear this news. Many years of fond memories, attending concerts at the Bach, and working with him through my years at KSJS. He was one of a kind. The Douglas Beach House is an iconic institution, truly unique. Pete supported so many, many artists over the years - and gave Bay area fans a wonderful experience. I am truly sorry for your loss. -- Dr. Brad Stone

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- "Pete Douglas literally transformed a beach-side shack into one of the top major jazz venues in the world - this is a great loss for the Arts" Terry Disley
- We're so stunned and sad to learn of Pete's passing. It was a gift from the universe that we were able to perform at the Bach in May and finally meet Pete in person and share some laughs. This is a huge loss for the jazz world and for so many of us who were fortunate to have been able to experience and enjoy the special world Pete created for so many years. We send our deep condolences and love. -- Ed Reed and Diane
- "I'm deeply saddened at Pete's passing. He was a great visionary, committed to showcasing the best in jazz for 50+ years! What an amazing historical impact he made with BD&DS. I will always treasure the memories of his beach house beatnik temple to authentic music. He was so generous of spirit & time; we had several long talks about jazz & I'm sure he regaled many others with his memories of the Lighthouse, Formosa Beach et al, digging the west coast jazz scene as a youngster & carrying the legacy forward. Take a moment to look at the highlighted jazz "tree" to see all the greats who played at his wonderful home venue. His dedication hopefully inspires others to continue to support his legacy: go out to hear live jazz & other "real" music! May Linda continue to carry his torch, and it will be wonderful if the shows can continue. Thanks, Pete! You live on through your great legacy & in the hearts & heads of those you touched." -- Henry Wimmer on Facebook
- Pete Douglas, owner and founder of the legendary Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society in Half Moon Bay California passed yesterday, July 12th. For more than 50 years Pete brought to the Bach some of the finest jazz musicians ever to grace any jazz stage in the world like Shirley Horn, Horace Silver, Michel Petrucciani, Woody Herman, Zoot Simms, Shelly Mann and so many more in recent times. Pete was proud that Downbeat Magazine had listed the Bach for three years running as one of the top 150 jazz venues in the world. Pete will certainly be missed by the thousands who have passed through those doors and gazed out from the windows overlooking the rolling Pacific Ocean at the edge of Monterey
- Prentice 'Pete' Douglas, Founder and Music Director of Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society. The 'Bach' evolved from an abandoned seven stool beer joint bought by a 'dysfunction youth seeking action at he beach' in 1957 to a world class, surreal world view jazz and classical concert venue. Spontaneous drop-ins of 'hard-core beats, artists, gays and SF show people became a non-profit in 1964 and 50 years later had seen Charlie Haden, Bill Evans, Ray Brown, Lennie White, Ellington, Mingus, Basie and Bellson, Blakey, Max Roach, Tony Williams, Paul Horn, Burrell, Byrd, Coryell, Him Hall, Joe Pass, Toots, Tito, Poncho, Monty, Bierach, Brackeen, Broadbent, Guaraldi, Rolland Hanna, Hamptom Hawes, Hersch, Fatha Hines, Mehdau, Mulgrew, Petrucciani, Rowles, Horace Silver, McCoy, Cedar, MaryLou, Benny Carter, Dexter, Garbarek, Golson, Eddis Harris Henderson, Liebman, Sam Rivers, Pharoah, Shorter, Stitt, Turrentine, Adderly, Dizzy, Clark Terry, Gary Burton, Milt, Tjader, DeeDee, Betty, Blossom Dear, Jon Hendricks, McFerrin, Shirley Horn, Flora . to name a few. Musicians loved the acoustics, view, vibe and Pete. He maintained well considered opinions, 'some obvious, some controversial' but was open to discussion. His observations - 'Ruminations' were available in a handout at the club, which I keep, autographed, at my studio. "Ruminations of a Music Presenter by Pete Douglas" (my favorite excerpts): **2. Listening to contemporary Jazz does not preclude a joyful response. 16. Artistry is a subjective thing, but you are certain when you witness it. 23. Real artists can take the most familiar music to another level of enjoyment. 25. Most Americans do not grow in their interest in music beyond the music of their formative years.** I visited him from time to time, talked over life, health, music history and personalities, and show each other new music. I worked over his Steinway, and he let me rehearse and record. He could appear to be edgy and contrary to some, but I found him to be a warm, soulful, caring, intelligent and supportive rare person - a beatnik working as a businessman. Neil Adler (posted on Facebook)