



# PJ PERRY BIOGRAPHY

## BORN

December 2, 1941, Calgary, Alberta.

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

- Son of Paul Christian Guloien and Margaret Jean Yeo.
- Grandson of Nels and Hazel Guloien who raised 8 children on a farm in Wadena Saskatchewan
- Father of Douglas Amlee and father in law of Steffanie
- Grandfather of Mason (13) and Jessica (11)
- Father of Melina Paige (with former wife Leslie Rose) and father in law of Mikhail Morokhovich
- Grandchildren Nicolai (Cole) (7) Anika (Nikki) (5)
- Husband of- Rhonda Taft - member of Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
- Father of Paula (20) and Kira (15)

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Because his father Paul formed a jazz band that toured Western Canada for a living, his education was a disconnected history. He took grades one and two in Regina, grades three and four in Vancouver, and grades 5-10 between Sir Guy Carleton elementary school Vancouver and Sylvan Lake, Alberta. At that time there were only two rooms and a stable for the horses. He also attended school in Medicine Hat.

In his last formal year of school in Como Lake, Coquitlam, B.C. he played saxophone until 4.a.m weekly in commercial establishments.

## EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

- 1955- Performed as baritone saxophonist in the Paul Perry Orchestra, 7 nights per week from May to September, which engaged the finest Canadian jazz musicians of the time.
- 1958 – Performed with Dizzy Gillespie at the Queen Elizabeth theatre in Vancouver.
- 1959 - Performed with Rob McConnell Band in Toronto a jazz suite for jazz combo and string orchestra, recorded on CBC as a Canadian first.
- 1963-66 - lived, traveled, and performed in England, France and Germany with the Chico Arnaz Band and in Nice, France at the Palais De La Mediterranee.
- 1966-67- performed at the Cave Supper Club in Vancouver on the "A" circuit under the leadership of Chris Gage and then Fraser McPherson.
- July 4, 1967 joined Canadian Coast Guard as a seaman
- January 1, 1968        honorable discharge from the Canadian Coast Guard
- 1968 joined the Tommy Banks band, performed 6 nights a week at the Embers Steak House. and performed numerous radio and TV shows playing first sax, clarinet, flute and piccolo on all TV specials taped in Edmonton and Vancouver .
- 1970s first call at the main jazz club, Bourbon Street, Toronto performing with many great jazz players from the US and Canada.
- -played as a sub in the Rob McConnell band the "Boss Brass" which band won numerous Junos and a Grammy.
- 1980s -played the Village Vanguard in Manhattan with the Red Rodney Quintet

## NOTABLE MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1953- won first award in an amateur music contest at Sir Guy Carleton School, Vancouver B.C. for his rendition of "Whispering" on the clarinet.
- 1978 - First Jazz Vinyl Recording "Sessions" Edmonton Alberta
- 1978 Montreux recording with Tommy Banks and Big Miller received Juno Award
- 1991 first CD "Worth Waiting For" with Kenny Barron on piano, Chuck Deardorf on bass, and Victor Lewis on drums; released in the USA by The Jazz, a subsidiary of Concord Records.
- 1992 released second CD, "My Ideal" in Montreal with Mulgrew Miller on piano, Neil Swainson on bass, and Victor Lewis on drums. Received JUNO award for best jazz recording

of the year.

- 1993- Best Alto Sax National Jazz Award
- 1994- Best Alto Sax National Jazz Award
- 1994 City of Edmonton Achievement Award in recognition of significant contribution in the area of Culture.
- 1994 Alberta Recording Industry Association Award for best jazz artist on record
- 1995- Best Alto Sax National Jazz Award
- 1996 Honorary Diploma in Music from Grant McEwan College
- 1997- Best Alto Sax National Jazz Award
- 1998- Best Alto Sax National Jazz Award
- 1999- Best Alto Sax National Jazz Award
- 1999 released CD "P.J. Perry and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. nomination for Juno Award for best ....This work has been performed with most of the symphonies in Canada as well as in Monterrey, Mexico and the CD has become a best seller for a jazz CD in Canada.
- 1999 produced a jazz concert series with over 60 performances at Ritchie United Church in Edmonton, introducing this genre of music to the unconverted.
- 2000 performed with Rob McConnell Tentet, "Tentet" which was also nominated for a Grammy and won JUNO award for best ....
- 2003 Best Alto Sax National Jazz Award
- 2003 – Certificate from Mayor Smith and City Council in recognition of receipt of 2003 National Jazz Award
- 2004- released "Come Sunday", a duo recording of spiritually inspired material with Doug Riley.
- September, 2004- performed charitable benefit fundraiser for University of Toronto Department of Music that raised \$50,000.
- October, 2004- performed in the Musical "RatPack" Canon Theatre, Toronto
- September, 2005- Received Lifetime Achievement Award at City of Edmonton Mayor's Night of the Arts.
- September 2005 Performed at Alberta Centennial Celebration at the new Northern Jubilee Auditorium

- September, 2005 released CD "Time Flies" in Vancouver with Bobby Shew on trumpet, Ross Taggart on piano, Neil Swainson on bass, and Joe LaBarbera on drums, with favorable reviews from Downbeat and Jazz Times
- October 2005 recorded "Trio" CD with Reg Schwager and Neil Swainson. 4 tunes composed by PJ Perry
- February, 2006 Nominated for Juno Award for Justin Time recording "Time Flies"
- June 2006 Featured soloist w. Prime Time Big Band CD recorded at Banff Center
- March 2007 represented Alberta at concert in Canada House, London England.
- March 2007 Featured performer at Phil Dwyer's Qualicum Jazz Festival and Charity Fund Raiser
- April 2007 Performed at National Jazz Awards Toronto On.
- April – May 2007 Played in orchestra for "Oliver" at Citadel Theatre Edmonton AB
- April 2007 Featured performer with Winnipeg Jazz Big Band in Winnipeg Mn.
- May 2007 Performed with Carol Welsman at Winspear Theatre for the Arts Edmonton
- June 2007 Received Hon. Law Degree from University of Alberta.
- June 2007 Guest performer and clinician at Banff Center
- July 2007 Performed at Toronto Jazz Festival
- August 2007 – April 2008 Toured China and S. Korea w. Broadway Musical "42<sup>nd</sup> St"
- June 2008 Toronto Jazz Festival
- August 2008 Calgary Jazz Festival
- September 2008 Featured performer with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
- September – October 2008 United States tour of Broadway Musical "Chicago"
- November 2008 Performed at Upstairs Jazz Club in Montreal, Rex Hotel in Toronto, National Arts Center in Ottawa with Kevin Dean
- November 2008 Recorded "Joined at the Hip" CD with Campbell Ryga at Cellar Jazz Club in Vancouver BC.
- November 2008 Performed as soloist and played lead alto with Kirk McDonald's Big Band at Humber College in Toronto. Also taught some clinics.
- December 2008 Played solo tenor chair in New York Big Band playing music for pending

Broadway show featuring choreography of Twila Tharp Dance Company.

- January – February 2009 Wrote 5 new tunes for pending project with Kevin Dean
- March 2009 Performed with Tommy Banks tribute to Count Basie at the Yardbird Suite in Edmonton. Recorded by CBC
- March 2009 Played 3 performance of Broadway Show “Chicago” in Saskatoon Sk.
- March 2009 Performed with George Blondheim Jazz Quartet at Yardbird Suite, Edmonton Ab.
- March 2009 Performed in Jazz Concert for Alberta Jazz Educators Conference with Steve Kirby Quartet.
- March 2009 Guest soloist with Pro Coro choir concert at Winspear Theatre for the Arts Edmonton Ab.

Currently remains active across Canada as a studio musician, jazz soloist, and concert performer and records for Justin Time Records in Montreal.