John C. Paulson- musician, composer & educator

John Paulson started his musical journey in Rochester, MN participating in school music groups and playing sax professionally at an early age. He migrated west and got his B.M. and M.M. from the University of Utah where he developed a strong interest in jazz improvisation, composing and arranging. After several years of teaching and freelancing in Utah, he relocated to Seattle where he completed his DMA in music education from the University of Washington. In addition to playing the sax, he studied flute and clarinet with members of the Utah Symphony and the L.A. Chamber Orchestra and studied jazz improvisation with noted teachers in NYC for over a decade. After 35 years of fulltime teaching, Dr. Paulson retired from Saint Mary’s University in Winona, MN with professor emeritus status. He then taught jazz studies part time at Winona State University for six years. His latest teaching endeavor involves teaching jazz improvisation at the Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts in Winona, MN. He has performed internationally with his student jazz groups plus doing freelance work with noted groups like The Cab Calloway Orchestra, Mel Torme, Andy Williams, Bob Hope, The Temptations, Johnny Mathis, plus pro theatre & dance troupes. Paulson has received numerous grants in support of his concerts, clinics and recordings from the McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council.

He has done six jazz CDs of original music and 5 Master class CD's for the Saxophone Journal as well as composing and arranging all the music for his 2 big band CDs. The first CD, “The John Paulson Big Band Project,” was released in 2012 and “Five Years On” was released in the fall of 2018. That recording was recognized as one of the top 10 big band jazz CD’s of 2018 by KBEM jazz radio in Mpls. Scores and parts from his big band projects are available from walrusmusic.com or eJazzLines.com. Highlights of his big band performances include performing at the national Jazz Educators Convention in Louisville, KY and numerous grant funded concerts and residencies with various schools throughout the S.E. MN region. His CD’s are available as downloads from popular websites like Spotify, and iTunes and real CD’s from his catalog are now available on Momentous Records. He’s a member of ASCAP, ISJAC, JEN (the Jazz Educators Network), River Arts Alliance and is an official artist rep for Jody Jazz Sax Mouthpieces and accessories. Visit [www.paulsonjazz.com](http://www.paulsonjazz.com) for more.