

Bob Cooke's Big Retirement Party was held on January 7, 2011, at Avogadro's Number in Fort Collins, CO. This CD records the music played that evening. The 17 contributing musicians were the regular members of the Poudre River Irregulars, plus friends of Bob and the band from all over northern Colorado. It was a helluva party. We'll miss you, Bob...



### ***The Players:***

Rory Thomas, banjo\*  
Dennis Condreay, banjo  
Gene Libbea, bass\*  
David Dale, bass  
Jim Hurlbut, bass clarinet  
Clark Burnside, clarinet\*  
Bill Pontarelli, clarinet  
Ken Levinson, tenor sax/clarinet  
Bob Cooke, cornet  
Rick Crandell, cornet  
Tony Pierce, cornet  
Charlie Smith, trumpet  
Colton Crandell, trumpet  
Eric Staffeld, trombone  
Lenny Kellogg, trombone\*  
Hank Troy, piano  
Oscar DeZoto, drums\*

\*Regular members of the Poudre  
River Irregulars

# Message from Bob COOKE

It's October 2011 – I retired as leader of the Poudre River Irregulars at the end of 2010, ten short months ago.

First, I want to thank everybody for the great retirement party – the many musicians who played (Regular and Irregular), the many fans who came to listen, the ever-helpful Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society for planning and support, and Rob Osborne and his staff at Avogadro's Number for making it all run smoothly.

In my farewell letter I said: "I greatly appreciate my friendship with you all – the musicians, the members of the jazz society, and all the loyal fans of the PRI – and of course the unflinching support of my family. I've been blessed with the opportunity to

make the kind of music we all love, and I'm proud of the history we share in the Colorado traditional jazz community. But now the time has come for me to move to a level of more the listener, and the enjoyment of seeing others carry on the work we all have begun.

Please accept my heart-felt thanks for the times we've shared, and continue to support the Poudre River Irregulars!"



Well, friends, it's been ten months since my retirement, and everything we hoped for has happened. With the consistent and effective leadership of Len Kellogg and the great spirit of this band and its fans and supporters, the PRI isn't languishing, it's growing. New horn players have brought new ideas, and the band is thriving under their influences. Len has shown the organization, business sense, and dedication to traditional jazz we recognized in him.

Len is also the one who has pulled together this fine CD, capturing the excitement and the unique sound resulting from the blend of players present that night. It's another demonstration of how real jazz musicians, even when they have many varying styles and backgrounds, can come together and make memorable jazz. It's a magical thing.

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So, all I can say is, Hooray for the Poudre River Irregulars, and bon voyage! You're on your way. Who knows where it will take you, but I'll bet it will be a great trip!



1. Sheik of Araby (T. Snyder, H.B. Smith, F. Wheeler; SGA/Ted Snyder Music, Filmtrax/EMI Mills Music, Harry B. Smith; 1921)
2. Tin Roof Blues (P.J. Mares, B. Pollack, M.J. Stitzel, G. Brunies, L. Roppolo, W. Melrose; Mpl. Music/Edwin H. Morris & Co.; 1923)
3. Avalon (A. Jolson, B.G. DeSylva, V. Rose; Warner Bros. Music, SGA/Stephen Ballentine Music; 1920)
4. Hank's Choice (H. Troy; 2011)
5. I Found a New Baby (J. Palmer, S. Williams; Universal-MCA/Universal Music; 1926)
6. West End Blues (J. Oliver, C. Williams; Universal-MCA/ Universal Music, SGA/Great Standards Music; 1928)
7. Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen (S. Secunda, J. Jacobs, S. Cahn, S. Chaplin; Warner Bros. Music, WB Music/Cahn Music; 1937)
8. Up a Lazy River (H. Carmichael, S. Arodin; Peermusic III Ltd.; 1931)
9. That's a Plenty (L. Pollack, R. Gilbert; Bughouse Music/ Fred Ahlert Music; 1914)
10. Nagasaki (H. Warren, M. Dixon; Four Jays Music, Bughouse Music/Olde Clover Leaf Music; 1928)
11. Dr. Jazz (J. Oliver, W. Melrose; Universal-MCA/Universal Music, Mpl. Music/Edwin H. Morris & Co.; 1923)
12. Exactly Like You (J. McHugh, D. Fields; Shapiro Bernstein & Co., EMI April Music/Cotton Club Publishing; 1930)
13. After You've Gone (H. Creamer, T. Layton; Morley Music; 1918)
14. Bourbon Street Parade (P. Barbarin; EMI Unart Catalog; 1949) + Just a Closer Walk With Thee (Traditional)