

## What's Happenin': January 16 - 22

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 16 January 2008 02:12

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### **The John Wasem Band and Dave Tamkin & Co.**

Rock Island Brewing Company

Thursday, January 17, and Friday, January 18



I frequently write about Chicago-based musicians in these pages, so on January 6, I traveled to the Windy City to experience some Chicago rock for myself. Of course, I could've just saved the gas money and enjoyed the Chicago talents at RIBCO this weekend: the John Wasem Band (pictured) on January 17, and Dave Tamkin & Co. on January 18.

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A popular act at such noted venues as the House of Blues, Double Door, and the Abbey Pub, the John Wasem Band performs passionate acoustic and electric rock, fronted by its lauded singer/songwriter; reviewing a performance on ( <http://www.jambands.com> ), Brandon DeJaynes wrote that "Wasem's raspy vocals had enough grit to give the songs a dark edge, yet enough melody to keep it danceable."

And frequent touring artists Dave Tamkin & Co. - whose lead singer has shared the stage with the disparate likes of Little Feat, Guster, and the Violent Femmes - creates what Tamkin's Web site ( <http://www.davetamkin.com> ) describes as "a sonic percussive assault mixed with a vivid, melodic instrumental bed ... and they'll make you shake your ass." Sold.

So plan on RIBCO pulsing with the exciting sounds of the Chicago this weekend, and ... .  
What's that? What Chicago rock did I experience on my January 6 trip?

Uh ... the touring production of *Jersey Boys*.

I know. I'm almost *dangerously* under-qualified for this job. Please don't tell anyone.

For more information on the John Wasem Band and Dave Tamkin & Co. concerts, visit ( <http://www.ribco.com> ).

**The OddTones Brass Band**

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The Redstone Room

Sunday, January 20



Well, I am *outraged*. I just received a press release stating that the OddTones Brass Band, featuring musicians from the University of Iowa and Iowa City West High School, will be spending January 20 at Davenport's Redstone Room. Have our morals lapsed so completely that we not only allow students into venues that serve alcohol - on a *Sunday*, no less! - but proudly advertise it in press releases? Of all the ... !

Oh, wait. It says here that the group is composed of *educators* from the U of I and Iowa City West. Guess I should've read the whole release before I started typing, huh?

Composed of guitarist Steve Grismore, trumpet player Brent Sandy, trombonist Rich Medd, tuba player John Manning, and percussionist Jim Dreier, the OddTones Brass Band will be here for the Redstone Room's monthly Third Sunday Jazz Matinee & Workshop Series, and individually, members have performed in symphony orchestras, brass quintets, improvisational ensembles, pit orchestras, and even salsa bands. The group performs a 6 p.m. concert of smoky New Orleans jazz in the tradition of past first- and second-line players, and their educational gifts will also be evidenced in a 3 p.m. workshop on the variety of instrumental combinations that lend themselves to jazz music and history.

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So that's the OddTones Brass Band. And not once did I have to resort to some lame and potentially offensive joke about these guys being "old school." (Well, maybe *once*.)

For more information on the Third Sunday jazz series, visit ( <http://www.redstoneroom.com> ).

### Classical Jam

Wallenberg Hall

Saturday, January 19

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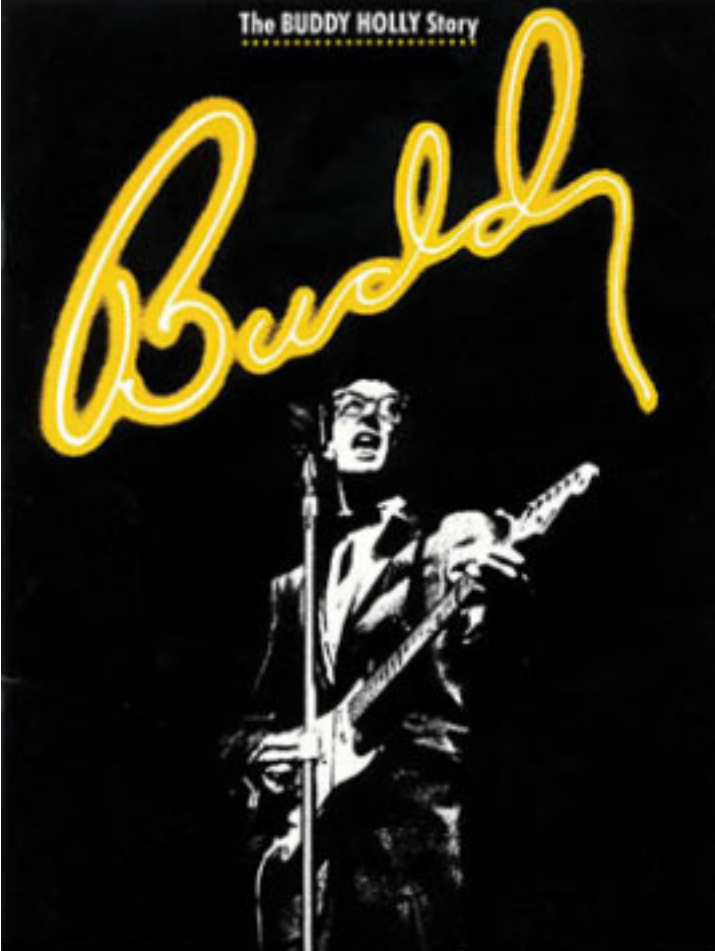
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