

Hi my name is Randy and I am one of the very blessed people to have had David Ward as a friend and Bandmate. I had the great fortune to be part of a small Jazz group featuring David Ward as Frontman, Vocalist and Rhythm Guitar. We were called The Rhythm Barons as a tribute to Count Basie's Barons of Rhythm band. We played many dates in the Classic Jazz Swing genre mostly for Swing Dance Clubs. As I said David was our Frontman and man what a Pro! He had the gift of saying just the right things in just the right way to energize a crowd and get them in the groove, whether in person or as a CKUA Host. But I remember one time I really took him by surprise and messed up his so carefully crafted Presentation. David was the Emcee at the Annual Okotoks Christmas Foodbank Concert at the Rotary Performing Arts Centre I think it was 2017 and featured the Travelling Mabels, Michela Sheedy, Tanya Ryan, and Sam Smith. David ever the showman had it all planned out, down went the House lights, up came lights at the back of the hall and there was David with a wireless mic doing the welcome and introducing the show while talking and walking, actually more like sauntering down the centre aisle towards the stage. My friends and I had arrived early and I had the best seat in the house, front row seated at the centre aisle. David had no idea that we were coming and when he arrived at the front row doing his witty and smooth intro and then looked right into my face, he actually went blank and stopped speaking as though he thought he was transported to a different location and setting. But he didn't lose his professional groomed rapport with the audience and



addressed them and me saying something like “excuse me folks! I was just caught by surprise, here’s my bass player from my band Randy Winczura (I think he booted the name once again as always when he introduced me from the bandstand!) Well enjoy the show Randy it’s going to be fabulous!...” and carried on with the Artist introductions. We both had a good laugh! Going to miss that among the many things we all loved about David.

