The President’s Service Award

The President’s Service Award is given annually by the President, in consultation with the President-Elect, Vice President, and members of Advisory Council of Past Presidents. The recipient must meet the following criteria: maintained two years of continuing service to the organization; tirelessly provided his/her efforts, resources, expertise, and time, demonstration of commitment to the organization’s mission; and shown true examples of altruism.

Gene Perla was raised in New Jersey, where he studied classical piano and trombone. After attending Berklee College of Music he moved to New York and began his musical career as a jazz bassist. He has performed and/or recorded with jazz legends including Chick Corea, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Elvin Jones, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra, Chuck Mangione, Joni Mitchell, Buddy Rich, Sonny Rollins, Nina Simone, Frank Sinatra, Stone Alliance, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson.

In the early 1970s, Gene further developed his music business experience by founding several music publishing and recording companies as well as managing and booking his musical group, “Stone Alliance” on South American and European tours. He was also a sound designer on Broadway – working on Tony-Award-winning shows including “City of Angels” and “The Lion King” – and continues to helm professional recording studios. He is currently playing his basses, producing records, running an Internet design and hosting company, and teaching music business and other subjects at Lehigh University and The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. His musical performance activities continue with his ensembles: “Go Trio,” “Fine Wine Trio,” and “Funk Xpress.”

In 1995, Gene’s entrepreneurial spirit led him to start an internet design and hosting company called CyberNet Communications. His company continues to flourish by providing services to numerous customers including musical organizations, municipal services, production companies, law firms, photographers, medical services, and more. For the last two years, Gene has served as the JEN Volunteer Webmaster, dedicating tireless hours to maintaining and improving our website. He also served on the committee that launched the recent JEN website redesign.