

Musicians Association of Saint Louis

Local 2-197 American Federation of Musicians

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Elsie Parker

Woodwind player Elsie Parker has been a member of the Muny Orchestra since 2000 where she plays clarinet, bass clarinet, e-flat clarinet, flute, piccolo, alto flute, and soprano, alto, and tenor saxophones. She also performs with the Fox Theatre Orchestra. Elsie has performed as clarinet soloist with The Rome Festival Orchestra in Rome, Italy, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra and as principal clarinetist with the Opera Theatre Orchestra of Veracruz, Mexico.

Ms. Parker is clarinetist in the classical music group *The Crusell Quartet*, which includes Muny Orchestra members Tova Braitberg, viola, and Natasha Rubinstein, 'cello, as well as violinist Alison Rolf. Elsie also plays clarinet the woodwind trio *Trio d' Anches*, and in *Trio Eclectique* (clarinet, cello & piano). She has performed as clarinetist with many Saint Louis groups including; Union Avenue Opera, modern music ensemble *Synchronia* and the Missouri Ballet. She has performed as saxophonist in many big bands, often with fellow Muny Orchestra member Mike Buerk.

Elsie Parker has taught at Augustana College in Rock Island Illinois, Webster University, the Mike Buerk Music conservatory of Kirkwood, Saint Louis University and as a teaching assistant at the University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana.

Her education includes a Master of Arts in Clarinet Performance from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, where she studied with legendary teacher Himie Voxman. She has also studied with clarinetist/recording artist Charles West, retired Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra principal clarinetist George Silfies and recording artist principal clarinetist/with the Finnish National Opera, Tapio Lötjönen.

In addition to being a woodwind player, Elsie is also solo vocalist in the group which she founded, *The Poor People of Paris*, singing songs (in French) of legendary French greats such as Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour and French songwriter Michel Legrand. Elsie has been featured vocal soloist singing popular French songs with symphony orchestras at Powell Hall in Saint Louis, as well as with symphony orchestras in the Saint Louis area, and in Illinois and Florida.

Nationally, she has appeared as vocal soloist in clubs in San Francisco and Chicago, and internationally for the French TV program *La Chance Aux Chansons* in Paris, France. Locally Elsie has sung/played sax/flute/clarinet in her group *The Poor People of Paris* for concerts at the Whitaker Concert Series at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Sheldon, the Saint Louis Art Museum, First Night Saint Louis, and numerous other concert venues, radio and TV performances. With her group, *The Poor People of Paris*, Elsie has recorded three CDs: *Elle se souvien* (She Remembers), *Entre nous* (Between Us) and *Je t'aime encore* (I Love You Still).