

JOE CARTWRIGHT:

When Joe Cartwright and I met for lunch at the Fairmont recently, he had just found out that his contract with the hotel had been extended. Joe was obviously happy, especially about the Fairmont Sunday Best of Kansas City Jazz series that has been his baby and a most welcome addition to the regular Kansas City jazz offerings. It's been a good few years.

"It has been four years, actually," says Joe. "They started having jazz on weekends at first, but it's expanded to an every night thing more recently."

In fact, the Fairmont has stepped up in the last couple of years to fill a void in town. While some venues have closed or changed music policies, the hotel's commitment is continuing and expanding. In the past year, the Fairmont has added vocalists Angela Hagenbach and David Basse on week-days in addition to the weeknight lineup. This gives Kansas City three rooms with a seven-day jazz policy: Jardine's, The Majestic, and the Fairmont's Oak Bar.

To be sure, the Fairmont is not a perfect music room. It's a room with many purposes. It's as much a meeting place for

PRESENTING THE BEST OF KANSAS CITY JAZZ

BY ROGER ATKINSON

