

Jazz notes

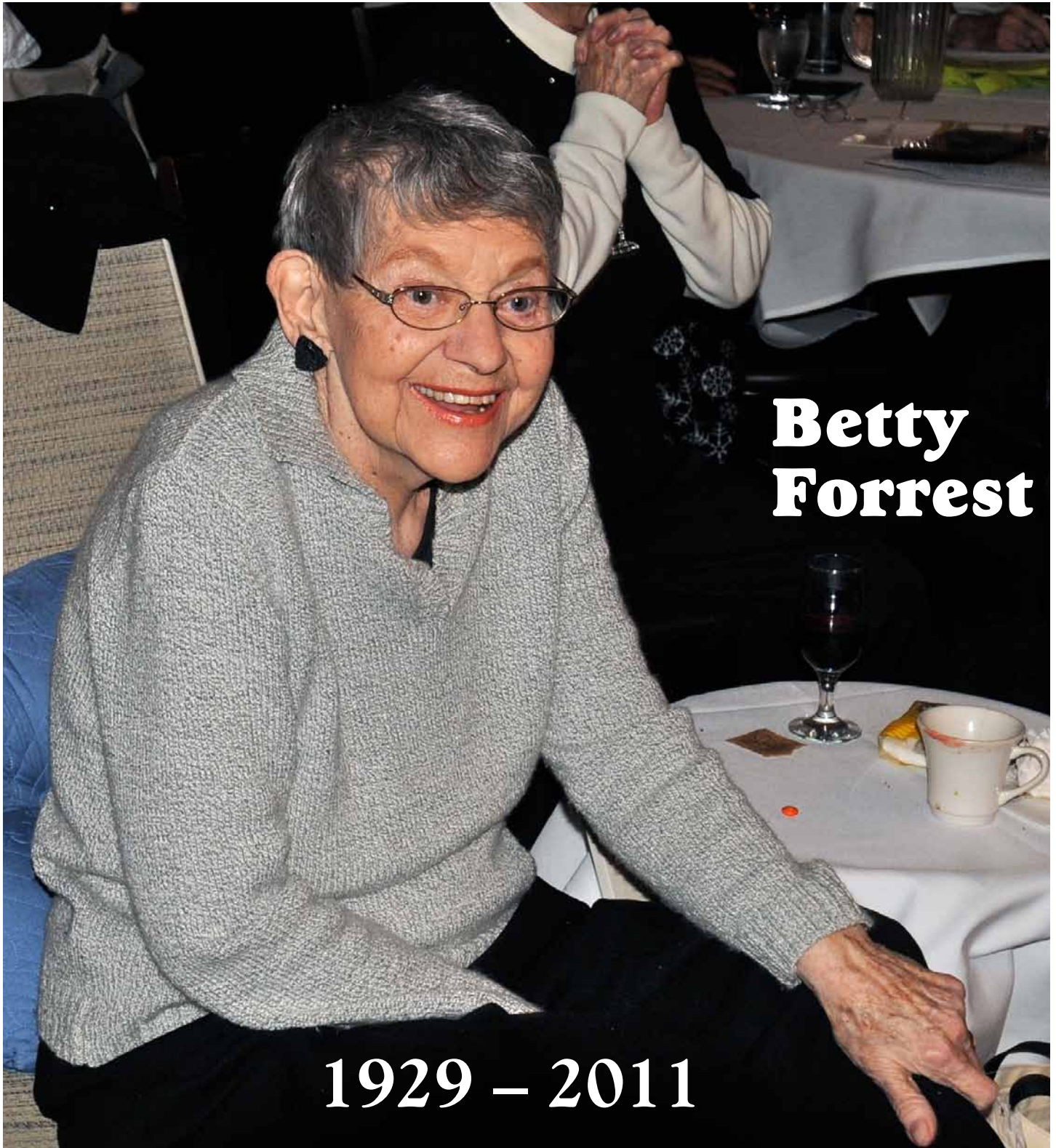
November–December 2011
Vol. 26 No. 8



www.wmichjazz.org



AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION



**Betty
Forrest**

1929 – 2011

Jazz Gumbo Showcase

Monday, Nov. 21 — Live Music 6:30–8:30 — No seating before 6 pm

Tony Reynolds -
vocals and percussion

Mark Kahny -
keyboards, bass and
vocals

Randy Marsh -
drums, chromatic
harmonica and vocals

Dan Giacobassi -
flute, saxes and
vocals

At first glance, it would appear that this quartet of popular and well-travelled West Michigan musicians could pull off any and every facet of musical styles and genres from Adderly to Zappa, and that very well may be the case... but to contain them to a “theme” or a tribute to specific musician or vocalist, dead or living... would be colossal limitation to what they can really showcase. That’s why they have decided to offer up this musical grab-bag of various Jazz selections and perform them “round-robin,”



each taking a turn to perform tunes that really light them up and display their individual and diverse talents. This month we dust off the great American songbook and feature Tony on songs of Gershwin, Cole Porter and performers such as Sinatra, Bennett and Ray Charles. Randy will fill in with the quirky vocals of pia-

nist/composer Mose Allison as well as his very own legendary chromatic blues harping! Mark will cover some classic and contemporary New Orleans styles on boogie, rag, stomp and stride piano. And Dan will feature a bari sax tune from Gerry Mulligan and some Rahsaan Roland Kirk compositions on flute and tenor sax. Don’t miss this unique and diverse quartet in action!

Dance — dine — and listen to great jazz at the Kopper Top Guest House

634 Stocking NW (one door south of Fourth Street) — Open Seating

\$8 members; \$5 students; \$12 non-members, free if they join WMJS at this event! — Admission includes bowl of Gumbo or Chili plus salad and crackers — Refills \$2 — Food Service from 6-7:30 — Cash bar — **Please, early arrivers:** we cannot open the doors for seating before 6 p.m.... if you don’t want to stand outside in the cold, please wait next door at the Kopper Top.



The Music of Rahsaan Roland Kirk

Music for November’s Gumbo “Grab Bag” includes *Serenade to a Cuckoo*, written by Rahsaan Roland Kirk. Born in 1936, Kirk was blind from the age of two. Although a wonderful tenor saxophonist, Kirk is legendary for being a jazz multi-instrumentalist who created many of the instruments himself. During his teenage

years he discovered the manzello, a B-flat soprano saxophone to which he affixed a mellophone bell and the stritch, a straight alto saxophone with a modified key work so it could be played with one hand. He could maintain the tenor’s range with his left hand while using his right to finger the manzello or stritch.

By 1960 he was using a siren whistle, a metal hunting horn, to enhance in his solos. In 1963 he adapted the technique of Circular breathing, the art of inhaling air through the nose while exhaling through the instrument providing an uninterrupted stream of sound. This ability enabled him to record *Concerto for Saxophone* in one continuous take of about 20 minutes playing with no discernible “break” for inhaling.

By the '70s he played most woodwind instruments along with more unusual instruments like the nose flute, piccolo, harmonica, and claviette. His

own homemade creations included the trumpophone (a trumpet with soprano sax mouthpiece), a slidesophone (a similarly equipped miniature trombone), black puzzle flute, and black mystery pipes. He typically appeared on stage with three horns hanging around his neck, as well as a variety of other instruments, including flutes and whistles, and often kept a gong within reach.

Kirk is credited for his talent in improvisation, but is renowned for his intricate powerful jazz even while playing two or three instruments. He was famous for his energy on stage as well as his unorthodox

banter which was peppered with comedy and political ranting.

Kirk preferred to lead his own bands, but recorded with Quincy Jones and Charles Mingus. In 1975 he was paralyzed on one side by a stroke, but by using his skill of being able to play more than one instrument with a single hand, he was able to resume playing the following year. Before he died in 1977 of a second stroke, he founded the “Vibration School of Music” to teach young saxophonists what he called “black classical music,” a term he preferred to “jazz.”



Picture and story by Candice Cullen

Bob Thompson, drums; Michelle; Dan Hurst, guitar; and Scott Bell, keyboards.

The start of the Jazz Gumbo season could not have been better. The evening began with a line of jazz fans in front of the Kopper Top’s Guest House. We had no way of knowing the incredible emotional swings we would enjoy, orchestrated by the wonderful musicians performing for us. WMJS’s board president, Craig Benjamin welcomed everyone and introduced Scott Bell on keyboards, Bob Thompson on drums, and the talented, young and inventive Dan Hurst on guitar.

The first set was devoted to Billie Holiday as vocalist Michelle Covington began our listening pleasure with “Lady Sings the Blues.” Michelle shared several tidbits about Billie Holiday’s

life. Holiday was born Eleanora Fagen. She chose “Billie” from Billie Dove, an actress she admired, and “Holiday” from her father, Clarence Holiday.

Next came “East of the Sun, West of the Moon.” Keyboardist Scott Bell surprised us by singing a version of “Don’t Explain” reminiscent of Nina Simone. Some of Billie Holiday’s more famous and our favorite standards followed, much to the delight of the audience including “Our Love is Here to Stay,” “All of Me,” and a soulful rendition of “God Bless the Child.”

Livening things up, Scott Bell started off the second set with the distinctly different tone and beat of “Let the Good Times Roll,” as the crowd was invited to

join in on the chorus. Michelle then impressed the audience with her smooth and clear high notes in “The Look of Love,” followed by “I’d Rather Drink Muddy Water,” a fabulous rendition of “Summertime,” and “Baby, You Got What it Takes.”

But what made the crowd go wild with applause and whistles was Michelle’s emotional and powerful rendition of “Feelin’ Good,” and “Fly Me to the Moon.” A duet with Scott Bell on “When Love Comes to Town” had everyone’s toes tapping and heads nodding appreciatively to the beat. Michelle chose to close the evening with “Everything Must Change.” All in all, it was a superb start to the Jazz Gumbo season.

An appreciation Betty Tardy Forrest on behalf

I first met Betty Forrest nearly seven years ago when she attended a lecture and concert on Jazz and Civil Rights that I presented at Grand Valley State University, in honor of Black History Month. My wife



and I had joined the West Michigan Jazz Society soon after we arrived from Australia in 2003, but this was the first time I had actually spoken to Betty. She told me in her usual forthright manner that she had enjoyed the presentation, that she thought it was a bit strange that a white Australian man should be on



Betty with Musician of the Year 2007, Tom Hagen

stage lecturing to Americans about jazz and civil rights, and that even though I played the flute and saxophone in a manner that was way too 'modern' for her tastes, she wanted me to consider joining the WMJS Board. I went along to a Board meeting a couple of weeks later, enjoyed the experience, and was honored



Caught looking at the zoo



Tim Froncek was in the hospital when he was supposed to be getting his Musician of the Year party, so we caught up with him at the picnic in Caledonia.

to be elected to the Board of the West Michigan Jazz Society.

Ever since that night I have enjoyed working closely with Betty and our Board colleagues on continuing to promote the



Pete Proli and Dona Raymer present Betty with pictures of the first ten years of Jazz at the Zoo

performance of top quality live jazz in West Michigan. Although we have had various wonderful Board Presidents over the years (a position that I now have the honor of holding), it was Betty who was always our tireless and fearless leader. She so effectively steered



Jimmy and Betty Forrest

the fortunes of the WMJS for 25 years, through challenging financial and membership climates, that over 500 members it stands as one of the leading in the country. In doing all this, Betty earned love of numerous Board Members, hundreds of musicians in the region, and many thousands

Under Betty Forrest's leadership, the WMJS has had an enormous impact on the cultural life of West Michigan for a quarter of a century. Just imagine what the jazz region would be like if the WMJS did not exist: no Jazz at the Zoo series in the summer, no Jazz at the Zoo in the winter, no Jazz Holiday Party, no Musician of

Half of the Board of the West Michigan Jazz Society



a commemorative quilt consisting of

no WMJS scholarships for student musicians, and no 'Jazz Notes' journal, replete with Betty's superbly written album and jazz book reviews.

That all this has occurred is a tribute to Betty's vision and determina-



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Bob MacKercher and Betty, from around the time the Jazz Society formed.

tion. After the death of her husband, the great tenor saxophonist Jimmy Forrest, Betty was inspired to honor his memory by promoting the music they both loved, and to support the musicians (both professional and student) who play it. Betty Forrest, and all those who have

Betty Forrest with daughter Melvene, left, and daughter-in-law Deb, right.



Jack Morrison, then President, emceeding with a little help from his friends.

had the pleasure of serving with her on the WMJS Board over the years, has helped ensure the continued visibility and viability of perhaps the greatest of all American art forms. She has also been a great colleague to many of us, who will miss her sparkling wit, her energy and commitment, and her friendship. It is up to all of us now, the members and Board of the WMJS, to carry on Betty's great work with the same sort of energy and dedication she displayed for a quarter century, both to ensure the continuing viability of jazz in West Michigan, and to honor a life well lived.

Craig Benjamin, President, Board of the West Michigan Jazz Society

Betty conferring with Ray Gill. Ray passed away on Sat., Oct. 29 of this year.



Support Local Jazz Venues!

Portobello's 7-11, 41 Washington St., Grand Haven (616) 846.1221
 Nov 18 - Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds
 Dec 9, 10 - Mary Rademacher w/ Tim Johnson & Mark Kahny
 Dec. 23 - Wally Michaels w/ Andy Friesinger

JU Sushi 7-10, 1144 East Paris Ave., GR (616) 575.5858

Nov 17, 23, 26, Dec 1, 3, 22 - Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds
 Nov 18 - Mark Kahny & Bob Thompson
 Dec 8 - Mark Kahny & Mary Rademacher

Watermark Grille, 5500 Cascade RD (616) 949.0570
 Nov 30, Dec 14 - Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds

What Not Inn Sat/Sun 6-10 pm, M89, Fennville
 Nov 20, 27, Dec 4, 11, 18 - Mark Kahny, solo piano & vocals
 Nov 12, Dec 3 - Mary Rademacher w/ Mark Kahny & Bob Thompson
 Nov 12, Dec 10 - Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds
 Mondays are open mic nights

Mangiamo's 1033 Lake Drive SE, Wed.-Sat 7-10

WMJS Holiday Party 2012

Monday, Dec. 12 — 6 pm

Watermark Country Club
 5500 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids

featuring the
Tom Hagen Quintet
with **Rick Reuther**

Cash bar opens at 6:00 pm
Plated Dinner 6:30 pm
Music, Dancing, Door Prizes



Reservation only... Must be received by **DECEMBER 1**... Send early for best seating

Name _____ Phone _____ No. of reservations _____ x \$30 = _____

Tables of 8. Please list names in your group; if reserving table in your name, include your own.

Your plated entree selection (indicate # of each). Choice must be made at this time.

- _____ Slow Roasted Pot Roast
- _____ Herb Crusted Baked Tilapia
- _____ Chicken Saltimbocca

**Questions? Call Dona at (616) 735- 4744,
 or email at: donamraymer@gmail.com**

Make check payable to:
 West Michigan Jazz Society

Mail to: 4144 Bulrush NW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Dec 21, 28 - Ryan Limbeck
 Nov 19, 24, Dec 3, 23 - Robin
 Connell
 Nov 12, Dec 14, 30 - Steve Talaga
 Nov 16, Dec 2 - Wally Michaels
 Nov 17, Dec 22, 29, 31 - Mark Kahny
 Nov 18, Dec 7, 15 - Greg Miller
 Nov 23, Dec 17 - Bill Davidson
 Nov 25 - John Proulx
 Nov 26, Dec 1 - Bill Huyge
 Nov 30, Dec 9, 16 - Stephen Durst
 Dec 8 - Paul Lesinski
 Dec 10, 24 - Bob Van Stee & Kathy
 La Mar

Founders, 235 Grandville Ave.
 SW (616) 776.1195
 Nov 20 - Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra
 5:30-7:30

Hopcat, 25 Ionia SW, Every Sunday
 7-10pm
 Randy Marsh hosts a duo and invites
 musicians to sit in
 Nov 27 w/ Steve Talaga

Mary Rademacher
 Marn E. Walker 7-10 pm, 4322
 Remembrance Rd. NW
 Nov 11, Dec 16 w/ Mark Kahny &
 Bob Thompson

One Trick Pony, 136 Fulton (616)
 235.7669
 Nov 26 w/ Mark Kahny
 Chippewa District Library w/ Tom
 Hagen & Cherie Lynn
 Nov 13- free performance (3-4pm)
 and refreshments (4-5pm), limited
 seating (989) 773-3242
 O.T (Ottawa Tavern) 8-11 pm, 151
 Ottawa (616) 451 8000
 Nov 25, Dec 23 w/ The Rad Pack

Tom Hagen Trio
 Noto's 28th St., 7-10pm every Wed.,
 featuring Rick Reuther

Steve Talaga
 Nov 17, 18, 19 w/ a trio, Grand
 Rapids Wine, Beer & Food Festival @
 DeVos Place
 Dec 11 w/ River City Slim at First
 Presbyterian Church, Allegan 5-6 pm

John Shea
 Gilly's @ THE B.O.B. 20 Monroe
 NW (616) 356.2000, 6:30-9:30pm
 every Thursday
 The Republic 8-11pm every Monday
 45 S. Division (616) 608-6465
 Fricanos, 1050 W. Western Ave.,

Muskegon (231) 722-2600 ext 21;
 Nov 16 & 30, Dec 14 & 28

The Hyde Family
 Michael Hyde – at Viceroy, every
 Thurs 6-9pm
 Edye Evans Hyde:
 Dec 5 Union (Kalamazoo) w/Gull
 Lake Big Band 7:30-9:30
 Dec 2 Nikolas (Southfield, Mi)
 7-10pm
 Dec 31 w/ Kalamazoo Big Band,
 downtown Kalamazoo 6-10:45 pm

Kathy Lamar
 Nov 18 Grill One-Eleven, 111
 Courtland St. Rockford (616)
 863.3111
 Nov 19 Hennessey's, 885 Jefferson
 Muskegon (231) 728.3333

MacNaughton Boulevard
 First United Methodist Church 227 E
 Fulton St (616) 451-2879
 Dec 17, 6 pm Jazz Vespers
 Free Will Offering

River City Jazz Ensemble
 Amway Grand Hotel New Year's Eve
 Gala... www.amwaygrand.com for
 package information

MEMBERSHIP

Life Members

Edie McCarger

Donors

Chuck & Sally Buffham
 Charles & Sally Bradford
 Bonnie Miller
 Marilyn & Stephen Tyree

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Chuck & Barbara Fisk
 Christine Gould
 Sharon Clark
 Candice Cullen
 Jacqueline Ghysels
 John & Deb Sella

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 Ron & Kay Stacilaukas
 Dave & Linda Hunt
 David & Jean Regester
 David & Mary Tulos
 Greg & Audrey Sundstrom
 Wally Michaels
 Andrew & Mary Kay Jefchak
 Tim & Meg McAree
 Joseph & Cynthia Lehman
 Barb Hibiske
 Dave Buck

Renewals

Jan Basham
 Marc & Linda Daneman
 James Sawyer

Jim & Pat Akins
 Daniel Anderson
 Ernie & Mary Beckwith
 William & Nancy DeBoer
 Joan Deering
 Jack & Barbara Eccker
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 Jane Hunter
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 Peg Larson
 Jean McCormick
 Jeanne Marshall
 Stuart Poel
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 Rod & Barb Rodriguez

Pat Taylor
 Man & Micki Young
 James & Mary Jo Wood
 Lee & Sue Murphy
 Ben & Mary Balkema
 Maxine Corder
 Karl & Shirley Glass
 Donovan Green
 Carl Hagstrom
 Carl Insalaco
 Georg & Kathleen Leavell
 Lynn & Jane Mapes
 Robert & Helen Nolan
 Barbara Termeer
 John & Angela Gibson
 J. Lee & Susan Murphy

Check out our Web Page: www.wmichjazz.org

Jazznotes

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Articles, photos and comments are welcome! Send before the 20th of the month to:

Jazz Notes

donamraymer@gmail.com or (616) 735-4744

Donna Kahny at **picschick@gmail.com** or 745-5962

Information from another publication used in JAZZ NOTES approved by the publisher and credited.

West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board Meeting: Tues., Nov. 29, 7 pm at Great Lakes Steak House



Craig Benjamin - President..... 233-9829

John Miller - Vice President..... 949-7633

Dona Raymer - Executive Manager .. 735-4744

Mary Rademacher ... 822-1592

Jim Reed 942-0239

Marilyn Tyree 363-7322

Darryl Hofstra 648-5489

Pete Proli 866-0147

James Sawyer 460-4433

Jack Morrison 949-6339

Donna Kahny..... 745-5962

Barb Keller..... 949-7633

Candice Cullen 970-3607

Address and e-mail changes: Dona Raymer at 735-4744 or donamraymer@gmail.com

- Student \$10
- Single \$25
- Couple \$35
- Donor \$50
- Patron \$100
- Life Member \$250

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and mail to:
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Grand Rapids, MI 49534

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Receive newsletter by mail or website? Mail Website

November 2011

JAZZ NOTES is sent to all members of the West Michigan Jazz Society to inform members of area jazz and to promote jazz in general.

Your contribution to the West Michigan Jazz Society is Tax Deductible.

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