



An All-Volunteer
Organization Since 1986

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WestMIJazzSociety

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Night Jazz
at the B.O.B.
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Reynolds/Kolb
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Schedule

WMJS continues
hosting Monday Nite
Jazz on October 27, at
Bobarinos, located on
the second floor of the
B.O.B., 20 Monroe NW,
Grand Rapids MI.
6:30-8:30 pm.

Open seating. \$5.00 for
students and members,
\$10.00 for guests.

Some free parking
is available in the
lot adjacent to the
building. Order from the
regular menu or from
a special light menu.
There will be wine
specials as well.



Petra van Nuis Andy Brown Quartet Oct. 27, 2014 at the B.O.B.

Photo by Marc PoKempner

The pairing of vocalist Petra van Nuis and guitarist Andy Brown is one of those rare combinations where all parts seem to fit. During their thirteen year musical collaboration, they have developed an artful sound full of romance and soul that consistently satisfies audiences and musicians alike.

Based in Chicago, these two musicians have honed their craft in front of audiences of all types and sizes, ranging from prominent Chicago clubs like the Jazz Showcase, the Green Mill, Fitzgerald's, and Andy's Jazz Club to jazz festivals and clubs around the country and abroad.

Petra and Andy are experienced jazz musicians with full performance schedules who draw on their varied experiences

when playing together. Having lived and worked in Cincinnati, New York City, and Chicago, they have soaked up experience and knowledge from an assortment of fantastic players.

Petra van Nuis is known as one of the keepers of the flame when it comes to the fading art of tasty jazz singing. A protégé of Chicago's "First Lady of Jazz," pianist/singer Judy Roberts, Petra has studied jazz in the old-fashioned way, at the feet of the masters. Having aligned herself with singing legends Barbara Lea, Rebecca Kilgore, and Marc Pompe, Petra has arrived at her own beautiful interpretation and is often noted for her unique and identifiable sound. She has worked with a who's who of renowned musicians in Chicago and NYC.

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As a leader, Petra has brought groups of varying sizes to top regional venues and jazz societies throughout the country. Her seven piece band, Petra's Recession Seven, was featured at the Chicago Jazz Festival, the Cedar Basin Jazz Festival, and the American Music Festival. Along with six other jazz musicians, she was nominated for "Best Jazz Musician 2013" for the 33rd annual Chicago Music Awards.

Mentored by the late guitar legends Cal Collins and Kenny Poole, Andy Brown has been playing professionally for over twenty years. As a top-call sideman, Andy has backed internationally known players, Ken Peplowski, John Allred, Anat Cohen, Kurt Elling, and many others. His love of great tunes and his expansive repertoire, as well as accompanying skills have made him a favorite with vocalists, most notably Barbra Streisand with whom he recently played in a jazz quartet setting on the Oprah Winfrey show.

With his own trio, Andy has played for US Presidents including Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter. His new Delmark CD with NYC guitarist Howard Alden received a 4 star rating in Downbeat Magazine.

But it's together that Petra and Andy really shine. The level of intimacy and trust that their music displays, as well as the complete interweaving of guitar and voice, makes every performance a special occasion. Being married doesn't hurt their ability to predict each others next move. Recent performance highlights for include the prestigious Jazz at Chautauqua Festival and two European tours. With "Far Away Places," Petra and Andy's duo CD re-released in Japan, as well as several other critically acclaimed CDs as both leaders and sidemen under their belt, Petra and Andy continue to spread their swinging sounds to music lovers far and wide.

Rounding out the quartet are Joe Policastro on bass and Bob Rummage on drums. Joe is a member of the Mulligan Mosaics Big Band, and has performed with many jazz luminaries. Veteran drummer Bob Rummage has played with many internationally known musicians. Joe and Bob are known for their sympathetic support as well as their virtuosic soloing.

For more information, video and sound clips, visit www.petrasings.com and www.andybrownguitar.com.

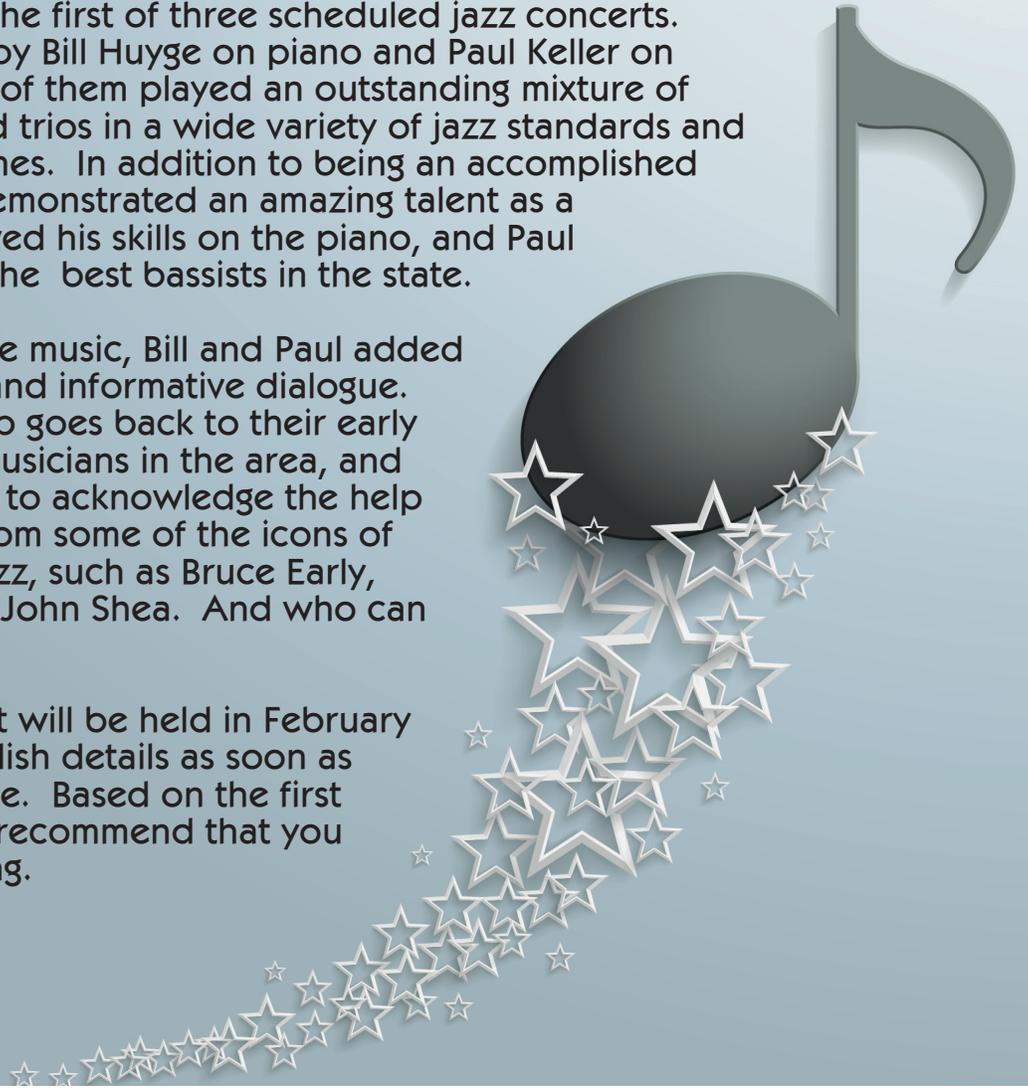
A GRAND PIANO CONCERT

On Sunday September 14th at Fountain Street Church, Robin Connell hosted the first of three scheduled jazz concerts. She was joined by Bill Huyge on piano and Paul Keller on bass. The three of them played an outstanding mixture of solos, duets, and trios in a wide variety of jazz standards and lesser known tunes. In addition to being an accomplished pianist, Robin demonstrated an amazing talent as a singer. Bill showed his skills on the piano, and Paul remains one of the best bassists in the state.

In addition to the music, Bill and Paul added some insightful and informative dialogue. Their relationship goes back to their early days as young musicians in the area, and they were quick to acknowledge the help they received from some of the icons of Grand Rapids jazz, such as Bruce Early, Eddie Russ, and John Shea. And who can forget Popeye?

The next concert will be held in February and we will publish details as soon as they are available. Based on the first show we highly recommend that you plan on attending.

John Miller



A hearty welcome to our new members!

And a HUGE thank you to our new lifetime members, donors and all those renewing their memberships.
Our jazz concerts continue because of the support we receive from you!

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NEW MEMBERS

Amy Abramajty's "Williams"
Rebecca Donald
Linda Peck

RENEWING MEMBERS

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Jan Basham
Chuck & Sally Bradford
Colin Cahill
Julie & Larry Cahill
Ann & Bob Cooper
Marc & Linda Daneman
Diane Eddy
Millie Lambert
Anne & Tom Logan

Lynn Mapes & Jane Muller
Ron Marsteiner
Robert Potts
Kaymary & Jim Rettig
Rod & Barbara Rodriguez
Lee & Carole Rozelle
Pat Taylor
Maribeth & John Weadock



Former Jazz Musician of the Year, Dick Reynolds, with songstress, Gayle Kolb, opened up the Monday night Jazz Series at the BOB with a rich, mellow sound. Tom Lockwood on bass provided an upswing platform and Randy Marsh on drums ended the first tune with a playful rat a tat tat on his mike stand. Dick dedicated a tune to Horace, his recently deceased feline named after the late great Horace Silver. Dick got a chuckle out of the crowd by remembering the confused expressions of children when they heard his cat's name was "Horse".

Gayle Kolbe, who comes now from Chicago delighted the crowd with a sultry rendition of Stevie Wonder's "You are the Sunshine of My Life" and "I Remember April". Romance and tenderness seemed to be the theme of the evening. The band coaxed couples to the dance floor with "I'll Close My Eyes," made famous by Dinah Washington on the soundtrack for Bridges of Madison County.

Dick Reynold's fully rounded chords and Gayle Kolb's well voiced stylings shone through on crowd favorites such as "East of the Sun, West of the Moon", "Here it Comes," and a nod to Fall with "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered," and "That September in the Rain". Thank you, Dick, Gayle, Randy and Tom, for a successful beginning to our Monday night Jazz Series!

Shannan Denison





Photos by Bruce Robey

November 17th Monday Night Jazz will feature the trio of Jim Cooper, vibes and marimba, Dave Hay on keyboards and Mike Van Lente on drums and percussion. They are planning to play an acoustic set for the first half of their program featuring mostly standards and will have Dave Hay playing on bass. For the second set they will reassemble as their regular configuration of CHV, and present mostly originals.

Their CD "Trio Musik" will be available for sale that evening. Trio Musik was nominated for four Jammie Awards, sponsored by radio station WYCE in Grand Rapids. The Grand Rapids Press wrote, "...the rhythmic interplay between band members make Trio Musik a special project." CHV will be performing for ArtPrize on October 5, 2014, from 4-5 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 227 E. Fulton, downtown Grand Rapids. "We have new compositions to play and I really think people will really like it," says Cooper. For more information on CHV, visit www.jimcooper.net/chv.





EDITOR'S NOTE : During her many years as editor of the monthly Newsletter, Betty Forrest would feature an article about a famous jazz musician. We have included one in this issue of JazzNotes. Enjoy!

ELLA: The Life & Times of Ella Fitzgerald by Sid Colin (1987)

Ella was 16 yrs. Old in 1934 when she won the Amateur Night at the Harlem Opera House singing "The Object of My Affections" – the very same night that Pearl Bailey won at the Apollo. Born in 1918 in Virginia, her mother was widowed within a year of her birth and moved them to Yonkers to where she had a sister. Nearby Harlem was jumping in the 20's with swing and jazz heard everywhere, and by the time Ella was in her Jr. H.S. Glee Club her friends were already telling her she should be able to earn her living as a singer. She dreamed of becoming a star like Ethel Waters, then appearing on Broadway in "As Thousands Cheer", wowing audiences with her rendition of the Irving Berlin song "Heat Wave". Dancing was really her first love, and years later when

touring with Dizzy Gillespie in the 40's the two of them would take over the floor doing the Lindy Hop in whatever club they were working.

A year later, after winning dozens of talent shows at various venues, she auditioned for the Chick Webb Orchestra, which was the most popular dance band at the famous Savoy Ballroom. The entire band was flabbergasted when she sang a few bars unaccompanied, in perfect pitch. As one member said, "You could tune your instrument

to it". She immediately got hired and at age 17 became a full-fledged professional singer. Meanwhile, her mother had died and in order for her to be allowed to work, Chick and his wife became her legal guardians and moved her into their home.

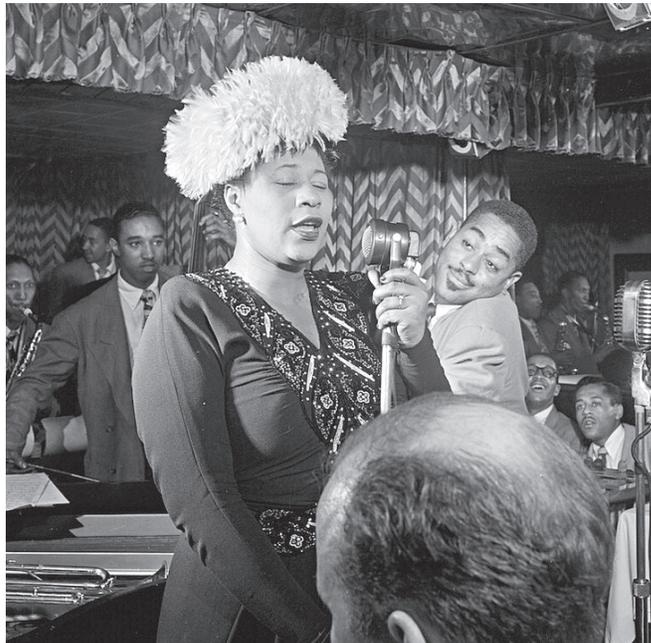
The next year, 1936, Webb got his first recording contract and a 30-minute weekly radio show. By 1937 she was voted "best girl vocalist" by Downbeat. The next year came her huge hit record on Decca with the band, "A Tisket, A Tasket", selling one million records. While on the road in June 1939, Chick, who had suffered from tuberculosis of the spine for many years, became ill and died. Ella sang "My Buddy" at his funeral in Baltimore while thousands wept. He was only 32 years old. The band stayed together and voted for Ella to be named its leader. She had just turned 21.

By 1940, the era of the big swing band was rapidly declining, but Ella was still Downbeat's top female vocalist for the 4th consecutive year. Columnists began calling her "the first lady of song", a title that stuck.

Next came Dec. 7, 1941 and demands of the armed services draft became the straw that broke the back of the big band business. By mid-1942 Ella's manager had her working mainly with a combo called the Four Keys doing club dates in the New York area; doing radio shows; and recording. That August the American Federation of Musicians shut down the recording business in a dispute over the recording companies not sharing royalties with the musicians, a ban that lasted several years. Vocalists could still record without union musicians or in all-vocal groups, which led to Ella's next million-seller hit, "Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall" with the Ink Spots in 1933, and another with them the next year, "I'm Beginning to See the Light".

The end of the war marked the end of many of the big bands – Benny Goodman, Harry James, Artie Shaw, and of course Glenn Miller who had been killed. Typically, Diz chose this time to form his own small band and in 1946 had a hit record with "A Night in Tunisia" featuring 19 yr. old bassist Ray Brown. Ella was booked to tour with the band for 6 weeks in early '47, and a romance was born between Ray and Ella. Her association with Diz led her to a "scat" hit on Decca with Bobby Haggert's group, "Lady, Be Good", highlighting her great ability to swing and improvise.

On a visit to see Ray in Akron, Ohio where he was appearing with Jazz at the Philharmonic, Ella met Norman Granz. Granz was the same age as Ella (29 at the time) and had been a jazz promoter since his college days at UCLA when he started organizing jam sessions. He founded JATP in 1944; insisted on integrated venues; paid his musicians well;



furnished them with first class travel and hotel accommodations. When the audience in Akron saw Ella and demanded she sing with the group, Granz was so impressed with her popularity that he immediately offered her a contract. Ella and Ray married soon after, and they toured 20 weeks out of the year with JATP, and booked club dates with pianist Hank Jones. Granz was recording his groups live performances on his own Clef label in the new format of LP records, but had to delete Ella's songs because she was still tied to her old Decca contract.

Ella and Ray adopted a baby boy in 1949, naming him Ray Brown, Jr., but the marriage lasted only another 3 years. However, she soon had a new man in her life – not a romantic partner but a musical one – Oscar Peterson. Oscar had joined the JATP tours and soon formed the O.P. Trio with Ray on bass and Irving Ashby on guitar. Ella worked with the Trio on the tours, and she and Ray remained friends and musical partners long after the marriage had ended.

Granz had taken on both Ella and Oscar as their personal manager in 1954, and began booking her into the better clubs at better money, in addition to her bi-annual JATP tours. Also in 1954, the concept of the Jazz Festival came into being in the unusual location of Newport, R.I. Unusual because it was the richest and most exclusive enclave in the U.S. With the backing of tobacco heir Louis Lorillard; pianist/organizer George Wein, and John Hammond on the advisory board, they had to wonder how the residents would take to an invasion of black musicians making loud noises! 10,000 came to celebrate at the first 2-day festival, which continues to this day and led the way for similar jazz festivals in many other locales.

It took Granz until 1952 to get Ella out of her Decca contract. Meanwhile, Sinatra had set the tone for the new era of long-playing records by using a unifying theme: "Songs for Young Lovers", and "A Swinging Affair". Granz took the cue and Ella's first record under his management was "Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Cole Porter Songbook". There was such an abundance of material that it became two albums, released on his new Verve label. These were followed by tributes to Rogers & Hart, and The Duke Ellington Songbook.

By 1958, at age 40 and weighing more than 200#, Ella was being booked into the top clubs at top fees with a workload she thrived on. Just a year later Billie Holiday would die at age 44, a victim of a lifestyle far different from Ella's. Her off-stage time was spent (when on the road) at the movies or

sleeping, and when at her new home in Beverly Hills, complete with pool and gardens, raising her son with the help of family members.

With the advent of Elvis and Rock n' Roll, Granz gave up touring JATP in the U.S. and moved to Geneva, returning only when needed to look after the two stars he continued to manage, Ella and Oscar. By 1965, for the first time in many years Ella had no hit record. The Beatles, Dylan and the Rolling Stones all had records "going gold" the minute they hit the stores. She had cataract surgery in 1971 – the same year Louis Armstrong died. The world of music was changing, but in 1972 Granz got back into the recording business, forming Pablo, which soon became a jazz label without equal. Ella was his prime star, recording 25 albums over the next 15 years.



At age 69 in 1987 she was still working 40 weeks out of the year on the road; enjoying only 12 resting at home. She never re-married; her grown son had moved to Seattle with his own family, playing guitar and drums as leader of a band with a country music flavor. By now she had won every award ever instituted, including 12 Grammys, and this was the year President Reagan presented her with the National Medal of Arts. Diabetes had become a growing problem. She gave her last public performance in 1991 at Carnegie Hall, before the diabetes

rendered her blind in 1992. A year later both legs had to be amputated, and she spent her remaining three years at home until her death in June 1996.

In summing up, the author quotes some critics saying that Ella was not a jazz singer – at least not in the way Billie was a jazz singer –

yet jazz was the source of everything she did; the jazz feeling and the popular song wedded together. She couldn't sing the blues, and you never heard her try a spiritual, but her voice was a remarkable instrument with a range of nearly 3 octaves, with impeccable intonation and dazzling flexibility.

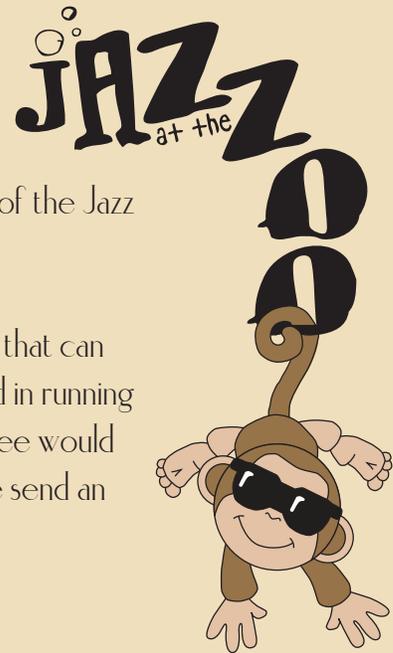
On a personal note, I remember her with the Basie band in 1978 at a concert in Detroit. Basie called his two tenor sax men, Jimmy Forrest and Eric Dixon, out to center stage with her to do a "battle of the saxes", with Ella given space to replicate their riffs, scatting in perfect pitch and note for note their improvisations, to the delight of an entranced audience.

Volunteers for a Jazz at the Zoo Committee

As Treasurer of the WMJS it is obvious to me that our Jazz at the ZOO program is one of the greatest programs that we provide the Western Michigan community. With this in mind I would like to form a committee consisting of three (non-board member) volunteer members of the Jazz Society and myself.

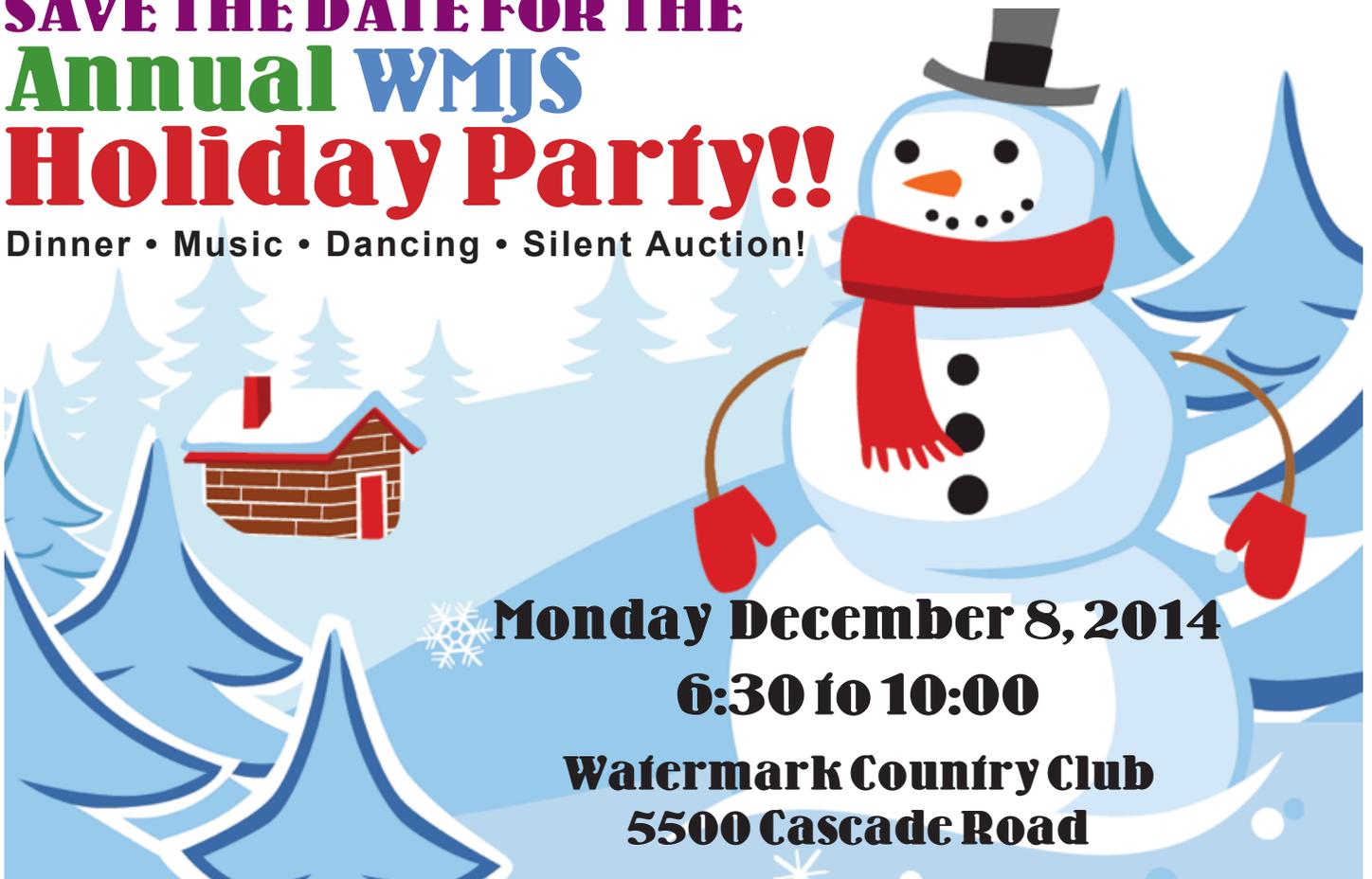
The purpose of the committee is to get input from members on anything that can improve the event and to plan how we can get more volunteers involved in running the event. Of course we would pursue any other ideas that the committee would discuss or discover. If interested in participating on this committee please send an e-mail to our e-mail address and I will get in touch with you.

Best regards,
Jim Reed



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE Annual WMJS Holiday Party!!

Dinner • Music • Dancing • Silent Auction!



Monday December 8, 2014

6:30 to 10:00

**Watermark Country Club
5500 Cascade Road**

October Jazz Around Town

Wednesday, Oct 1

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's,
6:30 – 9:30 pm

Robin Connell at Women's City Club for ArtPrize,
6:30-7 pm

Thursday, Oct 2

Josh Quinlan Trio at Book Nook & Java Shop,
Montague, 7-9 pm

Robin Connell at Lumber Baron in Amway Grand
Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm

Mark Kahny at the Kabaret Room at Firekeepers Casino,
Battle Creek, 6-10 pm

Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites,
Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

Friday, Oct 3

Steve Hilger Trio at Grill 111, Rockford, 6 pm

Robin Connell & Paul Brewer at Mangiamo!, 7-10 pm

Brad Fritcher's Mood Jazz at SpeakEZ, 9 pm

Saturday, Oct 4

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm

Mark Kahny with Edye Evans Hyde at What Not Inn,
Fennville, 7-11 pm

Sunday, Oct 5

Cooper, Hay, Van Lente at 1st United Methodist Church,
227 E. Fulton, for ArtPrize, 4-5 pm

GR Jazz Orchestra at Founder's, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Randissimo at Speak EZ with Tony Viviano, &
Jack Dryden, 7-10 pm

Monday, Oct 6

John Shea at Republic, 8-11 pm

Tuesday, Oct 7

Mark Kahny, Music at Mid-Day, 1st Park Cong. Church,
10 E. Park Place, 12 Noon

Wednesday, Oct 8

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's,
630 – 9:30 pm

Robin Connell Jazz at the Moose Café Coffee House,
Aquinas College, 9:30 – 10:30 pm

Thursday, Oct 9

Steve Hilger at the Book Nook, Montague, 7-9 pm

Robin Connell at Lumber Baron in Amway Grand
Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm

Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites,
Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

Friday, Oct 10

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm

Mark Kahny at the Melting Pot, 2090 Celebration Dr, NE
4-7 pm

Mark Kahny at Mangiamo! 7-10 pm

Saturday, Oct 11

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm

Steve Hilger Trio at Riverstop Café, Newaygo, 7 pm

Mark Kahny Trio at What Not Inn, Fennville, 7-11 pm

Sunday, Oct 12

Randissimo at Speak EZ with Paul Lesinski and Warren
Jones, 7-10 pm

Monday, Oct 13

John Shea at Republic, 8-11 pm

Wednesday, Oct 15

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's,
630 – 9:30 pm

Thursday, Oct 16

Robin Connell at Lumber Baron in Amway Grand
Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm

Boogie Woogie Babies at Ann Arbor Main Library, 7-8 pm

Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites,
Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

Friday, Oct 17

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm

October Jazz Around Town

Saturday, Oct 18

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm

Kathy Lamar at Mangiamo!, 7-10 pm

Sunday, Oct 19

River City Jazz Ensemble featuring Kathy Gibson on vocals, at Central Reformed Church, 10 College & Fulton St at 4:00 pm, donations to support concert series.

Randy Marsh & Organissimo at Speak EZ, – 2nd year anniversary, 7-10 pm

Monday, Oct 20

John Shea at Republic, 8-11 pm

Tuesday, Oct 21

Robin Connell, St Cecelia Music Center HS youth Jazz Workshop, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, Oct 22

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 630 – 9:30 pm

Mark Kahny at Mangiamo!, 7-10 pm

Matt Ulery with Grazya Auguscik from Chicago at SpeakEZ, 8:30 pm

Thursday, Oct 23

Checkers Morton at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7-9 pm

Robin Connell at Lumber Baron in Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm

Fred Knapp Trio at One Trick Pony, CD "How Deep is the Ocean" Release party, 8-11 pm

Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites, Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

Friday, Oct 24

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's Winefest, 7-10 pm

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm

Mark Kahny at The Melting Pot, 2090 Celebration Dr. NE, 4-7 pm

Saturday, Oct 25

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm

Steve Hilger at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

Sunday, Oct 26

Randissimo at Speak EZ with Steve Talaga and Michael Sundt, 7-10 pm

Monday, Oct 27

JAZZ AT THE B.O.B, Petra van Nuis & the Andy Brown Trio, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

John Shea at Republic, 8-11 pm

Tuesday, Oct 28

Robin Connell & Forest Hills Northern Jazz Band Concert, FHN Auditorium, 7 pm

Wednesday, Oct 29

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 630 – 9:30 pm

Mark Kahny at the Kabaret Room at Firekeepers Casino, Battle Creek, 6-10 pm

Thursday, Oct 30

Brad Fritcher + Trois at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7-9 pm

Robin Connell at Lumber Baron in Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm

Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites, Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

Friday, Oct 31

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm

**Be sure to check for additions and changes on our website,
www.wmichjazz.org, WMJS's Facebook, the venues as well as
the musician's websites**

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Jazznotes

October 2014

Jazz Notes is the newsletter for members of the West Michigan Jazz Society.

If you would like your jazz event included in our media publications please send your schedules to jlbasham@i2k.com by the 15th of the month.

West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month.

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