

Jazz Gumbo Showcase

Monday, Sept. 20 ~ Live Music 6:30–8:30 ~ Doors Open 6 p.m.

presents

Remembering Ray Charles

**featuring the Mark Kahny Trio with Evan Hyde on drums
John Gist on sax, Mark on keyboard, and Tony Reynolds on vocals**

World-renowned musician-composer-vocalist Ray Charles, who died in 2004, would have been 80 years old this month. In celebration of his outstanding career that spanned over 50 years, Mark has put together a great program featuring vocalist Tony Reynolds.

Tony has an extensive resume working in Los Angeles and Las Vegas as a singer, actor, emcee and vocal instructor. His style and talent are most



evident in his passion for live performance, which will be most vividly displayed in this venue.

The group considers Ray Charles to be the ultimate American musical icon with a vast body of work that included blues, pop, gospel, country and jazz. They will be performing many of his most famous hits, including *Georgia On My Mind*, *Hit the Road, Jack*, *The Mess Around*, and *You Don't Know Me*, among other favorites.

Monday, Oct. 18 ~ Groovin' In Harmony

Mary Rademacher and the Tom Hagen Quartet will pay tribute to the jazz vocal groups of the '50s and '60s, such as Manhattan Transfer; Lamberts Hendricks & Ross; Sergio Mendes & Brazil 66; and Jackie & Roy. Their great vocal arrangements with their sonic gymnastics and skillful harmonizing gave us a wonderful mix of such numbers as *The Look of Love*,



Sermonette, and even Nat Cole's *Hit That Jive, Jack*.

Mary, Tom and Cherie have been building their repertoire as a vocal trio, and will use Chris Lawrence's skills on the trumpet à la Herb Alpert (who was a member of Brazil 66) and David DeVox on bass to add some great Latin jazz to the mix.

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



Ray Charles

Autobiography & Biography

“Brother Ray” by Ray Charles and David Ritz (pub. 1978) was the first of many collaborations Ritz co-wrote with famous musicians: Smokey Robinson, Etta James, BB King and Aretha Franklin, among others. This one set a high bar for those that followed. We hear Ray speaking directly to the reader throughout with Ritz’s voice, opinions or observations never intruding on the intimate, almost stream-of-consciousness, dialogue.



Born in 1930 in Georgia; moved to a backwoods town just across the border in Florida when just a few months old; Ray describes going blind as a process that began when he was 5 years old, culminating when he was only 7. His recall of how it felt and how the reactions and decisions of his mother impacted his entire life are amazing. The depiction of these events in the movie “Ray” were taken directly from this chapter, as was

much of the well-written script. The chapter on his mother’s death when he was 15 years old is heart-breaking: her teachings, her wisdom, her toughness that she passed on to him, enabled him to step out into the world on his own.

The music that he learned just from listening and being taught at the Florida Blind School carried him from Florida to Seattle to L.A. by age 20, allowing him to survive, to grow, to express himself. He talks frankly about his use of drugs that began out of curiosity and became habitual simply because he enjoyed getting high and never saw the destructive side. He claims it never interfered with his playing, singing, composing, or sex life! He emulated Nat “King” Cole at first, but loved the dynamics of the Basie big band; he learned to combine blues, gospel, swing and rock ‘n roll – his ears heard it all with no visual distractions from the sounds. By 1953 his dream of putting his own band together came true; he wrote much of his own material and his rapport with Atlantic Records allowed him to be his own producer.

Being so busy in the business over the next 25 years didn’t keep him from being just as busy with women, and more than one chapter is devoted



to his theories and practices of dealing with the female sex. On a par was his devotion to the business end of the music business, where he became the first to own his own masters, and one of the first to form his own publishing and recording companies.

In writing an “Afterword” to this book after Ray’s death in 2004, Ritz speaks of what a thrill it was to work with him; how he found it so easy because Ray had no self-consciousness, no pretensions; his version of the truth of his life came pouring out. He knew his own power as a man, a musician, as a music magnate – and he was fearless.

When he turned 70, in 2000, Ritz asked him if he wanted to do a sequel to this book, but Ray said he saw no changes – that he still toured, still recorded, still lived his life the same as when they wrote it when he was age 38, and would continue the same until cancer caught him in 2003, leading to his death on 6/10/04. By then he had been married twice, had 12 children by 5 different women, had won 12 grammys. The film “Ray” was finished just months before he died, and he loved Jamie Foxx’s portrayal of him.

“Ray Charles – Man & Music” by Michael Lydon (pub. 1998) borrows generously from Ray’s autobiography. The movie used as much second and third party detail from this



book as it did “first party” from Ray’s book. It is extensive in its research and details from fellow musicians, producers, his array of women, etc. His first real breakthrough record, in 1955, was “I Got a Woman,” which like all his recordings were 100% his choice of material and arrangements. He added his female vocal group, the Raelettes, in 1955 on another hit, “Drown in My Own Tears.” A Downbeat article on him that same

year put the spotlight on him, enabling him to move to L.A. permanently with his wife and son, Ray Jr.

His grand ambition was to absorb all American music, from its deepest roots to the present day, into his own music. In 1962 he added his first country/western album to his output, getting his third #1 single out of "I Can't Stop Lovin' You" when it sold 1.5 million copies. His schedule from then forward was touring nine months of the year and recording from home base the three winter months. By now he had three boys at home with his wife, Della, and two "outside" children by two other women. In 1963 he built his own studio/office building and a new home for his family. Losing a paternity suit in 1964, still denying the child was his, caused publicity that made his wife sick with grief and distrust. That same year he was busted for dope in Boston.

This was the year Nat Cole died and Malcolm X was murdered. It was also the year he finally faced his addiction and decided if he could get clean it would help with the federal

field throughout, and that same year he began working on his autobiography with David Ritz.

He had a cameo role in the "Blues Brothers" movie in 1979 but the early '80s found him at a low point – he was 50 years old and it was Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder who had the ears of the young set. By the end of the '80s he was doing concerts with symphony orchestras with "America" as a centerpiece, and in 1985 he starred in Quincy Jones' "We Are the World" special for famine relief in Africa with a solo spot among 40 famous musical stars. As befitted one who had lasted in the business for nearly 40 years, the late '80s brought a tide of medals and honors: the R & R Hall of Fame and a year later a Kennedy Center Honors medal. A 1992 PBS American Masters show, "Ray Charles, the Genius of Soul" gave a boost to that year's touring but did nothing for his record sales. His big wheel had hit a rut, but although the best years were now in the past, this dauntless man kept right on going almost to the very end of his life.



drug charges still pending against him. He eventually pled guilty with his doctor testifying to his complete cure, and the judge put off sentencing him for a year pending his good behavior. He never took drugs again and spent the next years touring with his big band and cementing his "groove" both onstage and off. By the end of the '60s his music had reached around the world, even while record sales declined.

The '70s, '80s and '90s were more of the same – circling the globe, appearing on TV, winning awards, juggling a harem of women, and running his business. His 1972 record/arrangement of "America, the Beautiful" was popular in person but a flop on sales, and "Georgia" was still the #1 song he had to play at every performance. He toured with shows that included the Basie band, Oscar Peterson, Gladys Knight and the Pips, among others. It was 1976 when his marriage finally died after 21 years with him playing the



The DVD of the movie "Ray" includes a second disc of scenes deleted from the movie only because of length. It also has great commentary by the director, Taylor Hackford, who had the rights to make the movie for 15 years, but was happy it took so long to get it produced because it brought him Jamie Foxx's amazing portrayal of Ray. Foxx is also an accomplished pianist, so he could film his hands while he played the part. Another section of this disc shows Ray and Jamie in a piano duel, with Ray proclaiming after a two-hour session,

"I think the boy got it." Ray participated in all aspects of the making of the film, which is not only a great display of his musical talent, but also of his intelligence, ambition, coldness and toughness – all factors that made up the animal that was Ray Charles, whose music came from his heart and his soul.

Reviewed by Betty Forrest

Zoo Review

- 1 – Our first concert of the season featured popular vocalist Mary Rademacher with the Mark Kahny Trio, greeted by a record-breaking opening night crowd of 1300.
- 2 – Vocalist Kathy Wagner and the River City Jazz Ensemble



2010



summer



- featured vocalist Edye Lemer Evan Hyde.
- 4 – V.P. Craig Benjamin and this year's scholarship winners him the 4th member of
 - 5 – Grupo Aye repeated year with vocalist Oscar Akins featured on seven
 - 5 – Grupo Aye brings out the dancers, and

made a well-received first appearance at our zoo series.

- 3 – The dynamic Fred Knapp Trio was joined by tenor saxman Ben Jansson to form a swinging quartet featuring vocals by pianist Dave Proulx
- 4 – The WMU Jazz Ensemble





10 weeks

Evans Hyde, led by her son drum-
and Pres. Dona Raymer presented
to bassist Jordan Richards, making
of the WMU group to be awarded.
their popular performance of last
r Gonzalez and trumpeter Keaton
ral great arrangements.



- this one managed to keep two ladies swinging at the same time....
- 6 – The Marshland Express with Randy on drums and harmonica and his father Arno Marsh on tenor sax were joined by trumpeter Chris Lawrence for a great evening of jazz standards.
 - 8 – Michelle Covington with the Scott Bell Quartet were joined by cast members from Circle Theater's upcoming production of "Little Shop of Horrors" for a greatly varied program of jazz, blues, and pop.
 - 9 – Claudia Schmidt and her Funtet made their first appearance in a well-rounded program that included some poetry along with her dynamic voice stylings.
 - 10 – Our biggest crowd ever – estimated at 1700 – came out for the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra's big band swing. Trumpeter Jim Sawyer sang a boisterous rendition of "Let the Good Times Roll" and

Tim Froncek's drum solo on "Sing Sing Sing" received a huge ovation.

Continued on next page

Zoo Review

Continued from page 5

On July 26th, the Tom Hagen Quintet presented a "Salute to George Shearing" program with Bill Vits on vibes, Mike Hyde on guitar, Cherie on drums and Rob Hartman on bass. Featuring renditions of famous vocalists that recorded with Shearing, the audience was thrilled with cameo appearances by:

1 – Barb Keller singing "C'est Magnifique"



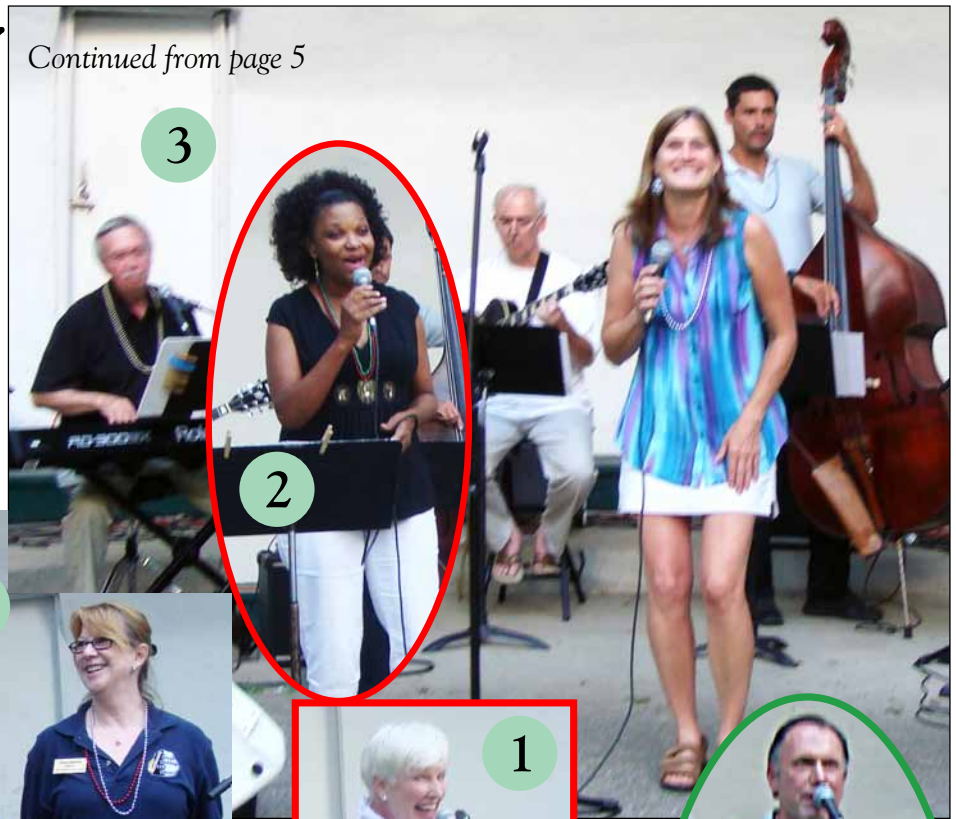
2 – Edye Evans Hyde performed the Nancy Wilson version of "The Things we Did Last Summer"

3 – Cherie Hagen sang "Always True to You, Darling, In My Fashion"

4 – Rick Reuther performed a mellow "Let There Be Love"

5 – Treasurer Pete Proli and President Dona Raymer with jazz society manager Betty Forrest, giving her lots of credit for our successful 10 years of concerts at the zoo.

6 – V.P. Craig Benjamin and Special Events Coordinator John Miller hold up the surprise gift presented to Betty – a beautiful quilt of pictures and names of artists who have performed for us over the past 10 years.



Support Local Jazz Venues!

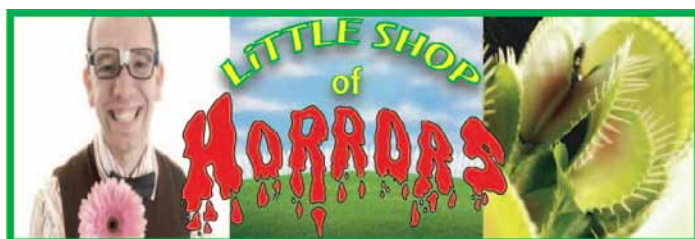
Jazz At Rosa Parks Circle... The WMJS will sponsor our first-ever event downtown at Rosa Parks Circle on Monday, Sept. 27th from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. This date is in the midst of Art Prize events taking place beginning the previous week. Our artists for this event is **Grupo Aye**, the outstanding Latin Jazz ensemble that has set our audiences dancing at the zoo the past two years.

Michael Holmes presents his newly-revised “The Judy Show” on Sat. Oct. 9th at the Red Barn Theatre in Saugatuck. Call (269) 857-5300 for info and tickets.

The Fred Knapp Trio – Schuler’s on 28th St. – Fri. Sept. 24 at 7 PM

Beltline Big Band plays for your dancing pleasure at the University Club on Wed. Oct. 13 from 7 – 9:30 PM. Admission is \$10.00 per/\$18.00 couples.

Circle Theatre presents the musical “Little Shop of Horrors” on the following dates: Sept. 2nd – 4th; 8th – 11th; 15th – 18th at 7:30 PM plus a Sunday matinee at 5 PM on Sept. 12th. Tickets are \$25. Call 456-6656 or www.circletheatre.org.



Grand Rapids Community College **Fall Jazz Night** Tues. Oct. 26th at the St. Cecilia, 7:30 PM. Featuring “Shades of Blue” vocal group plus the Jazz Orchestra.

What Not Inn - M89 & Blue Star Hwy - (269) 543-3341
Mon. Jazz Jams 6 PM; Sat. 7-11 PM; Sunday 6-9 PM

9/4 – Christy G	9/5 – Diego
9/11 – Entourage	9/12 – Mary Rademacher
9/18 – Tony Reynolds	9/19 – Entyce
9/25 – Mike Raleigh & Rick Hicks	9/25 – Christy G
10/2 – Randy Marsh	10/3 – Edye Evans Hyde
10/9 – Gary Gramer	10/10 – Mary Rademacher
10/16 – Mike Raleigh & Rick Hicks	10/17 – Christy G
10/23 – Entourage	10/24 – Entyce
10/30 – Christy G	10/31 – Diego

John Shea Trio...

Mondays – Republic Bar, 45 S. Division, 8-11 PM
Wed. – Brick Rd. Pizza, 1017 Wealthy 7-10 PM solo
Fri. – Wicks Bar & Grill, Saugatuck – 8-11 PM
Sat. – Noto’s, 28th St. SE – 7-10 PM

Grupo Aye – Fri. 9/17 – Marriott Hotel 9 PM-1AM

Steve Talaga with Trio – Sat. 9/18 from 6-9 PM – Pizza Shootout fundraiser at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Fri., 10/22 with Edye Hyde at Hope College Wichers Auditorium. Thurs., 10/16 with GRJO – Jazz Vespers 6 PM – First United Methodist Church.

Aquinas Jazz Faculty Recital – Sun. 10/10 – 7 PM at Kretschmer Auditorium with Rob Smith, Tom Lockwood, Paul Keller and Pete Seirs as special guests.

Attention Snowbirds

If you spend more than a month at a winter address, bulk mail is not forwarded by the Post Office. Please contact Betty Forrest at 458-0125 or bforr@hotmail.com.

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Check out our Web Page: www.wmichjazz.org

Jazznotes

Sept.-Oct. 2010

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

Editor, Betty Forrest
West Michigan Jazz Society
304 Paris S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board Meeting: Tues., Sept. 28, 7 pm at Great Lakes Steak House

Dona Raymer - President735-4744

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Interested in working on a committee? Yes ☐ No ☐ Later ☐

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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Sept-Oct. 2010

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