

# Jazz notes

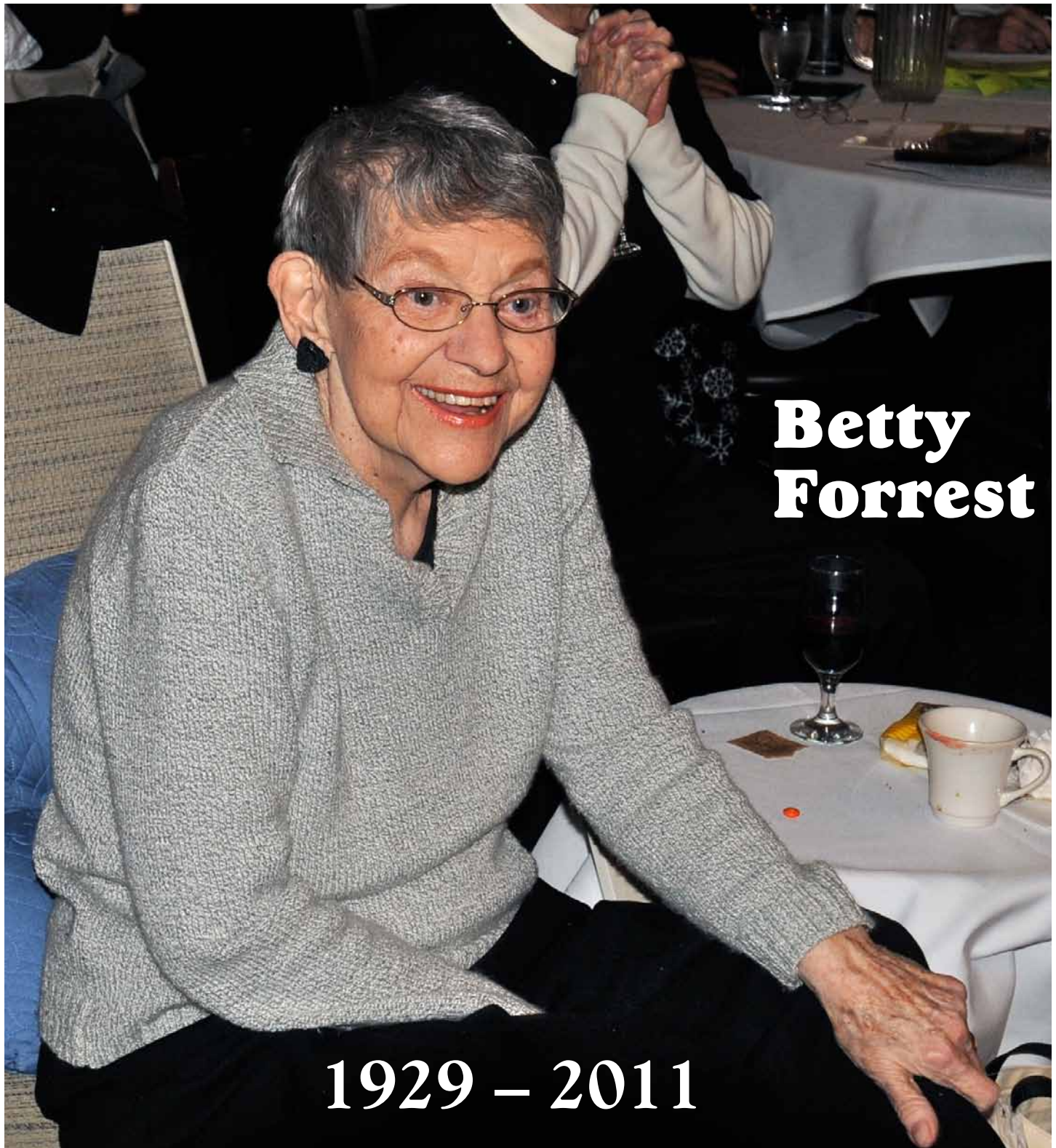
November–December 2011  
Vol. 26 No. 8



[www.wmichjazz.org](http://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 of the Board of the West Michigan Jazz Society

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



*Caught looking at the zoo*

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



*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 a commemorative quilt consisting of 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

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-



*Jimmy and Betty Forrest*

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

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



*Jack Morrison, then President, emceeing 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**



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

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



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





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**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](mailto: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](http://www.amwaygrand.com) for  
 package information

## MEMBERSHIP

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Edie McCarger

### Donors

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

### New Members

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

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 Ron & Kay Stacilauskas  
 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

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 Marc & Linda Daneman  
 James Sawyer

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 Joan Deering  
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**Check out our Web Page: [www.wmichjazz.org](http://www.wmichjazz.org)**



# Jazznotes

November–December 2011

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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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Receive newsletter by mail or website? Mail ☐ Website ☐

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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November 2011

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