

## Edye Evans Hyde 2011 Musician of the Year

It wasn't until she turned to face the audience to begin her first number that Edye realized the July 25th "Jazz at the Zoo" crowd was a record-breaker.

She'd been busy working up the song list with pianist Terry Lower while beaming at trumpeter-saxophonist Rob Smith, who made a rare and special trip from Mt. Pleasant to perform with her. Side glances of appreciation and anticipation went to bassist Tom Lockwood and drummer Evan Hyde for the

her fans lit the way for an even more-than-usual outstanding performance by this dynamic performer!

A bit of history: Edye, her brother, and parents moved to Grand Rapids in 1966 when both Mom and Dad got jobs with the Grand Rapids public school system after visiting friends here that summer.

Edye attended Henry Elementary and then Northeast Junior High School when the family bought their first home in



parts they would contribute to the latest of many annual appearances at John Ball Park for the Jazz Society.

Tonight the lawn between the band shell and the administration building was wall-to-wall people, estimated at over 1,500. Her choice of opening number "You Send Me" suddenly seemed very appropriate – it was as if the enthusiasm of

the Auburn Hills area in 1970. She graduated from Creston High School in 1975, playing oboe and clarinet in the high school band and singing with the Acapella Choir. She was the first black homecoming queen at Creston her senior year – considered an amazing event in the mid-'70s!

*Please turn page*

Our Banquet honoring Edye will be at **The Watermark Country Club**, 5500 Cascade Rd. S.E., Grand Rapids MI 49546  
Cash Bar opens at 6:30 pm ♦ Plated Dinner Served at 7 pm ♦ Award Presentations ♦ Music & Dancing  
\$30 per person ♦ Reservations required by **Friday, Sept. 9** with form on page 7



# Edye Evans Hyde... *continued from page 1*

Edye attended GRJC from 1975-77, singing with the choir Shades of Blue and the GRJC Jazz Band. She moved on to Aquinas, eventually graduating with a bachelors degree in Music Education. She continued her singing during her college years with various ensembles includ-

ing the Aquinas College Big Band.

Asked to remember her first paying gig, she tells of performing at the Imperial House, a club on Plainfield, in the summer of 1975, and being amazed that anyone would pay her \$50 to do what she loved to do! She met her future husband, guitarist Michael Hyde, soon after and joined his band, singing with them throughout her college years. They married in 1979 and formed a new band – Edye Evans and Friends – playing a steady gig at the Hungry Lion restaurant on 28th St. while Edye taught in the Godfrey-Lee school system during the day.

A couple of years later the couple moved to Los Angeles to take some courses at the Musicians Institute. Edye met vocalist Connie Stevens and was thrilled to sing back up for her at Cesaers on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

When Michael finished his courses, they moved back to Grand Rapids. Edye went back into education as a music teacher and worked as an administrator in admissions at both Davenport College and Grand Rapids Community College. During this time Michael and Edye were blessed with their daughter Leah (Nikki) and son Evan.

Edye's first theater experience was with the Robeson Players production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* in 1984. Cedric Ward had founded the interracial theatre group in the mid-'70s and after several years in various venues, they found a permanent home at Spectrum Theatre in downtown Grand Rapids.

Edye auditioned for the show after being prodded by a friend. She did not picture herself as an actor, but was thrilled to be selected as an ensemble member of this amazing show. This was the first of many starring roles in Robeson productions, such as *Dream Girls* and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, but the first remains her favorite.

The one-woman show *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* in 1992 was Edye's second favorite in spite of being the most

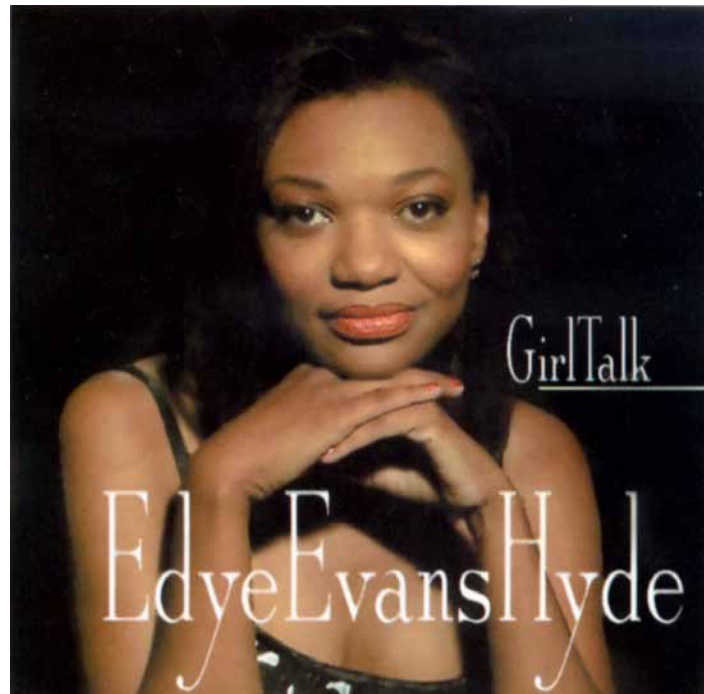
difficult for her because of playing such a tortured person in the last few months of Billie Holiday's amazing life. The late *Grand Rapids Press* reporter Dave Nicolette wrote, "It is a remarkable performance by an excellent actress who happens to sing, or an excellent singer who happens to act."

The three Robeson shows established Edye as a dynamic leading lady, and she was soon cast by Circle Theater, Actor's Theater, Civic Theater, and the Cherry County Players, for their productions of *Tapestry*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Fame*, *Smoky Joe's Café*, *Ragtime*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and many other productions. She has also has been cast in the lead for

many non-musical dramas, including *Having Our Say* for Grand Rapids Civic Theatre in 2007, and *Intimate Apparel* and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* for Actor's Theater.

In 1997 she decided to try her wings on the west coast, and with her family's blessing went to L.A. for 15 months. She performed in many jazz clubs in the area, as well as being cast as an extra in a few TV shows and movies.

On returning to Grand Rapids, it was from the encouragement of fellow musicians and friends that Edye decided to record her first CD, *Girl Talk*, in 1999. It was recorded in Los Angeles with LA musicians while adding her husband on one







Looking out on the massive crowd in Muskegon, Edye proclaims to prefer more intimate cabaret-style appearances where she can make eye contact and see people's faces, but it was a thrill just to perform for such a large audience and be on the same stage as the great Ray Charles.

Also in 2001, Edye performed the first-ever "Jazz Night" at Meijer Garden for the Keller Cooler Series, where her band included such talents well-known to jazz society members as Mark Kahny, the late Mel Dalton, and Randy Marsh.

A week after 9/11, Edye left for a four month club gig in Shanghai, China. She performed nightly at the Shanghai Ritz-Carlton Hotel with Atlanta area musicians Phil Morrison (bass) and Keith Williams (piano and voice). Her family joined her there for two weeks during the Christmas-New Years holiday.

Upon returning from China, another popular performance in Feb. 2002 was with husband Mike

at the Art Jam at the Wealthy Theatre, raising funds for arts programs in the Grand Rapids public school system.

Edye's last out-of-country tour was with her now-steady pianist Terry Lower on a ten-day gig in Italy in 2008. The group also included Mike (Hyde) on guitar, Elgin Vines on bass, Jim Ryan on drums and Rob Smith on trumpet and sax. Based in Torino, they toured the Piemonte Region of northwest Italy, playing in different cities each night. The band played some very beautiful 17th century ornate Italian opera houses, where the large audiences were thrilled and appreciative to hear Americans performing jazz.

Now Edye is singing all over the midwest while teaching jazz voice at Hope College. Her more than 30-year career is still in the "warm up" stage... the voice only gets more dynamic each year and the crowds she attracts testify to her popularity as "leading lady of theatre and song."

*Opening for Ray Charles*  
track here at home.

Her combination of jazz, blues and pop has made the recording a popular seller to this day. The L.A. Jazz Scene cites, "Hyde combines scat singing with lyric interpretation while working part of the time in a vocal mode that brings her voice into the fold as another instrument in the band."

Twice in 2001 Edye was the opening act for the legendary Ray Charles, once at DeVos Hall and again for the Muskegon Summer Celebrity series, which captured an audience of 15,000. Her 45-minute "introductory program" at DeVos brought her a standing ovation and the *Grand Rapids Press* review extolling her dynamic vocal range.



**Sept. 9 deadline to register for the Edye Evans Hyde Musician of the Year Banquet... see page 7**



# July and August

July 4 - **Vocalist Kathy LaMar** did a particularly soulful acapella rendering of *America the Beautiful* that held the large audience spell-bound. The second set featured her own favorite, *Smooth Operator*, which is sung with great gusto!



July 11 - **Mary Rademacher**, a perennial favorite with our audiences, was backed by her buddy, pianist, and vocalist Mark Kahny and accompanied vocally on a couple of numbers by her mother, Pat, whose birthday was being celebrated.



July 18 - **The Steve Hilger Sextet** was making its first appearance for the Society, with Steve on guitar but familiar faces such as Steve Talaga on piano, John Gist on sax and Randy Marsh on drums. Randy also did one of his harmonica specials on *Watermelon Man*.



July 25 - **Edye Evans Hyde** brought out a huge crowd, estimated at 1500, for a fantastic program of varied stylings. Great scatting on *Bye, Bye Blackbird* and joined by husband Mike on guitar for the final number of the evening, *Take the A Train*.

August 1 - **Rick Reuther and the Tom Hagen All Stars** reprised their Frank Sinatra at the Sands (Vegas years) that they performed at our January Jazz Gumbo. Tom's arrangements on all numbers were marvelous, and the group had a fresh CD featuring several hits from the program.



## 2011 West Michigan Jazz Soc



Guitarist Olin Clark attended Comstock Park HS and is going to MSU







# Jazz at the Zoo

August 8 - ***The Fred Knapp Trio plus One*** (Ben Jansson on tenor sax) was a big hit. The group was joined by two guests – high school student Megan Sanders on a vocal plus John Proulx, brother of pianist-vocalist Dave, joining him on a first time joint performance where they both played the piano and John scatted on *Route 66*. What a great surprise for all!

August 15 - ***The Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra*** was this year's final act – with Edye Evans Hyde on vocals – and they brought out the biggest crowd we have ever had, which would mean it was well over 1,500. It was weather-wise and music-wise the perfect ending to a perfect summer series – not one of our 10 concerts got rained out. Very hot and muggy a few times, but nothing discourages our loyal jazz fans from their pursuit of listening to great music.

## Society Scholarship Winners



Frombonist Luke Marlowe attended Byron Center HS and is going to WMU







Our first notice of this new jazz venue was in last month's issue of *Jazz Notes*. Drummer Randy Marsh is hosting jam sessions at the club with a different duo joining him each week from 7-10 pm, and an "open door" policy for those vocalists or instrumentalists who want to join in. Board members John Miller and Barb Keller went downtown Sunday, August 14 to check it out (it's located at 25 Ionia SW) and found the place jammed! John Proulx was on piano and vocals, with Jeff Bevan on bass and, of course, Randy on drums.

There is no cover charge, good menu selections and a full bar with large choice of beers, so John and Barb settled in

for the balance of the evening. A succession of musicians joined the Trio – an alto, tenor, trumpet, singer, and a student drummer who was absolutely amazing. The last set settled down to mostly the original trio performing lots of standards with John's singing.

Randy has groups lined up for throughout the fall season, and the *Grand Rapids Press* is supposed to be doing an article about what you can find to do for entertainment in downtown Grand Rapids on a Sunday evening. We were certainly pleasantly surprised, and will plan to arrive earlier on our next visit to the Hopcat!

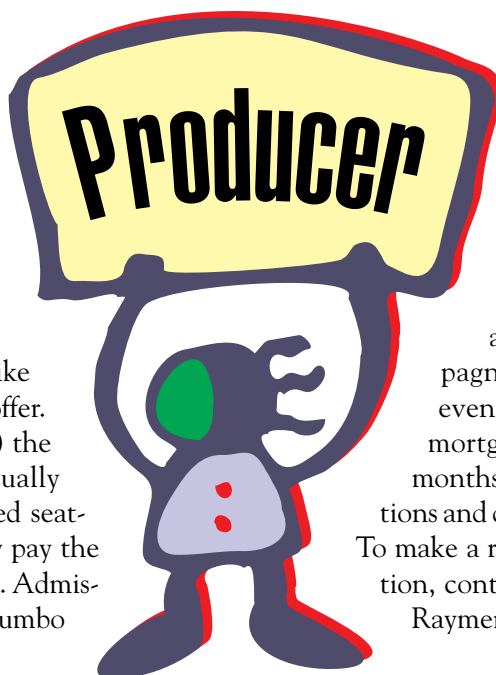
## Jazz Gumbo Showcase

*Begins at the Kopper Top:* Mon. Oct. 17 • Scott Bell & Michelle Covington  
Mon. Nov. 21 • Mark Kahny & Tony Reynolds

### Be a Jazz

The WMJS has "adopted" (stolen?) many great ideas from the Jazz Society of Pensacola over the past 20 years that I have been friends with its President, Crystal Albert. One of the best has been our Jazz Gumbo series. Now they are offering their members an opportunity to be the Producer of a Gumbo event, and we would like to see if our members are interested in this offer.

The Producer get to select (and pay for) the jazz ensemble of their choice. This is usually around \$500. They will also select reserved seating for their invited guests, for whom they pay the reduced admission price of \$5.00 per person. Admission still includes their choice of chili or gumbo



plus salad, and cash bar. They will receive recognition that this is "their party" in the *Jazz Notes* and announcements at the event. In addition, each of their guest tables (each seats 8) will be furnished with a complimentary bottle of champagne. Dates available for your special event (anniversary, birthday, paid off the mortgage?) are the third Monday of the months January through May, with reservations and deposit of 25% made by November 15. To make a reservation or obtain further information, contact WMJS Executive Manager Dona Raymer at 735-4744.

# Support Local Jazz Venues!



**Noto's**, Wed. 7-10 pm... on Sept. 21 the Hagens and Rick Reuther celebrate the 10th anniversary of this steady gig

**Hopcat**: Sundays 7-10 PM, Randy Marsh hosts jazz duo and "joiners" for jam sessions. Good food, no cover charge - 25 Ionia SW.

## MEMBERSHIP

### What Not Inn, Sat. - Sun. 6-10 pm

Sept. 3 - Christy G  
 Sept. 4 - Randy Marsh  
 Sept. 10 - Diego  
 Sept. 11 - Mary Raemacher  
 Sept. 17 - Entourage  
 Sept. 18 - Tony Reynolds  
 Sept. 24 - Gary Gramer  
 Sept. 25 - Entyce  
 Oct. 1 - Eddy Curtis Trio  
 Oct. 2 - Randy Marsh

### Mangiamo's, Wed. thru Sat. 7-10

pm in the piano bar  
 Sept. 1, 9, 23 - Robin Connell  
 Sept. 2, 24 - John Proulx  
 Sept. 3, 15, 29 - Paul Lesinski  
 Sept. 7, 21 - Greg Miller  
 Sept. 8, 14, 22 - Mark Kahny  
 Sept. 10, 30 - Wally Michael  
 Sept. 16, 28 - Bob VanStee  
 Sept. 17 - Hugh DeWitt

### New

Pete & Linda Johnson  
 Lois Kolenda  
 Paul Mulheisen & Patricia Talbott  
 Jacque Friend

### Renewals

Ethel Ackerson  
 Rod Coates  
 James Brown & Nancy Clark  
 Jim & Barbara Davies  
 Keith & Clara Crittenden  
 Diane Eddy  
 Dennis & Jan Hagen  
 Michael & Terri Handlin  
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 Shirley Sharon  
 Dave & Pat Walborn  
 Luther & Dianne Ward

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

## Edye Evans Hyde Musician of the Year Banquet Sept. 19

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; **deadline to register Sept. 9**

\_\_\_\_\_ Slow Roasted Pot Roast

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuscan Salmon

\_\_\_\_\_ Spinach & Artichoke Chicken Breast

**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

# Jazznotes

September 2011

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

**Jazz Notes Editor, Betty Forrest**  
**bforr@hotmail.com**  
**or (616) 458-0125**

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

## West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board Meeting: Tues., Sept. 27, 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 ... 364-6609

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 ..... 745-5862

Barb Keller ..... 949-7633

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

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

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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