

# Jazz notes

December 2012/January 2013



An All-Volunteer  
Organization

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[www.wmichjazz.org](http://www.wmichjazz.org)  
616-490-9506

The WMJS opens it's  
2013 Jazz season on  
Jan. 21 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  
non-members.

Receive a WMJS  
gift if you join at this  
event.

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.



*Photo by Heidi Stukkie*



*Photo by Paul Wood*



*Photo by Donna Kahny*

## January 21

"Good Vibes, a Tribute to the  
Great Vibraphone Masters"  
by the Jim Cooper Quintet:  
Ken Morgan, sax/flute, Paul  
Lesinski, piano, Randy Marsh,  
drums, and Warren Jones, bass.

*continued on page 2*



*Photo by Scott Sullivan*





The **Jim Cooper Quintet** will play arrangements of jazz vibists like Lionel Hampton, Milt Jackson, Gary Burton, Cal Tjader and Jim Cooper. (It happens to be his birthday!!) They will also play music commemorating Martin Luther King.

Veteran vibraphonist, composer and educator, Jim Cooper has played vibes for 40 years, leading numerous groups and appearing as both a soloist and as sideman. He has performed with musicians like Chicago pianist Bob Dogan, Art VanDamme, Larry Vuckovich, the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra, and Buddy de Franco/John Faddis and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble & the Holland (MI) Jazz Orchestra. His performances include concerts sponsored by the Jazz Institute of Chicago, and Jazz festivals in Sutton's Bay, Lansing Idlewild, and Chicago's Millennium Park. Prestigious venues in which he has played include Chicago's Green Mill and Detroit's Baker's Keyboard Lounge. Recently he finished a tour with The Clarinet Swing Kings and clarinetist Dave Bennett. Jim's recordings include "Tough Town" and "Nutville", (Delmark Records) both featuring multi-instrumentalist Ira Sullivan, "Itchin' to Groove" (Jazmyn) and "Trio Musik". (BigO)

Cooper has garnished many reviews over the years. Howard Reich of the Chicago Tribune wrote, "Cooper is not just a strong soloist, but an accomplished bandleader as well... he played with a degree of subtlety and craft one does not often encounter in the work of performers far better known than he." Neil Tesser of the Chicago Reader wrote "Cooper has quietly grown into a most listenable improviser...nothing over-glossy and nothing so sophisticated that it's lost touch with the streets." Lloyd Sachs of the Chicago Sun-Times wrote"...the more you listen, the more you appreciate the quiet but marked strength of Cooper's style... he impresses with his stylistic range and the harmonically assured manner in which he draws his fellow players together. A Downbeat Magazine review called Cooper, "a warm vibist who goes for the heart."

As a composer Jim recently performed his piece for solo piano entitled, "Michigan Spring Suite" for 2012 Art Prize in Grand Rapids. He is currently working on a book of over 20 of his jazz compositions which should be completed at the end of 2012.

As an educator Jim has had experience teaching music at the elementary, high school and college levels. He has two B.A. degrees from Northeastern Illinois University, one in percussion and one in music education, and a M.M. degree in jazz studies from Northern Illinois University. He has taught at Lake Michigan and Aquinas Colleges, Grand Valley State and Central Michigan Universities and currently teaches jazz vibraphone at Northwestern University. He has finished his 11th year as a summer jazz band director at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Jim recently joined the Musser Performing Artist roster and is available for jazz clinics and workshops. He currently lives with his wife in Fennville, Michigan in the woods along Lake Michigan.

**Ken Morgan** (Saxophones/Flutes) has been actively involved in music performance since 1952. He founded Pieces of Dreams, is a member of the Wonderland Jazz Ensemble, and leads the Ken Morgan Jazz Unit. KMJU's recording, "Live at Chaps on Main" was selected as "one of the top 8 jazz releases of the year" by the Detroit News. Ken has also been an organizational consultant for over 40 years and currently teaches saxophone and improvisation at Kalamazoo College. He also taught at Western Michigan, Grand Valley State, and Northern Colorado Universities. Ken has accompanied many artists including Louis Armstrong, Aretha Franklin, Ira Sullivan, the Dave Brubeck Quartet, Henry Mancini, and Pearl Bailey.

**Paul Lesinski** performs, composes, and records prolifically as a jazz and commercial keyboardist. He leads the original jazz organ trio, Groove Merchant, and performs with West

Michigan's premier R&B horn band, the Hip Pocket. As an adjunct faculty member on GVSU's Music and Dance Department, Paul teaches a Music and Dance course for dance majors giving them a solid foundation of music theory, history, and technology. Paul has shared the stage with many great jazz artists, including Wessel Anderson, Wycliff Gordon, Jeff Coffin, Sunny Wilkinson, Harry Connick, The Nelson Riddle Orchestra, Vince DiMartino, Randy Johnston, Betty Joplin, Jeff Halsey, Bruce Early, and Mel Dalton.

**Randy Marsh**, affectionately known as "Randissimo", is a colorful, talented and sought after drummer. He is the featured drummer for many local groups including Organissimo and the Steve Hilger Jazz Quartet, bringing fire and intensity as well as his trademark sense of humor to every performance. Like his hero Art Blakey, Randy's drumming is truly one of kind. He works hard at keeping the Jazz scene alive and well in Grand Rapids seeking out venues where he can invite quality jazz students from colleges and high schools up to play along side seasoned performers. By giving them a taste of stage performance, he hopes to encourage them to continue their music education.

**Warren L. Jones III** has been a professional bassist, composer, clinician and teacher for over 35 years. A Jazz Bass Performance graduate of the Arizona State University School of Music, he has taught in both high schools and colleges in Arizona. He appears on more than 30 CD's and has composed over 40 pieces of music. Jones has relocated to our fair city and is enjoying a resurgence in his music and his creativity. He says "Grand Rapids is ripe for players and the jazz scene is appreciated by the audience"

**So, come down to Bobarinos on January 21st and show this amazing quintet how much we really do appreciate Jazz!**

# Monday Night Jazz Series

## Upcoming Events



Photo by Peter Sensor



Photo by Bruce Robey



Photo by Donna Kathy

- **Feb. 18** – Las Vegas vocalist Kathy Lamar and her Quintet, featuring jazz pianist Bob VanStee, perform a mesmerizing mix of jazz standards and rock classics.

- **March 18** - Saxaphonist Chris Bickley will reunite the group “The Maiden Voyage” with classic jazz selections from Herbie Hancock to John Coltrane: Tim Froncek, drums, Terry Lower, piano, Jeff Bevan, bass, and Rob Smith, trumpet.

- **April 15** – Third place winner in the 2011 International Song Writing competition Steve Talaga will be performing with Tom Lockwood, bass, Scott Veenstra, drums, and special guest vocalist Diane VanderWater.



[www.wmichjazz.org](http://www.wmichjazz.org)

The WMJS is actively seeking applicants to apply for our 2013 Music Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to college bound students pursuing a degree in Jazz studies. The application form can be found on our website under the “about us” tab. Please share this information with students or music educators you may know.



## October Monday Night Jazz RECAP:

Max Colley III & Company  
- "A Tribute to Wynton Marsalis"

CHANGE.... Just as Katrina forced rebirth on our brothers and sisters in New Orleans, trumpeter Max Colley III & company eased us into a new era of change and rebirth at the inaugural installment of the West Michigan Jazz Society's Monday Night Jazz series at our new venue, Bobarino's. I say "eased" with a hint of sarcasm, for the night was not without it's logistical issues..... but then, change is good.... isn't it? The important thing is you all came out to witness a truly amazing musical extravaganza!

Max and company took to the stage with ferocious enthusiasm to show us just how much he & the boys know about New Orleans Jazz, and Wynton specifically. And these gentlemen know a lot! Out of the gate with the sassy "In the Court of King Oliver", right into the peppy "Sparks", used in the famous iPod TV ad. Then one of my favorites of the night, the steamy "The Seductress", featuring some tantalizing plunger work from Max.

Let's talk a little about the "company" Max keeps.... special guest Wessel "Warmdaddy" Anderson on alto sax has toured many years with the Wynton Marsalis



*Photo by Donna Kahny*

Sextet | MSU professor of Jazz Piano, pianist Reggie Thomas | local bassist and music educator Dave Rosin | music educator and drummer, John Hill.... and the very capable "youngsters" Caleb Elzinga, tenor sax and Luke Marlowe on trombone. Both are Jazz Performance and Music Education majors at Michigan State University and Western Michigan University respectively. Didn't sound like students to me! They are exceptionally polished rising stars.

Back to Max and the music.... the evening continued with a traditional New Orleans street groove "Big Fat Hen", "School Boy" and the ever popular Marsalis tribute to Charlie Brown and Snoopy, "Buggy Ride".

Highlights from the evening can only be described as a collective offering of blazing trumpet work from Max and some very tasty alto work from Wess. Solid rhythm section work from Reggie, Dave and John kept things anchored with taste and restraint as these toe-tapper tunes can easily get away from you! The night closed with the bopper "Jump Start", "Memories of You" (the only non-Marsalis composition of the sets), and finally the swingin' "Sanctified Blues".

They closed things down with a rousing New Orleans rendition of "Happy Birthday" for bassist Dave Rosin and for Wynton himself. The only regret for me was the absence of a vocal mic so we all could hear Max set up the tunes and recount the many fascinating stories of his 30+ years of personal friendship in the musical influence of this great artist, Wynton Marsalis! Thanks, Max for an inspiring sold-out evening of fine music!

BTW.... We could use a new name for our gumbo-less event at Bobarino's....Jazzarino's? BobberJazz? BOBlicity? Anyone?

- Mark Kahny



*Photo by Donna Kahny*

## November Monday Night Jazz RECAP

Benje Daneman and the Western Jazz Quartet with special guest vocalist Ashley Daneman

November's installment of the monthly jazz series saw the first ever appearance of Benje Daneman & company at a WMJS event. One of the rare chances in recent memory to hear world-class, big-city, top-shelf, intimate jazz! This is what the people pay big bucks to see and hear in the hallowed jazz venues of New York, Boston and Washington D.C. Backed by the venerable Western Jazz Quartet, Benje and Ashley performed an eclectic list of compositions.... some standards, but with an impish twist.... AND some very sweet and personal original tunes. This is what I noticed right from the start.... no reticence whatsoever about establishing a mindset *outside* the "swing-set" or the "bop-box". No fear.

No fear with the set list.... no fear with some very creative arrangements of established and beloved favorites. Benje and the group opened with a delightfully syncopated reading of the 1932 Irving Berlin composition "How Deep is the Ocean" arranged by Benje. Other crowd-pleasers and staples throughout the night un-covered "The Nearness of You", the toe-tapper "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" and "Come Rain or Come Shine".

I say *un*-covered because these arrangements were truly unique and not the traditional covers of the standards you hear everyday. They are uncommonly their own. As for the original compositions, of particular note was the pensive "In a Way, He's Just Like Me" from Ashley's 2011 release "Harvest Town". Some nice song-writing here as she weaves a personal story with an uncharacteristically rich accompaniment for this

folksy genre. And the wistful collaborative effort, "Floating On" from Benje and Ashley. Benje's intimate "Sun Shadows" featured some solid trumpet and sax interplay with only piano accompaniment in the bop style. I really loved the tender "Estelle's Farewell Gift" featuring some very fine flugelhorn and piano work from Benje and 25-year old recent WMU acquisition, Jazz Piano prof Jeremy Siskind. Rounding out the rest of the group were 12-year veteran Jazz Studies director at WMU, bassist Tom Knific and WMU drum guru Keith Hall, and finally WMU newcomer Andrew Rathbun on tenor sax. This group brought us an uncompromising concoction of subtle and intimate Jazz with a touch of the hipster singer-songwriter component. You wouldn't think the twain shall meet, but they did.... and very creatively indeed!

- Mark Kahny



Photo by Donna Kahny



# SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!

## December 2012 & January 2013

### Music Schedule

#### **BOOK NOOK & JAVA SHOP 8744 Ferry St.**

Montague / Thursdays 7-9, \$5 cover @ door

Dave Collee, Tim Froncek & friends

Dec. 6- Collee Quartet w/vocalist Ginny Dusseau

Dec. 13- Checkers Morton

Dec. 20- Lakewinds Jazz Quartet w/Tom Stansel, sax

#### **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Thru May, Jazz Vespers 3rd Sat @ 6:00

Dec. 15- Mac Naughton Blvd

#### **FOUNDERS 235 Grandville SW, 5:30-7:30**

1st & 3rd Sun each month -GR Jazz Orchestra

#### **GILLY'S @ The BOB 20 Monroe 6:30-9:30**

Dec. 6, 20 & Jan. 10, 17- John Shea

Dec. 13- Steve Hilger Quintet

#### **JW MARRIOTT 235 Louis NW**

Fri & Sat -7:30-10:30

Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26- Steve Hilger

#### **JU SUSHI**

Thurs 7-10, Fri/Sat 7-11

Dec. 21 & 27- Mark Kahny

#### **MANGIAMO'S Wed-Sat 7-10**

Dec. 1, 8, 21, 29 & Jan. 11, 25-

Kathy Lamar w/ Bob Van Stee

Dec. 5 & Jan. 10- Paul Lesinski

Dec. 6 & Jan. 23- Bill Hugye

Dec. 7, 22, 29 & Jan. 19, 31- Robin Connell

Dec. 12, 26 & Jan. 9, 30- Greg Miller

Dec. 13, 16- Chris Corey

Dec. 20, 31 & Jan. 4, 18- Mark Kahny

Dec. 19 & Jan. 2, 24- Steve Talaga

Dec. 27 & Jan. 3- Bill Davidson

Jan. 5, 26- Monica De Silva

Jan. 17- Freddy Degennaro

#### **NOTOS 28th St. Wed & Sat 7-10, Th 6:30-9:30**

Tom Hagen Trio w/ Rick Reuther

Dec. 6, 20 & Jan. 3, 17, 31- Steve Hilger Quintet

Saturdays-John Shea

#### **ONE TRICK PONY 8-11**

Dec. 6- Kathy Lamar w/ Bob Van Stee

#### **RED ROOSTER 2998 Scenic Dr. Muskegon**

Jazz 1st Sun each month 3-7 pm

Dec. 2- Mary Rademacher Reed & the Rad Pack

#### **THE REPUBLIC 45 S. Division 8-11**

Mondays-John Shea

#### **SHEPARD'S GRILL & TAVERN 8-11**

Dec. 28- Mark Kahny

#### **SPEAK EZ LOUNGE 600 Monroe NW**

Open Jam 7-8:30 students & under 21

Jazz Sunday's 9-10, with Randissimo & a new trio each week

Dec. 29- Mary Rademacher Reed w/ Mark Kahny

#### **SPIRIT SPACE 3493 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck**

Dec. 21- Jim Cooper w/ Susan Tobacman -7:30pm

#### **THE UNION Kalamazoo 7-9:30**

Dec.3- Edye Evans Hyde w/ Gull Lake Jazz Orch

Dec. 6- open Jam session w/ Keith Hall, 8pm

#### **WHAT NOT INN M89/Fennville, Sat/Sun 7-11**

Dec. 1- Mark Kahny w/ Bobby Thompson

Dec. 8, 22- Christy & Velvet

Dec. 31- What Not Band

Mon nights- Jazz Jam 6-10

#### **WEST SIDE INN Muskegon 7:30-9:30**

Dec. 11- arrive by 6:00 pm for a seat

Truth in Jazz Orchestra /Lake Perch dinners @ \$8.50

#### **Check websites for changes, updates and more!**

Robin Connell [www.robinconnell.com](http://www.robinconnell.com)

Edye Evans Hyde [www.edyeevanshyde.com](http://www.edyeevanshyde.com)

Mark Kahny [www.markahny.blogspot.com](http://www.markahny.blogspot.com)

Mary Rademacher Reed [www.maryrad.com](http://www.maryrad.com)



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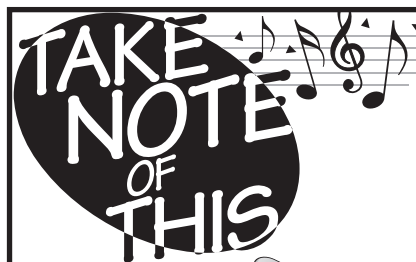
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**WMJS's new  
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## December 2012/January 2013

Articles, photos and comments are welcome! Send before the 15th of the month to:

JAZZ NOTES editor  
Donna Kahny at miljazz@live.com  
or (616) 745-5962

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

## West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board Meeting: Tues., January 29th, 7 pm at Watermark Grill



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

Pete Proli - Vice President ..... 866-0147

WMJS's new phone number ..... 616-490-9506

Craig Benjamin. .... 233-9829

Darryl Hofstra ..... 648-5489

Jack Morrison. .... 949-6339

Donna Kahny. .... 745-5962

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Your contributions are tax deductible.

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