

May 2012 Vol. 27 No. 3



AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

2012 Musician of the Year — Mark Kahny

"Thanks Mom and Dad...for driving me to piano lessons, providing the funds to study music, listening to hours of excruciating practice, and sitting through endless recitals and performances."

Mark Kahny began playing the piano at age 6 at his great grandmother's house in Dayton, OH. Soon after, he began taking formal private lessons, and at the age of 11 he enrolled in the preparatory department of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where he remained until embarking on a college career Bachelor of Music degree in 1972.

Mom Kahny tells this story: "As a child and adolescent, Mark needed constant coaxing to stop practicing piano and go outside to play. He played the piano morning, noon and night! At the age of 9 he borrowed the family library card and walked the 2 miles to the library, returning with stacks of LP's of Beethoven, Schubert and Rachmaninoff! For hours he would lie on the floor in front of the phonograph and listen." Mark's siblings fondly recall the many neighborhood kids that would converge on their house to listen to or take part in the many "garage bands" that Mark assembled. Always a tradition, the Kahny house was one continuous music party. The current Kahny household still is!





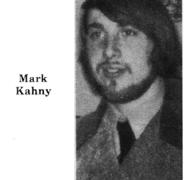
Don and Jaclyn Kahny and young Mark

While in high school, Mark accompanied the Oak Hills High School concert choir all 4 years and was in considerable demand as an accompanist for many of the singers, dancers and musical acts in the legendary "Best of Oaks Hills" talent show. His senior year in the show culminated with his own performance of the Mendelssohn Piano Concerto in G Minor, first movement.

While at the Conservatory, he majored in Classical piano performance with minors in organ and art history. Mark studied four years under the direction of George

Chandler Mann, Herbert Newman and John Quincy Bass. His faculty mentors at the time included the likes of noted composer Scott Huston, who wrote incidental music for the famed Star Trek TV series... pianists Jean Kirstein and David Bar-Ilan... choral director Earl Rivers... Frank Brown, Jazz Studies

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To give piano recital

Mark Kahny, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kahny, 4586 Patron Ct., will give a piano recital at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 at the Patricia Corbett Theatre.

A 1972 graduate of Oak Hills High School, Mark is a junior at the College Conservatory of Music where he has been on the dean's list for three years and plays piano for the ballet department.

Mark has studied piano for 14 years and is active as a piano teacher and as a keyboard man for the Wes Neal Orchestra.

Open to the public, Mark's recital will include selections from Hayden, Beethoven and Chopin.

director and celebrated trumpeter for the Woody Herman Thundering Herd.

Throughout his college years and beyond, Mark was an esteemed rehearsal pianist for the CCM School of Dance



bottom left

and played for the feeder classes of the Cincinnati Ballet Company, both Classical and Modern styles. He served with famed modern dance instructor, James Truitte, a direct protégé of the Martha

Graham Dance Academy in New York. He also accompanied dance classes for CBC director David McClain, classicist Oleg Sabline (from the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo), and Frederick Franklin.

Always looking for another musical challenge, Mark aligned his accompanying skills with the Musical Theater department and soon became a highly sought-after rehearsal pianist and cabaret accompanist for many musical theater majors, including the Broadway star, Faith Prince.

Mark claims that one of his most enjoyable college highlights was singing Bass II in the May Festival Chorus along with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under Cincinnati native, maestro James Levine in performances of the monumental "Symphony of a Thousand" of Gustav Mahler and Wagner's "Lohengrin" and "Tannhauser".

Mark discovered Jazz in his final two years at CCM and directed his study to the art of improvisation. He played



Mark performing with Red Buttons at Soaring Eagle Casino

Cops and Robbers

many clubs and concerts around the Cincinnati area including the famous Playboy Club, and the renowned Fountain Square fixture, Loll 43. He eventually took to the road with the Midwest show group "Cops & Robbers". After travelling extensively over the next several years, he settled in West Michigan in 1982 and was immediately hired into the Amway Grand Plaza house big-band. He played many gigs in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.... Tootsie's, Cygnus, then newly constructed Ambassador Ballroom, Garden Court, and the famed Lumber Baron Room.

His nearly 30 year affiliation with Mary Rademacher, 15 of which has been with the Rad Pack, has been a most enduring and rewarding musical project; they still perform extensively today. He has performed with a great many West Michigan notables and appears on recordings of Mary Rademacher Reed, Edye Evans Hyde, and the Boogie Woogie Babies, as well as his own group, New Orleans Nouveau, and his solo CD "Universe of Two". Notable local performances include the Keller-Kooler music series at the Fredrik Meijer Gardens and



New Oorleans Nouveau: Tom Lockwood, Mark Kahny, Mike Van Lente, Tom Hagen, Mike Lutley & Dan

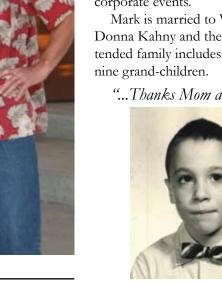
headlining the World Class Jazz Tour, bringing great Jazz and Cabaret to Northern Michigan every Summer.

In 2001, Mark and Edye Evans Hyde opened for the late great Ray Charles at Welsh Auditorium in GR.

Mark continues to perform all the diverse and varied musical genres he mastered in college and on the road at a wide array of local clubs, piano bars, juke joints and Summer concert series events. He makes his living by exploring his diverse range of performance skills, including pop, cabaret, Jazz, Classical, piano bar, church, wedding and corporate events.

Mark is married to WMJS director Donna Kahny and their collective extended family includes five children and nine grand-children.

"...Thanks Mom and Dad!"



The Rad Pack: Mike Lutley, Mary Rademacher, Mark Kahny & Tim Johnson

JAZZ AT THE ZOO - Begins Monday June 4th!

In our ongoing work to promote and support our young jazz musicians, We will feature the award winning East Kentwood Jazz Bands, comprised of two bands and a jazz combo with a total of 51 students. Jazz Band 1 is conducted by Jim Ross, Jazz Band 2 by James Sawyer.

These students rehearse outside of the school day, at zero hour, 6:30 a.m. four-five days per week. Now that's dedication!

Come out and enjoy our early Summer weather and show your support for these young people! It's going to be another great Summer of Music! Here is the line up:

JUNE

- 11 THE BELTLINE BIG BAND will officially open our regular season in a BIG way
- 18 GROUPO AYE
- 25 TOM HAGEN QUARTET featuring RICK REUTHER

JULY

- **2 MARK KAHNY** (Musician of the year 2012) will feature **THE BOOGIE WOOGIE BABIES** For a special U.S.A. tribute!
- 9 PETRA VAN NUIS QUINTET featuring guitarist ANDY BROWN
- 16 MARY RADEMACHER REED will be singing with the MIDTOWN HORNS
- 23 EDYE EVANS HYDE and the TERRY LOWER QUARTET
- 30 EVIDENCE and ORQUESTA TRADICION team up for some hot Latin jazz

AUGUST

- 6 "THE FAMILY" led by NICK AYOUB
- 13 our favorite season closer "THE GRAND RAPIDS JAZZ ORCHESTRA" lead by TIM FRONCEK

April Jazz Gumbo Recap.....

Well, she did it again! Mary Rademacher Reed has once more managed to re-invent herself as she debuted her new CD "Whoopee" at the April edition of the WMJS Jazz Gumbo. Roaring 20's and Gatsby duds took center stage.... along with her totally made-over band. I knew we were in for a treat from the moment I heard the opening strains of Benny Goodman's delicate and delightful "Temptation Rag". Mary's new recording is a potpourri of classic time-tested tunes from the 20's and 30's, prohibition era, tin-pan alley, ragtime.... you name it. We heard songs from the epic heroes of this era.... Irving Berlin, Al Jolson, Gershwin, Benny Goodman, Ellington, Cab Calloway, Eubie Blake, the Boswell Sisters and many other notable composer/performers. Pianist Tommy Hagen and the band looked dapper in their sleek period-style garb and they all played magnificently. Cherie Hagen, drums | Mike Lutley, saxes and clarinet | Elgin Vines, acoustic bass and guest performer Christopher Martin on

violin. Chris lent an air of sophistication to the mix with some of the finest fiddle playing I've heard outside of DeVos Hall.... or the Paris metro! The subtlety of the Gatsby Medley and his delicate string descants in "The Man

I Love" were an inspiring tour de force to the livelier selections of the evening. Cherie's rueful reading of "Melancholy Baby" was a tear-jerker, wonderfully expressed, and a real crowd-pleaser. The vocal trio of Mary, Tom & Cherie sang Ellington's sensitive and nuanced "Mood Indigo" like I've never heard it before. And I loved Tom's "Minnie the Moocher", Mary's "Shimmy Like My Sister Kate" and the Helen Kane classic "I Wanna Be Loved By You" boop boop be doo! Lutley was truly on his game all evening with his tenor/soprano sax and clarinet solos, even taking time to give thanks to his



Maker for successful hand surgery only two weeks prior! Elgin's solid bass added the grounding to the quartet and he showcased some inspired slapping bass-fiddle solos! Mary's eye-catching wardrobe was a highlight as she donned several period dresses and flapper regalia, courtesy of the Barb Keller collection! It is always a treat to see and hear this group in action and they were a fine closer to the Jazz Gumbo season. Pick up Mary's new CD soon and check out the cover photo.... Mary's own mother Pat posing in a pic from the 30's! C'est magnifique! Cheers...

—Mark Kahny



GRandJazzFest will be a FREE one-day event on Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012, from noon until 10 p.m., featuring jazz artists who are Michigan-based. It brings together notable jazz performers as well as highlights up-and-coming artists for diverse audiences. GRand-JazzFest is being held at Rosa Parks Circle, a central location in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, where attendees can enjoy music, support local businesses and visit other Grand Rapids attractions. It has collaborated with the West Michigan Jazz Society (WMJS), which is the 501(c)3 fiduciary organization for the festival. More information at www.grandjazzfest.org.

"We hope this new event will become a permanent event on the Grand Rapids arts and festivals calendar," West Michigan Jazz Society President Craig Benjamin said. "The WMJS Board is proud to be associated with GRand-JazzFest, and we look forward to a long and successful collaboration in support of America's own original art form."

Get Out your Calendars!



May 13th-The Grand Lady Riverboat is hosting a Mother's Day Jazz Brunch. Tom and Cherie Hagen will provide the music on Sunday from 11 am to 1 pm. The Grand Lady's new launch site is at the Steamboat Landing near the Riverview Airport, 775 Taylor St., Jenison. Please make your reservations by calling 616.457.4837, Check out the Lady's website at www.grandlady.info

May 21st, on Monday the Circle Theater will be presenting their Cabaret Performance Series this summer with concerts at The Aquinas Performing Arts Center. To kick off their series, The River City Jazz Ensemble will be presenting an entertaining show, "In The Mood", featuring vocalists Larry Young and Cassandra Caye. Join us for an evening of fun, 7:00 PM at Aquinas PAC.

For more information regarding tickets, etc. please visit: http://circletheatre.org/custom_content/c_243562_cabaret_performance_series.html

March Jazz Gumbo Recap:

The March Jazz Gumbo saw the return of WMJS life-member Chris Bickley to the GR area as he presented his musical theme, "My Favorite Things", a collection of his favorite tunes, along with his favorite musicians to help perform them! Mr. Bickley is an exceptional and versatile multi-instrumentalist who performed on tenor, alto and soprano saxes as well as flute.... and the exotic alto flute. Chris was supported by the very capable keyboardist/ vocalist Mark Kahny, Tim Froncek on drums & antics, and Tom Lockwood on acoustic bass. The first set established the tone for the evening with two Coltrane classics, "My Favorite Things" and "Impressions". A tilt toward the more contemporary genre featured Spyro Gyra's "Shaker Song" and Chick Corea's "Spain". Mark Kahny's earthy

and intimate vocal reading of Jobim's "Corcovado" and later in the second set, "My One and Only Love" set a romantic tone that enticed the dancers. Second set included some delightful but rarely

played gems.... Pat Metheny's "James" and Gerry Niewood's legendary "Joy". Without as much as a single rehearsal these polished musicians fed off each musical idea presented with introspect and swagger and they clearly enjoyed being in each other's company on stage. Chris displayed unparalleled virtuosity and mastery of his instruments that rarely, if ever has been presented at a



past Gumbo. Tim's ever tasteful and bombastic, almost "tribal" drum solos punctuated the night's performance. Tom's bass was the glue that held it all together, along with some very inspired bass solos. This thrilling evening of timeless Jazz "favorites" and camaraderie came to a conclusion with a rousing ovation lévité!

SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!

Randy Marsh

@ HOPCAT Jazz Jam 25 Ionia SW, Sundays, 7–10:30 pm (616.451.4677) (sit ins encouraged to join 2nd set) MAY 6 - Terry Lower & Sam Weber MAY 13 - Matt Clifford & Paul Lesinski MAY 20 - Robin Connell & Matt Brewer

MAY 19 - First United Methodist Church w/ Robin Connell, Paul & Matt Brewer

Mary Rademacher Reed

(maryrad.com)
MAY 26 - Debut with the
Lazy Blue Tunas
@ MARN E. WALKERS
4422 Rememberence Rd NW

Edye Evans Hyde

(edyeevanshyde.com)
MAY 31 w/ and Terry Lower
@ CLARA'S ON THE RIVER in
Battle Creek.

Mark Kahny -

(markkahny.blogspot.com)
@ SHEPARD'S GRILL &
TAVERN, 6246 28th St. SE, 7-11
(616.350.9604) Thurs 7-10, Fri &
Sat 8-11 MAY 4, 5, 11, 18
MAY 26 @ PORTO BELLO,
Grand Haven

MANGIAMOS 1033 Lake Dr.

SE Wed-Sat 7-10pm
MAY 2, 10 - Greg Miller
MAY 3, 17, 23, 30 - Mark Kahny
MAY 4, 12 - Robin Connell
MAY 5, 19, 31- Bob VanStee
& Kathy La Mar
MAY 9, 24 - Bill Davidson
MAY 10, 25 - Greg Miller
MAY 11, 16 - Steve Talaga

FOUNDERS, 235 Grandville Ave SW (616) 776-2182) 1st & 3rd Sundays each month feature

NOTOS, 28th St (616-493-6686) Every Wednesday 7–10 Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther

M 89, Fennville (269.543.3341)

WHAT NOT INN,

the GR Jazz Orchestra

Saturday 7pm–11pm & Sunday 6pm-10pm May 5 - Entyce May 6 - Dr. John & Christy May 12 - Mary Rademacher & Mark Kahny May 13 - Christy & Velvet May 26 - Mike Raleigh & The Blue Stars May 27 - Mark Kahny & Bob Thompson Every Monday Night Jazz Jam & Open Mic Night

OTTAWA TAVERN,151

Ottawa Ave @ Pearl

(616.451.8000) Wed.&Thurs 6-9pm, Fri-Sat 8-12 pm May 4 - Fred Knapp w/ the Ben Jansson Quartet May 12 - Fred Knapp w/ the Jake Reichbart Trio May 19 - Libby York w/ Mark Kahny May 25 - Randy Marsh w/ the Paul Vornhagen Quartet

GILLY'S @ THE B.O.B. 20 Monroe NW (616.356.2000) 6:30-9:30pm Thursday's are Jazz Nights

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LIFETIME

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RENEWALS

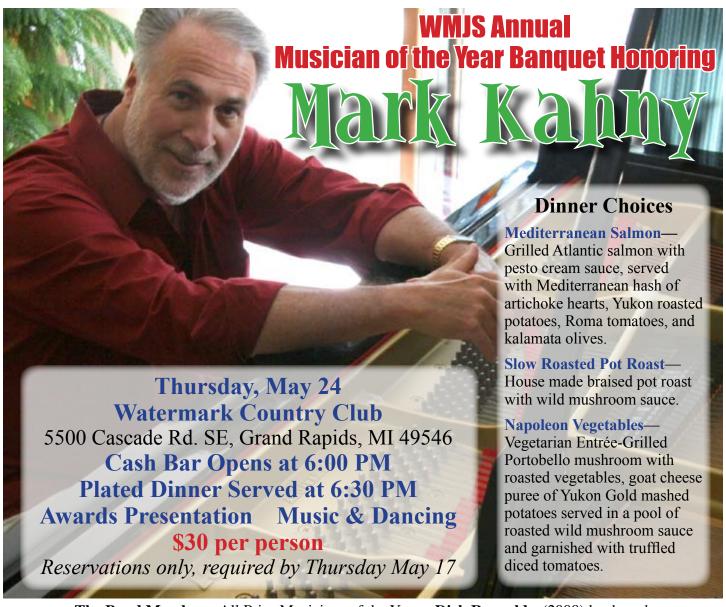
David & Janice Bailey Monte & Nanci Czuhai Rafael Diaz John & Jan Heerspink Marilyn Holmes Bob & Shirley Kirk Jim & Joyce Rogers Jim & Terri Sloma Bob Porter

NEW

Matt Boon Warren Butler James Craig Glenn Eberhardt John & Jan English Lee Engstrom & Jim Bleeker Jeanne Farrer Doug Hannink & Jocelyn Shaw Becky & Ken Hershberger Curtis & Constance Jones Karl & Jane Killman Kerry Kupers & Lorna Powell Jackie Middleton & Leo Boot Irving Miller Jerry Nelson & Carol Dykema Herman & Kathleen Saettler Peg TenHoopen John VanDenBerg Gene & Barbara VanDongen

SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!

MAY 18 - Nick Ayoub



The Band Members- All Prior Musicians of the Year—**Dick Reynolds**—(2009) keyboard, **Tim Froncek**—(2004) drums, **Elgin Vines**—(2005) bass, **Tom Hagen**—(2007) guitar and clarinet

Reservation Form for I	Mark Kahny, Musiciai	of the Year Banquet, May 24
Name	Phone	No. of reservations $\underline{}$ x $\$30 = \underline{}$
Tables of 8. Please list names in your list who you wish to be seated with y		name, include yourself. For parties less than 8,
Your plated entrée selection (indicate	e number of each) must be made a	this time (Deadline, Thursday, May 17).
Mediterranean Salmon	Mail to: 4144 Bulrush N	N Questions?
Slow Roasted Pot Roast	Grand Rapids, MI 49534 Make check payable to:	
Napoleon Vegetables	West Michigan Jazz Soci	

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May 2012

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

Jazz Notes co-editors

Donna Kahny at picschick@gmail.com or 745-5962 donamraymer@gmail.com or (616) 735-4744

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

West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

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

f	John Miller	- Vice Presid	ent233-9 dent949-7 ve Manager735-4	7633	
Mary R	ademacher	822-1592	Jim Reed	942-0239	
Marilyn	Tyree	363-7322	Darryl Hofstra	648-5489	
Pete Pi	roli	866-0147	James Sawyer	460-4433	
Jack M	lorrison	949-6339	Donna Kahny	745-5962	
Barb K	eller	949-7633	Candice Cullen	970-3607	
Address and e-mail changes: Dona Raymer at 735-4744 or donaraymer@gmail.com					

Student Single	\$10 S25 S	Name	newsletter for members of the West Michigan Jazz Society.
Couple Donor	\$35	Address	Your contributions are tax deductible.
Patron Life Member	\$50 \$100 \$250	CityZIP	JAZZ NOTES Staff: Donna Kahny, Dona Raymer, & Candice Cullen
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