



An All-Volunteer
Organization

Vol. 28
No. 2

www.wmichjazz.org
616-490-9506

WMJS continues
hosting Monday Nite
Jazz on Feb 18th 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.

Monday Night Jazz Series Kathy Lamar and Friends February 18th

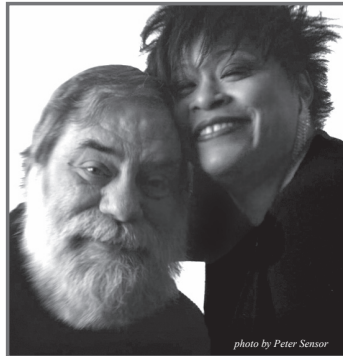


photo by Peter Sensor

Vocalist Kathy Lamar says her shows are like a blind date because you never know what you're going to get. She sings a diverse blend of jazz, R&B, soul and pop hits — everything from Bob

Marley to Ella Fitzgerald. No matter what she sings, Lamar's performances are lively and her powerful voice wakes up a room. She often jokes with the audience and her infectious laugh usually follows. Lamar truly loves to entertain and it shows.

For the Monday Night Jazz event in February, she'll perform a variety of jazz songs with musicians Bob "Gus" Van Stee, Robert Pace and Scott Veenstra.

Lamar began singing in the church youth choir when she was 8 and this initiated the rewarding talent she's shared most of her life.

Next came the gospel chorus in high school where Lamar found her voice. She always received a positive response when she sang and that inspired her to sing with a few local bands. In 1980, Lamar took a vacation to visit her friend Tex Richardson in Las Vegas. He was playing at a piano bar and during her stay, she sang with him a few times on the nights he worked. "People started tipping me to sing songs and — wow! — that's the end of that story!" she says.

Until then, Lamar didn't realize you could make a living as a singer. With a little coaxing from her friend, she decided to stay in Las Vegas and asked her family to send her things. That two-week vacation turned into a nearly 30-year, exciting singing career in Las Vegas.

Lamar and Richardson played in various clubs around Vegas and created a few recordings together. She also sang backup and duos with

famous musicians such as Wayne Newton, Gladys Knight, The Four Tops, Lola Falana and Robert Guillaume. Lamar's beautiful voice has also been heard in other countries. Since the early 1990s, she's performed in Japan, China, Taiwan and Singapore.

In 2009, Lamar returned to Grand Rapids after her mother developed cancer. Musician Jimmy Stagger introduced her to Van Stee after she told him she wanted to sing locally and they've been performing together for a few years. Lamar has also combined talents with local musicians Mark Kahny, Paul Lesinski, Randy Marsh, Robert Pace, John Shea, Steve Talaga, Scott Veenstra, Steve Holsinger and others. She says she's been influenced by many different styles of music, from Ella Fitzgerald to Aretha Franklin, the Beatles, Nancy Wilson, Chaka Khan and more. "I sing jazz but I don't consider myself to be a jazz singer," Lamar says. "I sing a little bit of everything — whatever direction the spirit takes me."

After singing for more than 40 years, Lamar feels blessed and says, "Singing is where I feel the most comfortable and I'm the happiest, especially when I see other people digging it, too — that's the real gift."

Bob "Gus" Van Stee

Keyboardist Bob Van Stee goes by "Gus" and first learned how to play the piano when he was only 7. One night, Van Stee watched a black and white movie showing a guy playing the piano. His long, white hair floated about wildly at the same time the full moon and clouds passed by the glass room where he played. The movie inspired Van Stee to wake up the next morning and play the piano. He was immediately hooked and taught himself how to play.

In junior high, he played in a sock hop band and then professionally in high school. After graduating, Van Stee went to the music school at G.R.C.C. and earned his associates degree.

During the early 1970s, Van Stee toured with Kenny Gordon for a production of Jesus Christ Superstar. In 1972, he joined the Checkers Morton jazz band, still together 41 years later. The group includes Jim Beegle, Dave Collee,

continued from page 1

Tim Froncek and Dan Giacobassi. He has also played with the Turning Point band, Dave Spring & Friends and Tony Reynolds. Van Stee now plays regularly with Kathy Lamar and says, "She's one of the best singers I've ever worked with."

Scott Veenstra

Drummer Scott Veenstra started playing in the 4th grade band, and while in high

school, he met Pete Siers, Paul Keller and John Shea who became mentors. He also attended Aquinas College and studied with another mentor, Bruce Early. "They made me realize it was possible to play professionally as a jazz musician," says Veenstra.

Veenstra led the jazz band New Connections in the 1980s and moved to New York City in the early 1990s to attend the William Patterson College. During his 28-year career, Veenstra has

played with many musicians, including Quincy Jones, BeBe Winans, Jeanie Bryson and more. Locally, he's played with Afro Zuma and Black Rose & the Disciples and now plays with John Shea and Kathy Lamar. With a deep background in jazz, Veenstra likes to play a variety of styles while still respecting the tradition of each. "I tend to be a chameleon of a drummer," he says.

Robert Pace

Robert Pace plays the bass and lead guitar and has played since he was a



child. He doesn't remember exactly when he started but says, "Nixon was still in the White House." He's played with a variety of people, including gospel singer Ken Reynolds who he recently went to South Africa with. Currently, he plays guitar with the Lighthouse Full Life Center Church.

-Heidi Stukkie

SECOND MAIDEN VOYAGE MARCH 18TH



The "Maiden Voyage" played regularly together in the 1990's. On March 18th the group will reunite for an unforgettable evening of jazz with the "Second Maiden Voyage". They will perform classic jazz selections including those from Herbie Hancock and John Coltrane.

If you've attended any west Michigan jazz concerts or star performances at The Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant in the last decade, chances are that you've had the distinct pleasure of hearing

Chris Bickley doing what he loves the

most and does the best – playing the sax. Actually, Chris does more than just "play" the sax; he is a master of that instrument, and takes any performance to a new level. Chris is an award-winning musician and has had experience at a national level; he has toured with country music legend, Kenny Rogers, and has made guest appearances on national TV shows like TNN's "Prime Time Country."

Tim Froncek continues to be one of the busiest drummers in west Michigan. He can be seen performing on drumset, directing big bands, giving clinics & lectures on jazz, or judging one of the many jazz festivals in the mid-west. Froncek not only performs locally but has toured internationally with the Western Jazz Quartet to South America, Asia and Europe.

Terry Lower, one of the finest jazz pianists in West Michigan, has been performing regularly for over 30 years both here and abroad.

He toured Italy in 2006 with vocalist/Grammy nominee Betty Joplin and again in 2008 with the Edye Evans Hyde Sextet. Also a prolific writer, many of Terry's original compositions have been published and recorded.

Jeff Beaven, bass, is called on by many groups to add his unique flavor to their mix. He is a regular at the What Not Inn for their very popular Monday Night Jazz which allows many musicians to sit in and jam.

Rob Smith, trumpet, is currently an assistant professor of jazz studies at Central Michigan University and has a long history in music education. He performs regularly on trumpet and saxophones throughout the United States, Canada and Europe with several notable jazz groups, including: The Woody Herman Jazz Orchestra. Smith recently toured with Terri Lyne Carrington, Nancy Wilson and Dianne Reeves in a tribute to Billie Holiday.

Don't miss this reunion performance of these fine musicians!

- Donna Kahny



CALL FOR POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBERS



The West Michigan Jazz Society will accept nominations for the board of directors from February 1, 2013 until April 1, 2013. Any member in good standing, age 21 or older, may have their name submitted.

1. Candidates are expected to complete and submit an application form by April 1.
2. Applications will be presented to the board in its April meeting, and selection(s) will occur in May.
3. The term of office, on a board consisting of no more than 12 members, is for three years, beginning at the annual meeting of the society in June of 2013. All affairs of the society are managed and directed by the board, without any compensation for board duties greater than reimbursement for actual expenses. We are currently a 550-member organization operating within a \$65,000 annual budget.

Permanent standing committees of the WMJS:

- The program committee recommends to the Board names of musicians and venues for our events throughout the year (currently 21 performances) and facilitates the decisions made for these events.
- The fundraising committee solicits contributions from individuals and organizations to support our various activities and functions.
- The publicity committee develops and executes plans to inform the public about our events and programs via newspaper, radio, TV and social media outlets.
- The newsletter committee creates and distributes our JazzNotes newsletter.
- The membership committee assumes a leadership role in securing new members, supervises in recording/ managing all contact information and correspondence, and manages and reports funds received from members and donors.
- The scholarship committee raises and manages our scholarship funds, and recommends disbursements to deserving student applicants.
- The education committee creates and manages ways to promote the pursuit of jazz to area students.

- The nominating committee recruits reviews and presents nominees for the board's approval.

Board Member Duties and Obligations:

WMJS will always need volunteers to help carry out our programs and initiatives. Board members are expected to have a larger perspective, and the planning and organizational skills to help lead the Jazz Society. Specifically, Board members are expected to:

- Attend monthly meetings, currently held on the last Tuesday of each month except December
- Actively serve on at least one committee
- Be well-informed of the Society's purpose, programs, and objectives
- Share their particular expertise toward achieving objectives, and support decisions made by the majority of the Board.
- Help establish and abide by the rules and regulations meant to manage and direct the business and other affairs of the Society.
- Be available to promote, attend, and assist at the majority of Society events throughout the year.

**If you are interested in serving,
please complete the Board Member
Nominee Questionnaire by April 1,
2013. Mailing directions are on the
questionnaire form.**

**If you know of someone else who may
be interested, please provide their
contact information so that we can
connect with them. You may contact
any current board member or call us
at (616) 490-9506.**

WMJS BOARD MEMBER NOMINEE QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is meant to help us evaluate and present your credentials to the board. If you have questions, please contact the nominating committee chairperson (Pete Proli, 616.866.0147) or leave a message at 616.490.9506.

Please answer each item, using extra paper as needed, and then sign and date this page as a cover page. Thank you!

1. Contact Information:

- Full name, nickname if any _____
- Mailing address _____

- Telephone (home and/or work) _____
- Email Address _____

2. Please comment on your review of the organizational structure and duties and obligations of a board member as found in the "Call for Potential Board Members".

3. What experience do you have that would aid you as a board member?

4. Please tell us your current interests and skills. How do they fit with the committee work briefly outlined?

5. Do you anticipate any difficulties fulfilling the duties and obligations of being a board member, particularly, being able to devote the necessary time? If so, please explain.

Thank you! We're excited about your interest, and look forward to talking with you. Please sign and date the form and mail it to the following address:

West Michigan Jazz Society
PO Box 150307
Grand Rapids, MI 49515
Attention: Nominating Committee

Signature

Date



**January 21 - RECAP: Monday Night Jazz @ Bobarino's
The Jim Cooper Quintet**

"What's the difference between a vibraphone and a marimba?" Jim Cooper asked his audience Monday night at the January installment of the WMJS Monday Night Jazz @ Bobarino's. He answered his own question.... twice. "the spelling," he said. Later, "metal vs. wood." Both are correct. However, there is

a third difference. When the mallets are in the hands of the exceptionally talented Jim Cooper, it's an extraordinary and inspired performance vs. the mere ordinary! Jim took us on a musical journey exploring the music of some of most significant vibraphonists from this century and the last. Easing us into the evening with the Cooper original "Itchin' to Groove", and moving into the saucy Latin flavored offerings from Cal Tjader,

"Sabor" and "Cubano Chant". I especially enjoyed the tribute to Lionel Hampton, the man who brought the vibraphone to the forefront of American jazz in the 1930's when he joined Louis Armstrong and the Les Hite Band for a series of legendary recording sessions, out of which came "Flying Home" and "Memories of You". All the greats were highlighted.... Bobby Hutcherson ("Little B's Poem" and "The Coaster"), Milt Jackson's "Bag's Groove" and Gary Burton's haunting "Como en Vietnam". Jim composed an original just for the Martin Luther King holiday, "MLK". And the birthday boy himself couldn't have picked a more capable supporting cast: Ken Morgan on tenor & soprano saxophones and flute, pianist extraordinaire Paul Lesinski, bassist Warren Jones III, and the ever-effervescent Randy Marsh on skins. A wonderful diversion from the standard jazz trio fare, the vibraphone added a rich, yet ethereal nuance to a fine evening of "mallet" jazz!

- Mark Kahny



Photos by Donna Kahny



An Enchanting Evening

On a lovely Monday night in mid-December (Didn't we used to have snow and ice around here?), a record turnout came to Watermark Country Club for the West Michigan Jazz Society's annual holiday Christmas party. The banquet room accommodated everyone, and there still was a dance floor, which was well used all evening. The food was tasty and well served (How you can prepare and serve 166 dinners at the same time?). We thank the folks at Watermark for their fine service. And then there was the music.

We had an all-star line-up of our best local talent, and they showed us why they are the best. With Tom Hagen leading the band, accompanied by his lovely wife Cheri on drums, Mike Lutley on reeds, and Elgin Vines on bass, we were entertained by great music as we found our seats and enjoyed a pre-dinner beverage.

I was happy to hear their version of the old Stan Kenton hit *And Her Tears Flowed Like Wine*. Just the previous week, I mentioned this song to Cheri who didn't know it, and voila, there it was! Before the first set ended, our featured vocalists Mary Rademacher Reed and Rick Reuther gave us some sampling of things to come. Rick was attired in a svelte tuxedo, as were all the male members of the band, and Mary was exquisite in a festive bright red satin gown. The set ended with a tribute to Dave Brubeck – *Take Five*, *Blue Rondo A La Turk*, and his traditional closing tune, *St Louis Blues*.

After dinner, the band reassumed their show and encouraged dancing. There were plenty of holiday songs, both sung and played. Cheri sang her own composition, *Santa Needs A Hearing Aid*, which she dedicated to Barb

Keller, and Rick gave us his original *Quiet Celebration*, the title song of their Christmas album. As the set went on, the dancing increased until it was a challenge to find space on the floor. Rick and Mary did a number of great duets, including *Baby It's Cold Outside*, where Mary also showed us some of her dancing prowess. As an extra treat, guest Cary Kocher sang a fine version of *Girl Talk*. The set ended with *Jingle Bells* where Tommy did a great impression of a horse whinny at the finish.

The final set started with an original composition by Mike, who showed off his flutist talents. There were many songs of the season, including Rick singing a touching tribute to Jack Hoppus entitled *Christmas At Jacks*. As folks were leaving, we saw Jim and Peni Reed literally dancing out the front door. That was a pretty good statement as to how people enjoyed a truly enchanting evening.

- John Miller

Not a jazz club. This is jazz nirvana.

"Charlap approaches a song the way a lover approaches his beloved..."
- TIME Magazine

Your ticket includes a post-concert reception with the artists!

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JA+ZZ

St. Cecilia Music Center

Bill Charlap Trio

March 14, 2013 | 7:30 PM

One of the world's leading jazz pianists in an outstanding trio performance.

Last show this season!

nyc2gr.org 616.459.2224 St. Cecilia Music Center

Upcoming Events

Monday Night Jazz Series



• *March 18th-* “Second Maiden Voyage”
A performance you won’t want to miss!
Story on page 2.

• *April 15th-* our last of this series of Monday night Jazz at the B.O.B. until September. Local piano master Steve Talaga will be entertaining us with his group which features Tom Lockwood on upright bass and Scott Veenstra on drums. Steve has invited a ‘new to our area’ vocal talent, Diane VanderWater, to join them.

• WMJS’s 11 week series of Jazz at the Zoo will open June 10th at John Ball Zoo band shell and will feature the Northview High School Jazz Band.

Mark Your
Calendar

Feb 14-17 at the Peter Martin Wege Theatre, the Grand Rapids Ballet will be joined on stage by the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra to perform the incredible music of Gershwin for George Balanchine’s “Who Cares?” This piece will be the third performed as the third part of their ‘Program 3’. For more information please contact mistyh@grballet.com or call 616-454-4771 ext. 10. Performance times are Thurs-Sat at 7:30 pm and 2:00 pm on Sunday. Tickets: \$40 (\$35 seniors, \$30 children) available at the Ballet Box Office or Ticketmaster.

April 11-13 The Thornapple Arts Council in Hastings Mi will have their 10th Annual Jazz festival. They will feature performances from both student ensembles and professional musicians. Headliners this year are the Holland Jazz Orchestra and vocal group The Four Freshmen.

Saturday April 20th 7pm, The Plainwell Community Schools have an exciting, one-night-only show featuring The one and only Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Plainwell Performing Arts Center, 684 Starr Rd., Plainwell MI 49080. Tickets are \$20/general \$15/students
For more information, call 269-685-5823 or visit www.plainwellschools.org



The 2nd annual GRandJazzFest is Aug. 17 & 18, 2013! If you’d like to be on our email list to receive updates about the festival, the lineup of performers and other exciting fest news, then please contact molly@grandjazzfest.org! We’ll add you to our email list. Also, be sure to like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/grandjazzfest and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/grandjazzfest.

MEMBERSHIPS



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John & Berti Young

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Briel & Kathleen Maguire
Jim & Peni Reed
Jim Saxe

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Renwick Brutus
BJ Conrad
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Juli Lucia
Patricia Nanzer
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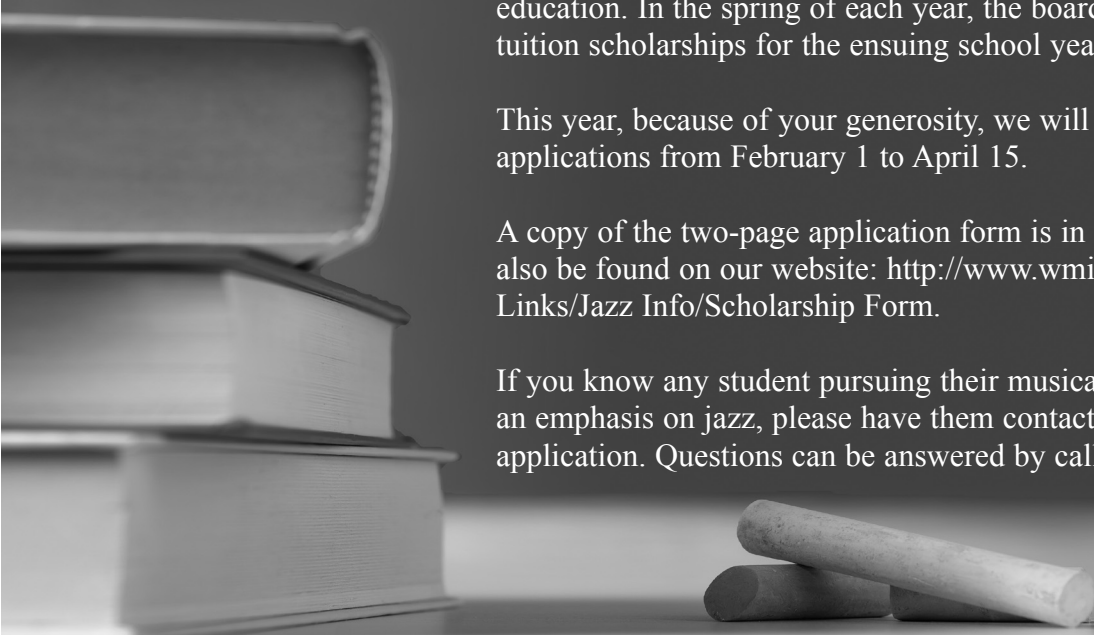
Scholarship Season is coming!

A core mission of the Jazz Society is to financially assist deserving high school or college students in the pursuit of their musical education. In the spring of each year, the board considers granting tuition scholarships for the ensuing school year.

This year, because of your generosity, we will be accepting applications from February 1 to April 15.

A copy of the two-page application form is in this newsletter, and can also be found on our website: <http://www.wmichjazz.org>. Click on Links/Jazz Info/Scholarship Form.

If you know any student pursuing their musical education with an emphasis on jazz, please have them contact us or submit an application. Questions can be answered by calling (616) 490-9506.



WEST MICHIGAN JAZZ SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

PERSONAL

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____ City & Zip _____

Phone(s) _____ Email _____ Website _____

Parents _____ Phone _____

Address, if other than applicant _____

Email _____

ACADEMICS

High School/College Last Attended _____ GPA _____

Dates of Attendance _____ Student ID # _____

Instrument(s) _____ Years of Study _____

Private Instructor(s) _____

Ensemble(s) or group(s) in which you've performed _____

Describe major areas(s) of interest, ambitions, and goals in music (Attach separate sheet if necessary) _____

Do you have other scholarships or financial assistance? _____

If yes, please describe, including dollar amounts _____

REFERENCES

List at least two references that we may contact to request information as to your:

- Character, seriousness of purpose, and attitude
- Musical preparation and potential

Name	Address	Phone & Email	Occupation
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Name	Address	Phone & Email	Occupation
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Name	Address	Phone & Email	Occupation
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SAMPLE

Please enclose a **non-returnable CD** or other digital storage device containing your playing or singing. Include performances of one popular song, one jazz composition and one blues number. This recording need not be of professional quality. Accompaniment is optional and can be live or pre-recorded.

AUTHORIZATION

I understand that any information supplied by me or any person listed on this application who supplies information on my behalf, said information shall be held confidential and used only for purposes of establishing my qualifications for this application by the Scholarship Committee of the West Michigan Jazz Society.

Date

Applicant

Please mail your application packet to: West Michigan Jazz Society
P.O. Box 150307
Grand Rapids, MI 49515
Attn: Scholarship Committee

Applications are desired for students accepted in an accredited school and pursuing a degree in jazz studies. They are due on or before April 15. Applicants may be asked to do an interview via phone or in person. Awards will be made to the school in the student's name. If you have questions about completing this application or about the West Michigan Jazz Society, please call (616) 490-9506.

SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!

February and March

Music Schedule

BOOK NOOK & JAVA SHOP 8744 Ferry St.
Montague / Thursdays 7-9, \$5 cover @ door
Dave Collee, Tim Froncek & friends
Feb 7 Dave Collee Quartet w/ Ginny Dusseau
Feb 14 Checkers Morton
Feb 21 Lakewinds Jazz Quintet
Mar 7 Checkers Morton
Mar 14 Lakewinds Jazz Quintet
Mar 21 Dave Collee Quartet w/ Ginny Dusseau
Mar 28 Checkers Morton

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sept thru April, Jazz Vespers 3rd Sat @ 6:00

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
Feb 6 John Shea
Feb 27 Steve Hilger Trio

MANGIAMO'S Wed-Sat 7-10
Feb 1, 15 Steve Talaga & Kathy Lamar
Feb 2, 14, 22; Mar 2, 22 Robin Connell
Feb 8, 23; Mar 8, 23 Kathy Lamar w/Bob Van Stee
Mar 1, 16 Mark Kahny
Mar 6, 28 Steve Talaga

JW MARRIOTT 235 Louis NW
John Shea -Fri 7:30-10:30, Sun 11a-2p
Feb 2, 9 Kathy Lamar, Bob Van Stee Trio

JU SUSHI East Paris SE 7-11
Mar 2, 8, 15 Mark Kahny & Bobby T

NOTOS 28th St. Every Wed 6:30 to-9:30
Tom Hagen Trio w/ Rick Reuther
Every Sat. John Shea, 7-10
Feb 14, 28; Mar 14, 28 Steve Hilger Quintet

PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
10 E. Park Place NE 7:30 to 9:30
Feb 8th River City Jazz w/ Edye Evans Hyde
Italian Dinner @ 6:30, \$10

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST
1100 Lake Dr.NE 7- 8:15
Feb 23 River City Jazz w/ Edye Evans Hyde

RED ROOSTER 2998 Scenic Dr. Muskegon
Jazz- 1st Sun each month 5:30- 9:30

THE REPUBLIC 45 S. Division 8-11
Every Monday-John Shea

SPEAK EZ LOUNGE 600 Monroe NW
Feb 27 Mark Kahny
Sunday Open Jazz Jam 7-8:30 students & under 21
Followed at 9-10, with Randissimo,
w/ a different trio each week

WHAT NOT INN M89/Fennville, Sat 7-11
Feb 2 Robin Connell, Paul Brewer & Bobby T
Mar 9 Mark Kahny
Mon Night Jazz Jam 6-10pm w/What Not Band
Wally Michaels, piano; Jeff Beavin, bass;
Jack Wilkins, drums & harmonica

WEST SIDE INN Muskegon 7:30-9:30
Feb 8 & 22, Mar 12 & 26
Truth in Jazz Orchestra /Lake Perch dinners \$8.50
- arrive by 6:00 pm for a seat

Check websites for changes, updates and more!

Robin Connell www.robinconnell.com
Edye Evans Hyde www.edyeevanshyde.com
Mark Kahny www.markahny.blogspot.com
Mary Rademacher Reed www.maryrad.com





February/March 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., February 28th, 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

Barb Keller. 949-7633

Peter Johnson. 498-1482

Jim Reed. 942-0239

Eddie Tadlock. 430-8487

- Student \$10 ☐
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West Michigan Jazz Society

and mail to:

P.O. Box 150307
Grand Rapids, MI 59515

Name _____

Address _____

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Receive newsletter by mail ☐ or website ☐

JAZZ NOTES is the newsletter for members of the West Michigan Jazz Society.

Your contributions are tax deductible.

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February/March 2013

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