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WMJS continues  
hosting Monday Nite  
Jazz on Feb 17th 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 guests.

## ROBIN CONNELL & PAUL BREWER

### "Because of You"

with Warren Jones, bass, Scott Veenstra, drums

Guest vocal ensemble: Shades of Blue

Drs. Robin Connell and Paul Brewer, jazz musicians and educators (and a married couple), delight in sharing their love of jazz with audiences near and far. The great romantic ballads and clever lyrics of Cole Porter, Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hart, Duke Ellington, and others, are the basis for their program titled "Because of You."

With over a decade in New York City, honing her craft as a jazz pianist and vocalist, Robin brings the sophistication of the American Songbook to life in her own charming and inimitable way. Her performances range from New York City's Rainbow Room, the Waldorf-Astoria, Symphony Space and Public Theatre, to clubs, colleges, and festivals across the United States. These days, Robin can be seen tickling the ivories every Thursday at the Lumber Baron Bar in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, in addition to regularly performing as a 'sidewoman' with other musicians [she just returned from a week of 'Simply Sinatra' shows in Florida with vocalist, Steve Lippia]. Robin teaches part time at Aquinas and Grand Rapids Community College where her duties include directing, Shades of Blue,

GRCC's premiere vocal jazz ensemble. [Shades will be making their second appearance in a WMJS event by performing a couple numbers, too!]

Originally from Oklahoma, and 'first call trombonist,' Paul has appeared in concert with over fifty major artists, including Mel Torme, Milt Jackson, Lena Horne, Bob Hope, The Temptations, Leon Russell, and Mickey Rooney. He performs with, and composes for, the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra, the Gull Lake Big Band, and other groups.

*continued on page 2*



He continues to be 'first call trombonist' with touring shows and regional jazz musicians. "Because of You" showcases Paul as a vocalist in addition to his trombone playing prowess. Paul is the Director of Instrumental Music at Aquinas College and the Aquinas Jazz Camp. Also a scholar and jazz historian, he is gaining a following of 'lifelong learners' through the Ollie program at Aquinas.

Coming to Michigan from New York and Oklahoma, to teach at the Interlochen Arts Camp, East Coast met Tornado Alley when Robin and Paul joined the jazz faculty there in the early 1990s. They continued teaching summers at the camp for over twenty years. Along the way they got married, went to graduate school in Colorado, helped raise Paul's oldest son and then, just after moving to Grand Rapids, had another son (both sons are bass players!). They continue making music together and look forward to performing again soon for the West Michigan Jazz Society.

Warren Jones and Scott Veenstra are top notch sidemen, often working with John Shea, Chris Lawrence, Kathy LaMar, and just about every other great musician or band in the area. Robin and Paul are happy to have them play their show "Because of You" which features original arrangements of time-honored jazz classics, plus a few original compositions thrown in for good measure!

For schedule: [www.robinconnell.com](http://www.robinconnell.com)



Photo by: Steve Hilger



Photo by: Donna Kahny

## A hearty welcome to our new members!

And a HUGE thank you to our new lifetime members, donors and all those renewing their memberships.

Our jazz concerts continue because of the support we receive from you!

### Lifetime Members

Mitch Kahle  
Jim Stuart

Tom & Shelly Sinas (Donor)  
Erin & Jeff Wanner

Jim & Iris Henwood  
Jim Johnson  
Warren Jones & Claudia Berry

### Patrons

Peter Andrews  
John & Berti Young

### Renewing Members

John & Nancy Bailey  
Larry & Linda Blovits  
Sandra Borncamp  
Bill Coyne  
Blake Cross  
Tom & Lynn Dandridge  
Shannan Denison & Kevin Hubbard  
Al Docter  
Patti & James Flood  
Diane Hammerman  
Carolyn Heines

Mike Lutley  
Gary McCourry  
Stuart Poel  
Joanne McElwee  
Bryant Pierce  
Bruce & Doris Robey  
Frank & Shelley Russo  
Peggy Serulla  
Wendy Stock  
Sylvia Taylor  
Tom & Nancy Washburne  
Wayne Winslow  
Marvin & Donna Veneklasen

### Donors

Charles & Sandra Buffham

### New Members

Nancy Arnison  
James & Kathryn Batema  
Michael Cahill  
Richard Eming



Engineers, commuters, supervisors and work crewmembers all understand the frustration of delays due to road construction. As engineers design efficient processes and lasting structures, supervisors ensure the proper materials and equipment will be on site and used as needed, commuters learn re-routing and timing tricks, and crewmembers try to work synergistically in inclement and sometimes dangerous conditions.

The analogy is cliché, although your Jazz Society has been, and for a while will continue to be under reconstruction. We're building a road to a more secure future by realigning some of our operating principles and methods, seeking new energies with a larger cadre of volunteers, streamlining processes where possible and using purchased services wisely as we modernize. We're trained, focused, ambitious and team-wise.

Although we try to keep it simple, there's a heck of a lot more that goes into our outreach, events and traditional and social media presence than meets the eye. Coordinating ourselves as a board is an ongoing change effort. New technology presents new challenges and opportunities. Unanticipated road clutter and potholes arise. Volunteers, like opportunities, come and go.

We're proud we've been able to promote jazz appreciation in West Michigan through concerts, educational events and scholarships. We're pleased we can afford so many the opportunities for fellowship with other folks who enjoy jazz. And we're sorry that some services like our newsletter have been suspended or temporarily delayed as we continue our reconstruction. Thank you for your patience and loyalty. Don't forget to use [wmichjazz.org](http://wmichjazz.org) and our Facebook presence. And while you're at it...

Some applause, please, for the media types (Shelley Irwin, Lazaro Vega, John Gonzalez, etc.) willing and able to spread what we think is the good word. And for the volunteers (Skip Weymouth, Jan Basham, Bobby Thompson, etc.) who keep our gears greased and running. And for the partners (Gilmore Collection, J.B.P. Zoo) who have helped expand a "mutual benefit" that you can feel in the air and in your wallet. And for the professionals (Storr Printing, Easttown Financial Services, VanWyk Technology, etc.) who provide us excellent service. And for my fellow board members who plan and lead things. And, more than anyone, to the musicians, who weave their magic and allow our hearts and minds to go places otherwise unknown.

The JazzNotes newsletter will return, and when it does, it will periodically raise a call for volunteers with specific skill sets to sit on work committees and help raise the bar in areas like educational programming, membership, fundraising, scholarship outreach and robust concert series programming in the summer and throughout the year. If you think you have the skills, and want to add meaning to your and your neighbor's daily life and have fun in the process, please respond.

Thank you.  
Pete Proli, President, WMJS





## PLEASE TAKE NOTE:



**ON MARCH 17TH,  
THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ  
WILL BE HELD ON THE  
3RD FLOOR OF THE BOB**

Chris Lawrence will bring his group the “Modern Mayors” to perform for us. The Detroit based quartet features Chris Lawrence on trumpet, Marcus Elliot on tenor sax, Ben Rolston on bass and Stephen Boegehold on drums. The group will perform some original compositions along with jazz standards flavored in their own unique style.



*Photo by: Bruce Robey*



*Photo by: Bruce Robey*



## MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ AT THE BOB

On Monday January 20, the West Michigan Jazz Society began the year with the Steve Hilger Quintet. While the weather outside may have been cold, the music inside at Bobarinos was hot. Steve had an all-star cast which included John Gist on sax, Steve Talaga on piano, Charley Hoats on bass, and Randy Marsh on drums.

From their opening rendition of Skol Blues, this group proved that they really knew how to jam. They then gave us a most unusual version of Summertime. Following a jumping session of Watermelon Man, Steve showed us that he can do more than stroke the guitar, although he did that well all night. Who knew the man could sing? In spite of having a cold and a bit of a sore throat, Steve did a wonderful job singing God Bless The Child. The group finished the first set with that old favorite Caravan.

Throughout the evening this band constantly displayed their talents. John had his array of

saxes - alto, tenor and soprano, which he blew with equal finesse. Steve Talaga showed why he was honored as Musician of the Year, as did Randy on the drums. Charley gave us some great solos on the fretless bass, and Steve H was always

holding things together with his guitar. Perhaps a highlight of the evening was when Randy turned the drums over to Bobby Thompson and pulled out his harmonica. What a treat it was to hear his rendition of Sonny Rollin's Doxy.

We had a great turnout for a cold winter's night, and I am sure that everyone left with a warm feeling for a beautiful night of pure jazz.

John Miller





## Another great turn-out for the 2013 WMJS Holiday Party!

The recently renovated Grand Ballroom played venue to the WMJS Holiday party in December. Despite the cold and snowy weather, over 100 members showed up to

enjoy the awesome music of John Shea and his band. Several people slipped on their dance shoes and grooved on the lovely marble and hardwood floors. A special thanks goes out to our underwriters that evening, Bucky Love and Denison Financial.

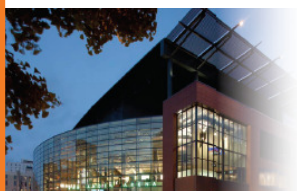


Guests also appreciated a silent auction for the first time. WMJS is grateful for the support of local vendors and diehard WMJS fans that won't let a little blast of winter get in the way of a grand holiday party.

- Shannan Denison



*Photos by: Steve Hilger*



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# **SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!**

## **Live jazz shows for February 2014**

### **Saturday, February 1**

- Kathy Lamar at Mangiamo, 7-10 pm
- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm

### **Sunday, February 2**

- Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra at Founder's Brewing Co., 4:00-6:00 pm
- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam with Organissimo at SpeakeEZ Lounge, 7-10

### **Monday, February 3**

- Jazz Jam at the What Not Inn in Fennville, 6-10 pm
- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

### **Tuesday, February 4**

- Mary Rademacher Reed at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at The Winchester, 9:30 pm-12:30 am
- Jazz Arts Collective and Jazz Combos Concert at Dimnent Chapel, Hope College 7:30 Wednesday, February 5
- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm
- Mary Rademacher & Robin Connell at Chloe Elan in Ada

### **Thursday, February 6**

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogues Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm

### **Friday, February 7**

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Bob Van Stee at Mangiamo, 7-10 pm

### **Saturday, February 8**

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm

### **Sunday, February 9**

- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam with Jeff Kressler & Tom Lockwood at SpeakeEZ Lounge, 7-0 pm

- 5th annual Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan, The Avenue Café, Lansing, \$25, \$15 student

### **Monday, February 10**

- Jazz Jam at the What Not Inn in Fennville, 6-10 pm
- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

### **Tuesday, February 11**

- Edye Evans Hyde with Mike Hyde at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at The Winchester, 9:30 pm -12:30 am

### **Wednesday, February 12**

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm

### **Thursday, February 13**

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogues Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Mood Swings Jazz at Euro Bistro (6450 28th St. SE), 7-10 pm

### **Friday, February 14**

- Robin Connell, Paul Brewer and Elgin Vines at Women's City Club, 6-8 pm
- The Byron Center Jazz Orchestra at the Knights of Columbus Hall, dinner at 7 pm (616-534-3089 or [www.kofc4362.com](http://www.kofc4362.com) for tickets and more info)
- Kathy Lamar with Bob Van Stee at Malarkey's, 7-10 pm
- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Valentine Dinner/Dance at the University Club, 6-9 Mary Rademacher, Tom & Cherie Hagen (616-456-8623 for information and tickets)

### **Saturday, February 15**

- Robin Connell & Paul Brewer at Mangiamo, 7-10 pm
- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm



### **Sunday, February 16**

- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam with Terry Lower & Ed Fedawa at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm

### **Monday, February 17**

- WMJS Monday Night Jazz Series** with Robin Connell, Paul Brewer, Warren Jones, Scott Veenstra and Shades of Blue from GRCC at Bobarino's, 6:30=8:30 pm
- Jazz Jam at the What Not Inn in Fennville, 6-10 pm
  - John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

### **Tuesday, February 18**

- Molly Bouwsma Schultz with Ryan Wilson at Bar Divani, 7-0 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at The Winchester, 9:30 pm -12:30 am

### **Wednesday, February 19**

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm

### **Thursday, February 20**

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogues Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Gregory Porter at St. Cecilia, 7:30 pm (<http://scmc-online.org/concerts-events/detail/Gregory-Porter/>)

### **Friday, February 21**

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Robin Connell at Mangiamo, 7-10 pm

### **Saturday, February 22**

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Aquinas Jazz Faculty Recital at Kretchmer Hall

### **Sunday, February 23**

- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam with Organissimo at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm

### **Monday, February 24**

- Jazz Jam at the What Not Inn in Fennville, 6-10 pm
- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

### **Tuesday, February 25**

- Karisa Wilson with Paul Lesinski at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at The Winchester, 9:30 pm -12:30 am

### **Wednesday, February 26**

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm
- Kathy Lamar with Paul Lesinski at SpeakEZ, 8:30-11 pm

### **Thursday, February 27**

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogues Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Mood Swings Jazz at Euro Bistro (6450 28th St. SE), 7-10 pm
- Brad Fritcher + Trois at the Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague 7 pm

### **Friday, February 28**

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Dance 40, Hope College Faculty Jazz Quintet, Knickerbocker Theater, 8:00 pm
- Robin Connell, Mangiamos 7-10 pm

*Be sure to check for  
additions and changes  
on our website,  
[www.wmichjazz.org](http://www.wmichjazz.org),  
WMJS's Facebook, the  
venues as well as the  
musician's websites*



# **SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!**

## **Live jazz shows for March 2014**

### **Saturday, March 1**

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Mary Rademacher Reed at One Trick Pony, 8-11 pm

### **Sunday, March 2**

- Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra at Founder's Brewing Co., 5:30-7:30 pm
- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm

### **Monday, March 3**

- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm
- Hope College Musical Showcase 8:00 pm, DeVos Hall

### **Tuesday, March 4**

- Rebekah Rhys and Mark Kahny at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at The Winchester, 9:30 pm-12:30 am
- Dixieland Jazz Mardi Gras party at the Book Nook & Java shop, Montague, 7pm

### **Wednesday, March 5**

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm

### **Thursday, March 6**

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogues Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Mark Kahny at Mangiamo, 7-10 pm
- Checkers Morton, Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7 pm

### **Friday, March 7**

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

### **Saturday, March 8**

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm

### **Sunday, March 9**

- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm

### **Monday, March 10**

- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

### **Tuesday, March 11**

- Edye Evans Hyde and Mike Hyde at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at The Winchester, 9:30 pm -12:30 am

### **Wednesday, March 12**

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm

### **Thursday, March 13**

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogues Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Mood Swings Jazz at Euro Bistro (6450 28th St. SE), 7-10 pm
- Mark Kahny at Mangiamos, 7-10 pm

### **Friday, March 14**

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Robin Connell at Mangiamo, 7-10 pm

### **Saturday, March 15**

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Hopkins HS hosts a Jazz themed dinner/show featuring Elgin Vines & Mark Kahny, 7 pm, tickets \$15.00 (laurajschultz@att.net)

### **Sunday, March 16**

- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm



## Monday, March 17

**WMJS Monday Night Jazz Series** with the Chris Lawrence Quartet "Modern Mayors" at Bobarino's, 6:30-8:30 pm

- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

## Tuesday, March 18

- Molly Bouwsma Schultz with Ryan Wilson at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at The Winchester, 9:30 pm • 12:30 am

## Wednesday, March 19

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm

## Thursday, March 20

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- Regina Carter at St. Cecilia, 7:30 pm (<http://scmc-online.org/concerts-events/detail/Regina-Carter/>)

## Friday, March 21

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Robin Connell at Mangiamo, 7-10 pm
- Edye Evans Hyde & Mark Kahny, Alley Door Club, Muskegon, 7-10 pm, \$7.00 call 231-727-8001 for tickets)

## Saturday, March 22

- Mary Rademacher Reed at Mangiamo, 7-10 pm
- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- WMU Vocal Jazz Fest with Shades of Blue
- Mark Kahny at Mangiamos, 7-10 pm

## Sunday, March 23

- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm

## Monday, March 24

- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

## Tuesday, March 25

- Sylvia Taylor & Mark Kahny at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- GRCC Winter Jazz Night with Shades of Blue and Jazz bands

- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at The Winchester, 9:30 pm -12:30 am

## Wednesday, March 26

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm

## Thursday, March 27

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogues Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Mood Swings Jazz at Euro Bistro (6450 28th St. SE), 7-10 pm
- Mark Kahny at Mangiamos 7-10 pm
- Brad Fritcher + Trois at the Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague
- Touring program "Newport Jazz Festival: Now 60!" at Cobb Great Hall at Wharton Center, Michigan State University

## Friday, March 28

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

## Saturday, March 29

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Edye Evans Hyde & Mark Kahny at What Not Inn, Fennville, 7-11 pm

## Sunday, March 30

- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm
- Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor

## Monday, March 31

- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm



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# Jazznotes

Winter 2014

Jazz Notes is the newsletter for members of the West Michigan Jazz Society.

If you would like your jazz event included in our media publications please send your schedules to [jlbasham@i2k.com](mailto:jlbasham@i2k.com) by the 15th of the month.

## West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at the Acorn Grille at Thousand Oaks Country Club

Pete Proli - President . . . . . 616-866-0147

Donna Kahny - Vice President . . . . . 616-745-5962

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*GO GREEN ... it makes cents!*

This Winter edition of Jazz Notes was produced by:

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Jan Basham, Event Calendar Support

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Robin Connell

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