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Is your membership up for renewal? This could be your last issue!

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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.

Announcing the 2014 WMJS Jazz Musician of the Year! Max Colley III

Even before the interview commenced it was evident that Max Colley III is a jazz ambassador through and through. This interview revealed his generous nature and proved his thoughts are never far from jazz. We sat down to a locally brewed coffee and began our discussion.

WMJS: How does it feel to be named WMJS Musician of the Year?

MAX III: A couple different feelings! First, I'm honored and humbled. I can always think of someone more deserving than I. But it is really, really nice to be recognized for what you contribute to the community.

WMJS: Talk a little about your history with Jazz in this community?

MAX III: Well obviously, because my father was a band director at Northview High School for 40 years, that was my first exposure to Jazz. I heard all the great kids that came through the program and I knew what was expected if you wanted to play in the Northview High School Jazz Band. Then specifically, when I was a kid, a guy named Don Gallager used to borrow his dad's records and give them to me. I checked them out and that is how I got into it. But it was really through that Northview upbringing, and also when Tim Froncek gave me my first gig when I was a junior in high school. It's an infamous story that we tell a lot.

WMJS: Last summer you performed at the WMJS Jazz at the Zoo concert and did a

tribute to Louis Armstrong. What makes him such an important figure to Jazz? Why is he so relevant today?

MAX III: It's really the way that he played the music and his phrasing. He played so far behind the beat and played really, really soulful. All of the people I've grown up knowing from New Orleans have this laissez-faire kind of attitude that comes out in their music.... really soulful, really hospitable, very sweet, loving people.

All the musicians call him "Pops". When Pops would come back from being on tour, he would play his trumpet in the street so the neighborhood kids would know he was back. He treated all people equal. He was really soulful and cool so I hope that concert brought his spirit.

continued on page 2



Photo by: Anthony Steinberg



Max & Dizzy Gillespie

WMJS: Jazz encompasses a lot of different genres. Which types of jazz do you play and listen to?

MAX III: I'm down-hearted swing guy! I love to swing! That's my upbringing. If I could choose anything, I'd play swingin' blues all night long.

WMJS: In what ways have you witnessed and helped further the evolution of jazz?

MAX III: Obviously through education. This is a music that has been passed down from generation to generation. That's how we learn this music! So I'm very, very fortunate to be involved with a couple of music programs. I have about 45 students of my own

and I play Louis Armstrong records for them. First, you have to expose kids to it because they are not going to be exposed to it in public now, unlike how it used to be. And when kids are exposed to it, they love it!

> WMJS: So what's a typical "day in the life" of Max Colley?

> > MAX III: I drive to Holland every other Friday. I am teaching at Hope College DeWitt Theater right now, so I get up at about 5AM

and drive there, and come back by 12:30 to work with some groups in Byron Center until after school. Monday through Thursday it is basically 3PM to 9PM; I teach private 30 minute lessons with 45 students. Sometimes there are gigs after that. So it's always something!

WMJS: Your family seems very close. Why do you think that is?

MAX III: It was probably my dad. He fostered a love for us kids. I have a beautiful family, I really do. We are all tight and talk to each other every week. The nephews and nieces keep us together too.

WMJS: Just what is jazz education? Why is it important?

MAX III: Now that's really easy. For jazz education, the best thing is to check out the music, be exposed to it and listen to it. I always make a distinction between listening and hearing. For example, you need to listen to Louis Armstrong's attack and you need to listen to how he played his vibrato. We start with very basic concepts in some of the classes that I work with. We get them in the frame of mind of listening by taking them outside and having them write down everything they hear. Whether it is chirping birds or trucks on the street, being exposed to sounds, and being observant of what you're hearing is the best thing. Teaching somebody how to listen develops a life skill.

WMJS: What other hobbies and interests do you have?

MAX III: My eight nieces and nephews. I love them, and try to see them as much as I can. I also like to read and hike. I like hanging with people. I am shy in my natural personality so being in front of kids and audiences has helped me a lot. I used to get sick every time before I played.

WMJS: Tell us a little about your performance and how much of your time you spend doing that.

MAX III: When I do a performance, I try not to just do the Real Book tunes. A Real Book is a collection of standard tunes, which I love, but I've always been a dreamer, so I envision doing more obscure tunes. I don't like my playing. You are always your own worst critic and that's really true. Of all the concerts I've played, I can count on one hand the ones I liked. I enjoy improving!

WMJS: If you had to pick a highlight in your career...



Jon Faddis & Wynton Marsalis with Max

MAX III: Anytime you get to share the stage with your heroes. It was a thrill for me to be on stage with Tim Froncek. Another highlight was when I made the McDonald's band in 1987. But the most rewarding thing is the Max has performed for 3 presidents, many entertainers and internationally acclaimed musicians including Louis Bellson, John Pattitucci, Marcus Belgrave, and Randy Brecker, Wess "Warmdaddy" Anderson, Xavier and Quincy Davis. He has served on the Michigan State board for IAJE. He is active in the West Michigan jazz scene both teaching, holdin clinics and workshops, and performing on trumpet and drums with the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra, the Mid-Town horns, the Truth in Jazz Orchestra, Evidence, the Gull Lake Orchestra, as well as his own self named quartet. Max has released three CD's as leader that includes several original compositions.

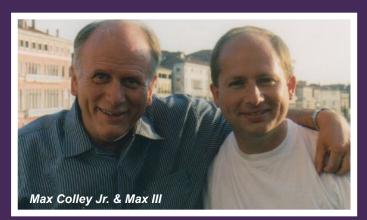
By Shannon Denison

kids that you've had in class that go on and pursue music. But even if they don't pursue it and just go on with an appreciation of jazz, that's enough for me.

Max is the first selected Musician of the year who also received the WMJS scholarship award. He received his



BA from Central Michigan and has studied with greats like Jon Faddis, Marcus Belgrave, Daniel Kovats, and many others. Max has won numerous awards including outstanding soloist at the Aquinas College, Central Michigan, Sonny Sitt and Montreaux-Detroit Jazz Festivals.





MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ AT THE BOB



Fair and then discovered a clandestine copy of

Monk and Coltrane Live at the Five Spot under his sister's mattress. He never looked back. After a zillion hours at the piano and on stage and an extensive book of over 150 original tunes, Jeff has developed a very unique and engaging compositional voice that seamlessly blends his passion for jazz, R&B, Judaic and classical music.

The Detroit Free Press called Haas' music, "extending backward to his familial and religious roots and extended forward to his burgeoning

Monday April 24th will end this season of Monday Night Jazz with the fabulous Jeff Haas Quintet. Traverse City based pianist Jeff Haas as assembled Laurie Sears on saxes & flute, Chris Lawrence on trumpet, Jack Dryden on bass and Randy Marsh on drums. To jazz people, Jeff needs no introduction, but here's a bit about how he got started.

The Haas home in Detroit was a very musical one—albeit restricted to the likes of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Jeff's early musical memories go back to infancy, crawling around the organ loft at Temple Israel where his father

was organist and music director. At age 5, Jeff began classical piano studies with his father. Within just a few years, Jeff was practicing for hours every day and would soon study at the famed Hochschule fur Musik in Berlin. And though he enjoyed studying and performing classical music, when he asked his dad about the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix and his father told him that rock and roll ruined the needle on the stereo, Jeff went rogue. Soon after, he stumbled on a 1963 Motown revue at the Michigan State



career as a jazz musician, his blend of Jewish music and jazz offers a path lit with originality." The Dallas Morning News described Jeff's music as "swinging Hebrew folk jazz and you don't have to be Jewish to dig it!"



Legendary jazz pianist Dave Brubeck said, "In combining these great musical traditions, [Haas] has created a soulful music that transcends ethnic barriers. I congratulate him and his colleagues for their fine playing."

Jeff also co-produces and hosts a syndicated public radio series called The New Jazz Archive which can be heard every Sunday at 6 pm on WGVU in Grand Rapids.





Robin Connell & Paul Brewer February 17, 2014

The weather outside was frightful, but the music so delightful. I was very glad I scraped off my car and made the trek to the BOB for a Monday performance that was as entertaining as it was musically satisfying. Robin Connell and Paul Brewer, ably backed by Warren Jones and Scott Veenstra, offered up a night of great performances. Robin and Paul shared the story of how they met and became musical collaborators, as well as husband and wife. They opened with Nat Adderly's Never Say Yes. Robin's voice was in fine form all night, and Paul also got to show off some impressive vocal chops. One of my favorites was a vocal duet on a piece that artfully combined Tis Autumn with Because of You. Paul shined on two of his own original compositions with Warren and Scott getting opportunities through out the night to solo impressively, including on If I Were a Bell. Robin left the piano and stepped up to the mic to deliver a remarkable and expressive rendition of Abby Lincoln's Throw it Away. Paul would have made Ray Charles proud with his swinging version of Halleluiah I Love Her So.

And as always, Robin's piano work and Paul's trombone work were impeccable and seemingly effortless. The Shades of Blue, GRCC's premiere vocal ensemble, directed by Robin, made a guest appearance performing Brazasia and did a great job despite being one voice short that night. The show closed with Paul and Robin performing a vocal duet on Deed I Do. On a night with understandably light attendance due to some really tough weather, the lucky ones who made it there left glad that they had!

Rick Reuther

Tuesday, April 1

- Diana VandeWater with Mark Kahny Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at the Winchester, 9:30 pm - 12:30 am

Wednesday, April 2

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm
- River Rouge's Jazz Band at H.O.M.E. in the B.O.B., 6:30-10:30 pm
- Greg Miller at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Thursday, April 3

- 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's 7-10 pm

Friday, April 4

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

Saturday, April 5

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Mark Kahny/Bob Thompson at What Not Inn 6-10 pm
- Monica Da Silva at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Sunday, April 6

- John Shea Trio at New Holland Brewing Co., 5-8 pm
- Randy Marsh's Organissimo Jazz Jam at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm
- GR Jazz Orchestra at Founder's Brewery, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Monday, April 7

• John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

Tuesday, April 8

- Mary Rademacher Reed with Mark Kahny at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at the Winchester, 9:30 pm 12:30 am

Wednesday, April 9

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm
- Freddy De Gennaro at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Thursday, April 10

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogue's Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Evidence Jazz Group at the BOB, 8-10 pm
- Paul Lesinski at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Friday, April 11

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Steve Talaga at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Saturday, April 12

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Kathy Lamar & Bob Van Stee at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Sunday, April 13

- John Shea Trio at New Holland Brewing Co., 5-8 pm
- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam w/Ed Fedawa & Terry Lower at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm

Monday, April 14

• John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

Tuesday, April 15

- 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, April 16

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm
- River Rouge's Jazz Band at H.O.M.E. in the B.O.B., 6:30-10:30 pm
- Michael Drost at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

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Thursday, April 17

- Robin Connell on piano at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand Plaza, 6-9 pm
- The River Rogue's Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Chris Corey at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Friday, April 18

- John Shea Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Steve Talaga at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Saturday, April 19

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Steve Hilger Jazz Quintet at Louis Benton, 7 pm
- Mary Rademacher/ Mark Kahny at What Not Inn, 6-10 pm
- Randy Marsh Trio, River Stop Café, Newaygo, 7-11 pm
- Paul Lesinski & Diana VandeWater, Mangiamos, 7-10

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

- John Shea Trio at New Holland Brewing Co., 5-8 pm
- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam w/ Steve Talaga & Tom Lockwood at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm

Monday, April 21

- John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm
- Edye Evans Hyde & Mark Kahny at the Alley Door, Frauenthal in Muskegon

Tuesday, April 22

- Rebekah Rhys w/ Mark Kahny at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at the Winchester, 9:30 pm 12:30 am
- Kellogg CC Jazz Ensemble concert @ Davidson Theatre, KCC w/ Steve Talaga, 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 23

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm
- Greg Miller at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Thursday, April 24

- The River Rogue's Jazz Band at the Whiskey River Saloon in Grandville, 6-9 pm
- Aquinas Spring Jazz Night, 7:30-8:30, Kretschner Hall
- Mark Kahny at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Friday, April 25

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

Saturday, April 26

- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- GR Jazz Orchestra at Thornapple Jazz Fest, Hastings HS, 7 pm
- Evidence Jazz Group at Thornapple Jazz Fest, Hastings HS, 7 pm
- Kellogg CC Jazz Ensemble w/ Steve Talaga at Thornapple Jazz Fest, Hastings HS, 7 pm
- Kathy Lamar & Bob Van Stee at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Sunday, April 27

- John Shea Trio at New Holland Brewing Co., 5-8 pm
- Randy Marsh's Jazz Jam at SpeakEZ Lounge, 7-10 pm

Monday, April 28

• John Shea Trio at Republic, 8-11 pm

Tuesday, April 29

- Kathy Lamar at Bar Divani, 7-10 pm
- Chris Lawrence / Pike and Eel at the Winchester, 9:30 pm - 12:30 am

Wednesday, April 30

- Tom Hagen Trio with Rick Reuther at Noto's, 7 pm
- Freddy De Gennaro at Mangiamo's 7-10 pm

Be sure to check for additions and changes on our website, www.wmichjazz.org, WMJS's Facebook, the venues as well as the musician's websites



The Modern Mayors March 17, 2014

In the words of Modern Mayors founder, trumpeter Chris Lawrence, "the Modern Mayors are on a quest..... to deliver avant-garde, modern and free jazz to our Michigan cities!" That deliverance became a de facto Grand Rapids event this past Monday night at the BOB when Chris and company performed a stellar line-up of progressive.... and impressive original tunes that were wildly fresh and intuitive. The group was out of the gate with a romping unaccompanied trumpet and tenor dialog that opened the modal and minimalistic "Oars Ears". First set contained an impressive lineup of Chris Lawrence compositions including "Chamomile", featuring George DeLancey on an inventive and virtuosic acoustic bass solo.

Eastern groove that was as infectious as it was mesmerizing. The lovely "Twin Souls" was a beautiful love ode that Chris wrote for his wife, featuring some very improvisational soloing from drummer Stephen Boegehold. The evening closed with another one of Marcus' tunes, "Turning Point", a mixed-meter wild ride very reminiscent of Ralph Towner and Oregon. A word about the configuration of this group: the obvious absence of a harmonic or chording component here allowed incredible freedom for the horns and bass to explore the subtle and sometimes "implied" harmonies of the compositions. Kudos to Chris Lawrence and the Modern Mayors for a glimpse to the elusive genre of modern and free jazz. The mayoral "Keys to the City" from this grateful WMJS audience!

Herbie meets Diz "Caravanesque" middle-

By Mark Kahny

Set one concluded with one of two compositions from tenor and soprano saxophonist Marcus Elliot, "Inertia", where every re-iteration of the head produces a slight increase of tempo, thereby giving the title it's due. Second set produced more of the same free and haunting original tunes from Chris. "Wild Stuff" evoked a



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!

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Our fourteenth annual season of offering free weekly jazz concerts at John Ball Zoo's band shell is fast approaching. Jazz at the Zoo has been a great success with our regular audiences of over 1200 fans enjoying local and regional musicians in a relaxed outdoor setting.

Our Summer Monday evening concerts begin June 9th and end August 11th. In keeping with our efforts to promote jazz in the high schools, our opening show will feature the Byron Center High School Jazz Band. A complete listing of performers will soon be posted on our website (www.wmichjazz.org) and in our newsletter.

Once again we are reaching out to past and potential future supporters to help us fund this endeavor. Please see the sponsorship form and consider a level of support that works for you. Since we are an all-volunteer tax exempt organization under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, all contributions are tax deductible.

Each donor will be listed in our newsletter and all of the Jazz at the Zoo programs. You may also dedicate your contribution in someone's memory. Please advise us if you know of someone who might be interested in a corporate sponsorship.

We hope you will help us in our continuing efforts to promote live jazz in the Grand Rapids area.

Sincerely, Pete Proli, President West Michigan Jazz Society

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A limited reservations will be taken for coming in for after dinner music only, after 8 p.m., \$10, \$8 for students with a valid ID

Max has picked an all-star group of musicians for our dancing, dining pleasure. The band will consist of Terry Lower on piano, Ethan Eriksen on bass, Diego Rivera on Tenor Sax, Tim Froncek on drums and Eve Renee - Vocals. Max will sit in playing both trumpet and drums

MENU All dinners include roasted redskins, honey glazed carrots and cherry pecan salad with vinaigrette

- prime rib au jus
- goat cheese & bacon stuffed chicken breast
- broiled walleye encrusted with lemon parsley crumb
- vegetarian bow tie pasta tossed with sauteed asparagus, mushrooms, tomatoes
- gluten free available

Name(s)			
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Dinner choices (please list quantity of each) Gluten Free?YN	Prime Rib	Chicken	Walleye Vegetar
Please list names in your group if reserving a t	able.		

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April 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 by the 15th of the month.

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

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