



An All-Volunteer  
Organization Since 1986

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WestMIJazzSociety

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WMJS continues  
hosting Monday Nite  
Jazz 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.

Some free parking  
is available in the  
lot adjacent to the  
building.

## Musician of the Year Mike Lutley

Being active in music for over 50 years, Mike Lutley will be the first one to tell you how fortunate he feels to be where he is today. He finds happiness in his work as an instrument repair technician by day, musician by night, and in his roles as a husband, father, and community member. "West Michigan has been a great home and work environment that I am thankful for daily."

Raised in Stamford, Conn. by his pianist mother, Elizabeth, and his father, David, a choir member, Mike's interest in music began at age 7 when he began clarinet lessons with a woodwind

specialist (a Juilliard Grad). He also was in several choirs, becoming head chorister of an Episcopal boys' choir by age 11.

That choir went to CBS Studios in New York to be in Leonard Bernstein's Mass and also sang at Washington Cathedral and Carnegie Hall! Then, Mike was selected to be a part of the Berkshire boys' choir,

a scholarship choir of men and boys near Tanglewood, Massachusetts. Led by English choirmasters, they performed at Tanglewood with the Boston Symphony and at Lincoln Center among other large venues. They recorded for RCA Red Seal Records in a clapboard church in Pittsfield, Mass. across the street from Alice's Restaurant. Mike even slept in a bunk at the choir's home base, the Stockbridge School, with Arlo Guthrie's initials scratched into the wood! (Mini-concert at [www.boychoirs.org/berkshire](http://www.boychoirs.org/berkshire).) "Singing in these choirs and hearing my mother's daily practice of great piano literature immersed me in ear training, how to 'turn a phrase' and the passion of making great music," said Mike.

In school band he played clarinet until late in grade 11, when he was told if he could learn the saxophone, he could join the jazz band and go to Italy and Austria! He promptly found an alto sax at a yard sale and practiced fervently. The 3-week tour was his first exposure to jazz and included a band publicity photo with Gene Krupa at his house in Rye, NY! Marion Meadows, now a successful smooth jazz recording artist, was in the band and told Mike to listen to Cannonball, Miles and Coltrane. "That was a seminal moment wherein I began a lifelong love of jazz, the great American songbook and my own study of them as an improviser. It can be frustrating, liberating, humbling, and thrilling all at once, but it is always fascinating!"

*continued on page 2*



photo by Bruce Robey

He pursued a music education degree at Acadia University, in Nova Scotia, Canada, from 1973-77. "I knew I didn't want to pursue a solo career and concentrate on just one instrument- I have been trying to balance playing several horns and my instrument repair career, ever since", said Mike. At Acadia a major influence was his woodwind-doubling professor Robert McCarthy, a Peabody Conservatory graduate. Mike began studying flute and continued clarinet with Robert and later with Stan Fisher. Next, Mike entered the Woodwind Specialist Masters of Music program at Michigan State University in 1977 as a clarinet and flute major. In 1979, he played one of the first integrated classical and jazz graduate recitals -with music by Bach, Faure, and Bernstein, then his own jazz combo for the second half. After graduation, he taught private lessons in Rockford, MI and in 1980, accepted a job as band director in the West Catholic Schools. "I really enjoyed working with the young beginners, getting them fired up about playing in band. At the small elementary schools, I'd play trombone with the 1 or 2 trombone players-for moral support!" He gained valuable experience working with the jazz bands at West Catholic High School and later, he led the City High Jazz Express as a volunteer when his son Bryan was a member, following the sudden loss of their teacher, David Wilkinson.

Mike's first gigs in Grand Rapids came in 1979 as a sub and then as a regular member of the Bruce Early Big Band, (later becoming the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra) and with Henry Swart's River



photo by Wes Stevens



photo by Bruce Robey

City Jazz Ensemble. With these groups there were many memorable performances, backing up: Johnny Mathis, Lena Horne, Pearl Bailey, The Temptations and Four Tops and comedians; Bob Hope, Red Skelton and Bob Newhart. Mike also started performing with many small groups, including those led by Bruce Early, Mary Rademacher, Rick Reuther, Mark Kahny and Tom Hagen. "These groups have been an amazing environment in which I could better my listening, backing, and soloing skills, and I am so thankful for being a part of them," says Mike. "I enjoy filling the gaps, harmonizing, using my ears and adding that extra element to the group. Tom, especially, has motivated me to become a better woodwind player, because he is such a fine one himself!"

The biggest milestone in Mike's life was his getting married in August of 1983, to Kathy Scarbrough of Grand Rapids, "It was the ultimate profound experience of my life!" Shortly after he left a part time teaching job to work as an instrument tester/inspector at the Yamaha Musical Products plant in Kentwood, MI. "This was another seminal moment- a fork in the road that turned into my primary vocation- improving the playability of woodwind instruments for students, teachers, and pro players. It was interesting, but difficult work, considering the quotas and early (6 a.m.) daily start time, often 6 days a week. "Playing extended gigs, Broadway, or Civic Theatre shows became more and more difficult, especially with the births of our 3 children in a 4 yr. period," says Mike. Often there were pickup gigs, regular big band gigs or rehearsals, along with teaching a handful of weekly private lessons, and leading a youth choir at church each week.





*photo by Wes Stevens*

"I get tired just remembering that time period," he jokes. "I really enjoyed the lessons and Kathy and I made some great connections to students and their families,"

In 1995, he switched jobs at Yamaha, moving from the factory to the corporate side as a Woodwind Service and Custom Shop Technician. "There was an amazing array of artists we worked with in the Custom Shop and at trade shows throughout the country. I got to work on instruments for many of my musical heroes: Phil Woods, Lennie Niehaus, Joe Lovano, Gary Foster, Bobby Watson, Nelson Rangell, Arno Marsh, Buddy DeFranco, Jeff

Coffin and Branford Marsalis," said Mike. One unusual memory was traveling with the sax designer and his suitcase which held 8 soprano sax prototypes! Another was at a convention in Anchorage, Alaska where he took an extra day for some great downhill skiing. Yamaha closed its company operations in Michigan in 2007. "I considered several moves, but really wanted to keep my family here. I had a real sense that God had a plan for me, that I needed to trust in Him", says Mike. "Two days after my job ended, I began working at Meyer Music's repair shop in Grand Rapids. We work on many types of instruments, from well-used student models to top level pros, it's always challenging work. Repairing each instrument to its full potential is very satisfying. Meyer Music is supportive of both the student and professional musical community, and by association, with my many performances. I also enjoy working with repeat customers; they expect a lot which is a great motivator."



*photo by Diane Steed Cummings*



*photo by Delbert Shreve*

Playing with the Grand Rapids Symphony several times has also been a wonderful experience. "Playing Nelson Riddle's arrangements with Frank Sinatra Jr. and a concert with the great Mel Torme, were particularly thrilling! I've played in various groups for West Michigan Jazz Society events over the years, and The Musician of the Year award is a tremendous thrill for me! It will inspire me in the coming months and years to be a better player, I'm so thankful for this honor."

*continued on page 4*



*photo by Cherie Lynn Hagen*

Mike has played on many CD projects and he recently released his own disc, *Double or Nothing*, produced by Tom Hagen. "It contains four original compositions that came to me in my sleep!" said Mike. "It was the fulfillment of a long-time goal for me and I'm very thankful for the wonderful musicianship of Tom and Cherie Hagen and Mark Kahny and Elgin Vines on the bonus track. Other performances in groups for Tim Scully's World Class Jazz Tours have allowed for enjoyable travel through western and northern lower Michigan as well."

His other interests include photography, folk guitar, and a lifelong passion for cars. Mike says, "Keeping everything in a workable balance-home and family time, full-time work and weekly performances- it is what I am constantly striving and grateful to be doing here in West Michigan. I'm a man of many blessings, and look forward to learning a lot of new things in the coming years, as a musician, a repairman, and in my daily life."



*photo by Diane Steed Cummings*

## *Monday Night Jazz March 16 MY THIN PLACE, playing acoustic jazz!*

This quartet is comprised of Ric Troll on drums, guitar and percussion; Dave Martin on vibraphone and percussion, Mike Dodge on guitar, Bob Hartig on woodwinds, Fritz VonValtier on Drums and Dave DeVos on bass.

"There are places on earth where heaven and earth are closer together. In those special places, we can lose ourselves in the beauty of the world we live in, and forget about all the busy things going on. For us that special place is performing Jazz Music....

Every event requires its own sounds and textures. Selecting the right music makes an event something to remember. Our music ranges from Jazz Standards out of the American songbook, to more open jazz styles with space for improvisation and color. We are a Jazz Consort, performing both original works, and

the music of other artists. Each one of us has traveled a different path in music to arrive at this point in time in performing together. Our passion is music with structure, along with improvisation, open space and new sounds. We are also a new composition group, playing a mix of new music, along with jazz songs you may have heard."

Taken from the website:  
<http://www.mythinplace.com>



*photo Copyright Sean Doran*



# Jazzy News!

**RUSLAN SIROTA** delighted the audience that attended the piano concert he performed at the Wege Ballet Center for WMJS in May of 2014. Ruslan has embarked on a dynamite new CD project. It's ALL original work he composed. Not being signed with a label, he is going it alone, and hiring some world class musicians to play. Ruslan has launched a "kickstarter" that will run for just 60 days. This began on February 10th so the clock is ticking. Anyone able/willing to help with this exciting project should go to this website: <http://www.pledgemusic.com/projects/ruslan>

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**WMJS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS!!**  
**Due by April 1st! Form online at**  
**[www.wmichjazz.org](http://www.wmichjazz.org)**

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## *Anyone know??*

The Director of Jazz Studies at Michigan Tech University, Mike Irish, is working on a project concerning the music of late great Michigan Jazz Master Eddie Russ. He needs to locate any living heirs to obtain permission for the rights to Eddie's music. Mike believes Eddie has a surviving brother, Calvin, in Albion, MI, but has been unsuccessful in contacting him.

If you have any information please contact  
Mike at 906-281-6187 or [mjirish@mtu.edu](mailto:mjirish@mtu.edu)

## **ST. Cecilia Music Center Artists Receive Grammy Nominations**

**René Marie** was nominated for her first Grammy Award for the album, "I Wanna Be Evil (With Love to Eartha Kitt.)" Don't miss her Grand Rapids appearance as she closes the Spectacular Jazz series at St. Cecilia Music Center on March 12, 2015 at 7:30.

**<http://renemarie.com>**

for tickets, contact: St. Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom NE, GR MI 49503.  
616.459.2224

## **March 22- THE UNDERGROUND SERIES!**

Charlie Kohlase's Chicago Explorer's Club, 3:00 at LaFontsee Galleries, 833 Lake Dr Se, Grand Rapids, MI. Featuring Aaron Darrell, bass, James Falzone, clarinet, Tim Daisy, drums and Russ Johnson, trumpet.

This dynamite group is led by saxophonist Charlie Kohlase, known for his work with The Either/Orchestra

The Underground Series is curated, in part, by Lazaro Vega, Jazz Director, Blue Lake Public Radio

Tickets:

\$20 in advance / \$25 at the door  
\$10 for students with a student I.D.  
ages 12 and under are free  
Advance tickets available only from  
[www.adventuremusic.org](http://www.adventuremusic.org)



# *A Salute to Jack Morrison and John Miller*

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This is a proud and somewhat sad day as I recount our relationships with Jack and John and their huge contributions to the Jazz Society: proud that we have had the opportunity to work with and learn from them, and sad that their tenure on the board of directors has ended. Not that they are saying good-bye to us; more the case that their friendship and leadership on the board will be missed.



on it, but using it for self-discovery before pressing forward. And, once committed, they are in it for the long haul. As John said, "I had the ability to help and lead, and when I got into it, I got in all the way".

Nothing spectacular, right? Except that they did it (and still do it) over an extended period of time covering many changes in

You may know that, together, they generously funded the initial corpus of the scholarship fund. And, you've seen them at the forefront of our events for a very long time (about 40 years combined service) while holding just about every imaginable position on the board. What you may not have seen is how these two very different men have navigated our waters in times of calm and storm. They both are good listeners, have superb relationship skills and a passion for our cause, and bring a savvy business sense to decision-making.

Their personal musical history is slight. John played trumpet, badly, in high school then gave it up; Jack was weaned on piano but quickly gave it up. They both were versed more in pop music than jazz; but Jack took a hankering to Big Bands, especially Stan Kenton's, and from there was introduced to his favorite songsmiths, the Four Freshmen. John particularly came to enjoy Frank Sinatra's vocals.

John and Jack both are strivers, as exemplified by their business and community successes. And, they know how to treat failure or disappointment: by not dwelling

music and society leadership. And that's where the headline comes in. We have been blessed with many good leaders besides Betty Forrest - Bob McCarcher and Jim and Nancy Gould as examples - but no one has had the lasting power of Jack and John. In great part because of them, we're financially stable, less contentious as a board, and have increased our capacity and delivery systems.

Each would tell you they are motivated by self-interest to communicate with and help others, to grow their circle of friends, and be rewarded by the community benefit seen. Fine. But we wouldn't be where we are without them.

WMJS continues to search for volunteers who want to help keep live jazz alive. I don't know if there are more John and Jacks around, but it would be thrilling to think so.

Should you bump in them, please make it a point to thank them. They deserve at least that.

-Pete Proli

# March Jazz Around Town

## **SUNDAY, MAR 1**

GR Jazz Orchestra at Founder's, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Randy Marsh at SpeakEZ w/ Jeff Kressler & Jeff Beavan  
"Remembering Eddie Russ Tribute", 7-10 pm

## **MONDAY, MAR 2**

John Shea at the Republic, 8-11 pm

## **TUESDAY, MAR 3**

Jazz Jam at The Grand, Grand Haven, 22 Washington,  
7:30 – 10:30 pm, no cover

## **THURSDAY, MAR 5**

Robin Connell at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand  
Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm  
Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites,  
Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm  
Cooper, Hay, Van Lente performs for the 2015 Holland  
Hospital Culinary Cabaret Fundraiser, Pinnacle Center,  
3330 Highland Dr., Hudsonville, 6:30 pm. Call 392-5141  
for info.

## **FRIDAY, MAR 6**

Kathy Lamar w/ Paul Lesinski at Grill 111, Rockford,  
6:30 – 9:30 pm  
River City Jazz Band will be playing a fundraiser for  
Matthew Kutsche Scholarship at Park Church, 10 East Park  
Place, lasagna dinner, cost is \$10 person, kids under 14 \$2,  
Dinner at 6:30 pm, music at 7:30 – 9:30 pm  
Mark Kahny at the Melting Pot, 2090 Celebration Dr. NE,  
5-8 pm  
John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm

## **SATURDAY, MAR 7**

GR Jazz Orchestra, Concert at East GR Arts for Life,  
7-9 pm  
Kathy Lamar with Paul Lesinski at Mangiamo! 7-10 pm  
John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm

## **SUNDAY, MAR 8**

Randy Marsh with Organissimo at SpeakEZ Lounge,  
7-10 pm

## **MONDAY, MAR 9**

John Shea at the Republic, 8-11 pm

## **TUESDAY, MAR 10**

Jazz Jam at The Grand, Grand Haven, 22 Washington,  
7:30 – 10:30 pm, no cover

## **THURSDAY, MAR 12**

Karen Cameron at the Book Nook in Montague, 7-9 pm  
Robin Connell at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand  
Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm  
Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites,  
Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

## **FRIDAY, MAR 13**

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm  
Robin Connell & Paul Brewer with St. Cecelia Music Center  
Youth Jazz Ensembles Concert, 7 pm

## **SATURDAY, MAR 14**

Mark Kahny at Mangiamo! 7-10 pm  
John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm  
Trio Jazz w. Steve Hilger at the JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

## **SUNDAY, MAR 15**

Randy Marsh at SpeakEZ Lounge with Terry Lower & Jack  
Dryden, 7-10 pm

## **MONDAY, MAR 16**

**WMJS MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ** at the B.O.B. featuring the  
band, MY THIN PLACE, 6:30-8:30pm  
John Shea at the Republic, 8-11 pm

## **TUESDAY, MAR 17**

Jazz Jam at The Grand, Grand Haven, 22 Washington,  
7:30 – 10:30 pm, no cover

## **THURSDAY, MAR 19**

Robin Connell at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand  
Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm  
Kathy Lamar CD Release party "Songs for Elsa" at One  
Trick Pony, 8-11pm w/ Steve Talaga, Warren Jones,  
& Scott Veenstra.  
Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites,  
Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

# March Jazz Around Town

## FRIDAY, MAR 20

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm

## SATURDAY, MAR 21

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm

## SUNDAY, MAR 22

Randy Marsh with Organissimo at SpeakEZ Lounge,  
7-10 pm

## MONDAY, MAR 23

John Shea at the Republic, 8-11 pm

## TUESDAY, MAR 24

Jazz Jam at The Grand, Grand Haven, 22 Washington,  
7:30 – 10:30 pm, no cover

## WEDNESDAY, MAR 25

Fred Knapp at H.O.M.E. at the B.O.B. 7-10 pm

## THURSDAY, MAR 26

Robin Connell at the Lumber Baron Bar, Amway Grand  
Plaza Hotel, 6-9 pm

Mark Kahny at Mangiamo! 7-10-pm

Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at Cambria Suites,  
Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

## FRIDAY, MAR 27

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm

## SATURDAY, MAR 28

Mark Kahny, Spring Fling at Hopkins High School Band  
Fundraiser with Elgin Vines, 6 pm  
John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm

## SUNDAY, MAR 29

Randy Marsh at Speak EZ lounge with Robin Connell &  
Jack Dryden, 7-10 pm

## MONDAY, MAR 30

John Shea at the Republic, 8-11 pm

## TUESDAY, MAR 31

Jazz Jam at The Grand, Grand Haven, 22 Washington,  
7:30 – 10:30 pm, no cover

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

## 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!

### PATRON

Florence Goodyear

### NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Gilmore

Phil Hertel

Pat & Nancy Hickey

Rebecca Stocking

Marla Tulett

Annette Wheeler

Jessica Wheeler

### RENEWING MEMBERS

Jim & Katie Batema

Jan & Michael Bennett

Larry Blovits

Shannon Denison

& Kevin Hubbard

Rafael Diaz

Richard Eming

Marilyn J. Holmes

Kathleen Jones

Molly Klimas

Jack & Pat Krause

Bruce & Doris Robey

Frank & Shelley Russo

Peggy Serulla

Richard Siersma

Jim & Terri Sloma

Norman Tubbs



# Jazz in the Sanctuary

2/08/15 Recap by Robin Connell



As the co-producer and host of Fountain Street Church's Jazz in the Sanctuary concert series, I could not have been happier with last Sunday's concert. I enjoyed the opportunity to perform for an audience of more than 150 but, even more so, was thrilled by the chance to listen to our guest jazz musicians, Xavier Davis (pianist) and Matt Brewer (bassist). During the concert, I also briefly interviewed these young men. It was fun to ask about their lives and get some insight into how each thinks about music and life. Xavier Davis recently joined the jazz faculty at Michigan State University, after twenty years in New York City as a freelance musician, and continues to perform and record with prominent jazz artists. Matt currently lives in New York, working as a freelancer and touring the world (he was in Thailand last week). I encourage you to see their websites to learn more about their professional lives, discography, etc.

Just prior to the concert, I felt as if I were in a piano lesson as I keenly observed their short rehearsal. Xavier and Matt each suggested a few tunes to play and they worked out some basic details such as key,

tempo. The audience may not have been aware that nothing else was planned out (intro, ending, solos, etc) and no written music was present.

The repertoire knowledge, listening skills, and improvisational ability each brought to the concert were astounding. Each has accumulated a vast knowledge of jazz repertoire that, as of 2015,



spans a century. Matt is not yet 32 years old and Xavier is 43, so that much memorization is impressive! Regarding listening and improvisational ability: we often use the word 'improvisation' to mean a jazz musician's solo but that is not how I am using the word here. What I found astounding and ever so enjoyable, was watching the duo interact musically in ways that can only be done when both are listening very intently to each

other and each have the skills to be completely flexible, and creating an arrangement with continual improvisation from start to finish. As a jazz musician myself, I know the 'stock' intros and endings that we all use on gigs. But Xavier and Matt did not reference the stock endings and other standard ways musicians often use on a gig that is 'thrown together'.

Their exceedingly high level of musicianship allowed them to take turns leading and following, without any planning ahead of time.

The format for Jazz in the Sanctuary concerts begins with yours truly performing one song and welcoming the audience. I chose *While We're Young* (by Alec Wilder). Although I did not tell the audience, I thought of it as my

tribute to the young men about to perform. Xavier then joined me for a piano duo and we played a piece of mine called *La Dame Aux Camelias*. I had given him a 'lead sheet' earlier that day and we played through it once in rehearsal. We had some difficulty hearing each other at times but I was thrilled with what I could hear him playing!

*continued on page 10*



Xavier played a composition of his own, solo piano (I do not know the title). I thought I almost heard the audience gasp at the first touch of the keys. His sensitive touch, harmonic progressions, and over all command of the piano practically made me cry! I'm familiar with his playing so I was not surprised but this performance was exceedingly beautiful.

For most of the rest of the concert, Matt joined Xavier in duo performance, with the magic described above mesmerizing. When Xavier and Matt played, 'swing' was in the house! If you were there, you know it FEELS good. It is difficult to put into words what makes music 'swing' but, in this case, all the ingredients were there. And, with both young men at the cutting edge of modern jazz, I was delighted they chose to perform six standards that many in the audience would recognize:

Milestones (by John Lewis), Old Folks (by Willard Robison), How Deep is the Ocean (by Irving Berlin), Sweet and Lovely (by Harry Tobias), and Take the Coletrane (by Duke Ellington). Matt also played solo bass on I've Never Been in Love Before (by Frank Loesser), weaving the melody into his own accompaniment, somehow getting his hands from one end of the bass to the other in a fraction of a second. It reminded me a bit of Bobby McFerrin's singing.

Matt played one song with me, Gone with the Wind (by Allie Wrubel). I think I am the first pianist Matt ever played with, when he was ten years old (he is my stepson). What a thrill to play with him now! My favorite thing, musically, is to arrange well-known standards using my own chord progressions. I knew he would understand just how to weave around me as I played and sang.

The concert concluded with all three of us playing Duke Ellington's 'Take the Coletrane.'

I had not heard the song before so had to wait through the first chorus before I jumped in, hanging on for dear life as the two guys flew around me! I truly felt a joyous lift and think they may have spurred me to play better than my usual.

Thank you all who managed to make it to this concert. The series, in its first year, is a grand experiment, to see if our local audiences are interested in jazz piano-bass duos. There are no venues in Grand Rapids, with a piano, that program local musicians (let me know if I've missed one!). It is a huge commitment for a club to own and maintain a piano so we all make do with electric keyboards. Budgets also seem to preclude many area jazz band performances from including a jazz bassist, with us keyboardists playing 'left hand bass.' The number one reason I became a jazz pianist is because of the day I walked into a downtown restaurant and saw Eddie Russ, at a baby grand, with Mike Grace, on bass! To see duo jazz piano-bass simply isn't possible, and hasn't been for a LONG time, in Grand Rapids. With all of that in mind, Jazz in the Sanctuary is an opportunity for jazz piano-bass aficionados to enjoy the nuance, swing, and harmonic sensibility that is possible when a Steinway grand piano and acoustic bass are played in a performance 'hall' with great acoustics. The last concert in the series this year is April 26, at 3pm, and features Grand Rapids wonderful jazz pianist, Steve Talaga.



## 2015 Musician of the Year Banquet

Honoring Mike Lutley

Tuesday May 5, 2015,  
Happy hour 6-7, dinner at 7

**Watermark Country Club**

**5500 Cascade RD, SE. Grand Rapids MI 49546**

### Reservations taken in advance only.

Tickets \$35 for members \$40 for guests. Open seating or reserved tables of 8 members, \$240.00, table for 8 non-members, \$320.00  
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

MENU All dinners include Herb Roasted Yukon potatoes, green beans, a house salad with two dressings & fresh baked rolls  
& dessert. Coffee, Tea & Water service included during dinner hours

**(B)** Slow Roasted Pot Roast

Tender pieces of slow roasted beef & wild mushroom sauce

**(C)** Chicken Marsala

chicken sauteed with shallots, garlic, wild mushrooms  
& marsala wine sauce

**(F)** Herb Roasted Whitefish

Herb roasted Lake Superior whitefish drizzled with lemon butter

**(GF)** Gluten free

**(V)** Vegetarian

 **The deadline to register is midnight on April 21st, 2015!**

Please print, fill out the form and mail along with your check to:

W. M. J. S. c/o Linda & Peter Johnson

559 Lakeside Dr, SE, Apt B, Grand Rapids MI 49506

**Or Pay online at:**

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner choices (please list quantity of each) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (F) \_\_\_\_\_ (GF) \_\_\_\_\_ (V)

Are you a WMJS member? \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_No

(If you would like to become a member, please attach a membership form and mail it with a check and this form to receive the reduced ticket price.) You may also join on line at [www.wmichjazz.org](http://www.wmichjazz.org))

**\*\*Seating assigned based on the date of registration. Please list the guests you are paying for:**



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Grand Rapids, MI 49515



# Jazznotes

March 2015

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 Wednesday of each month.

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

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

**WMJS main number . . . 616-490-9506 Email . . . [wmjs.gr@gmail.com](mailto:wmjs.gr@gmail.com)**

Shannan Denison . . . 308-6611

Steve Hilger . . . . . 458-3601

Peter Johnson . . . . . 498-1482

Jim Reed . . . . . 942-0239

Barb Keller . . . . . 949-7633

Eddie Tadlock . . . . . 430-8487

Kathi Meulenberg - Secretary

Student \$10 ☐

Single \$25 ☐

Couple \$40 ☐

Donor \$75 ☐

Patron \$125 ☐

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