



An All-Volunteer
Organization
Since 1986

Jazz notes

December 2017/January 2018

Vol. 31 No.10
616-490-9506
www.wmichjazz.org
wmjs.gr@gmail.com

facebook.com/
WestMIJazzSociety

REQUEST FOR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS.

We're looking for silent auction items with a value of \$50 or more.

Examples of good items to donate include "vacation rentals/time shares, gift certificates, gift baskets, new items, etc." Please email Shannan Denison with your donation submissions.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2-3 Monday Night Jazz, January's Gumbo
- 4-5 Jazz Gumbo re-caps
- 6 NEW sponsorship opportunity
- 7 Membership
- 8-9 Progressions Jazz!
- 10-11 December Music Schedules
- 12-13 January Music Schedules
- 14 Call for new Board members
- 15 2018 Musician of the Year Nomination Form



2017 WMJS Holiday Party December 11, 2017



Musical entertainment by Mary Rademacher with The Mid-Town Horns and Rhythm Section Jazz Band!

Noto's Old World Italian Dining, 6600 28th Street Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Doors open at 6:00pm for a social hour, Cash Bar Dinner at 7:00pm

Reservations only! Deadline for tickets is midnight December 1st.

Non-dinner guests are welcome after 8:00pm for \$15.00 at the door.



Barb & John Miller,
Scholarship Director



Eddie Tadlock,
Publicity Director



Kevin Hubbard
& Shannan Denison,
President,
Director of Fund Raising



Jim, Financial
& Peni Reed



Kathleen Jones,
Vice-President,
Membership Director

GOD JUL
KANA KETOYENA
NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL
HAPPY HANUKKAH
JOYOUS KWANZAA
MERRY FELIZ NAVIDAD
メリークリスマス
JOYEUX NOËL
ZALIG KERSTFEEST
HYVÄÄ JOULA
FROHE WEIHNACHTEN
圣诞节快乐
МУТЛУ НОЛЛЕР
MALIGATAN PASKO
BUON NATALE
СЧАСТЛИВОГО РОЖДЕСТВА



Mary & Jerry Scott,
Program Director



Noelle Frost,
Board member



Peni Reed,
Special Events



Linda & Peter Johnson,
Board Member



Tim Froncek,
Education Director



George Zuiderveen,
Board member

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU!!**

2018 Monday Night Jazz Series

January 15th, Monday Night Jazz Gumbo presents **Walt Gutowski and the Bridge Street Band**. This group is a collective of some of the finest musicians in West Michigan, the synergy is quite remarkable. The group strives for audience involvement by playing crowd-pleasers from straight ahead to smooth jazz, R&B and maybe even a little Motown. Band members include Walt Gutowski (guitar/vocals), Steve Talaga (keys), John Gist (sax), Charlie Hoats (bass) and Mark Weymouth (drums.) Walt will have several female vocalists joining him on stage.

Mentored by the late guitar legend Gene Roberts & local guitar legend, Michael Hyde, **Walt Gutowski**, guitar and vocals, has been playing the West Michigan & Northern Michigan Music scene for over four decades. Winning a spot on the Buck Matthews show at age 12 he continued his studies with musician extraordinaire Eric Wendlandt. He later studied with and became very close with the late great Ray Gill as guitarist with the GRJC jazz band in the early 80's and then joined the Aquinas jazz band under the direction of the late Bruce Early. As leader of the house Band for the Amway Grand Plaza, one of his proudest moments was sharing the stage with the Bruce Early Big Band as they opened for Walt and his Band on New Year's Eve in the late 80's. He has shared the stage with BB King and the Heath Brothers and recently studied with one of the finest Bebop guitarists currently playing the national circuit and director of guitar studies at Utah State, Corey Christiansen. He currently studies with 7 string phenom Nigel Gavin of New Zealand.

Walt feels he and "JR" Blois Simmons II (keyboards) are to The Bridge Street Band as Lyle Mays and Pat Metheny are to the Pat Metheny Band. Playing together for nearly two decades they inspire each other every time they share the stage. Blessed with perfect pitch, **Blois Simmons II** can be found on the music scene day in and day out recording in the studio, playing live, teaching & mentoring the next generation of musicians, composing, and on Sundays leading the choir in church. He has shared the stage and opened for such greats as Ray Charles and Earth Wind and Fire. Gigging professionally for nearly a half century, you will definitely hear his Gospel Roots come through. They are joined by Mark Weymouth on the drums, Charlie Hoats on Bass, Paul Keen on Trombone and John Gist on Sax. They will be joined by some guest vocal artists including Jes Slaydon, Tori Dale & Sam Gutowski.

Mark Weymouth's smooth style, rock solid skills & professional demeanor has made him perhaps the busiest drummer in West Michigan. Born and raised in the metro-Detroit area, Mark grew up on Jazz, Latin, R & B, Funk and Rock, so he brings a variety of playing experience to the group. He is a graduate of Drummers Collective and has had the opportunity to study with legendary drummers including Mike Clark, Marvin "Smitty" Smith, Rupert Kettle and Randy Marsh. Mark currently teaches drums at Grace Bible College. He can currently be seen playing around the state with Bridge Street, Serita's Black Rose, Rick Hicks, Mark Kahny, Tony Reynolds, Edye Evans Hyde, Kathy Lamar, the JMM Trio, Entyce,



Tetrad, Lucas Wilson, and Oregon Dreamchild. Many instrumentalists and vocalists have remarked about his intuitive “listening” skills. “It seems he is in a deep trance when he plays, and he always seems to instinctively know where I am going with an song arrangement or groove, even if it’s a detour I’ve never taken before”, comments one local keyboardist. “His knowledge of all styles, jazz to blues, gospel to cabaret, makes him a valuable choice for any musical project”, says another colleague.



Charlie Hoats and his 6 string fretless bass is considered one of the finest bass players in the area. His nimble fingers and ultra-smooth style make him a crowd favorite wherever he plays. Charlie’s many performances include local and regional jazz, blues, and pop groups. Charlie has played with the National Touring Company of Grease and in both small and large scale regional musicals. He was a founding member of the Michigan-based jamband/morphet, The Folk Lizards. When Charlie is not gigging, you can find him at Hope College where he is the Instructor of jazz Bass where he continues mentoring the next generation of great bass players. Charlie also teaches private lessons, coaches small ensembles, and performs with the Hope College Faculty Jazz Group.



Paul Keen’s musical career rocketed after playing a studio recording session for Hanna Barbera Studios while attending college in Los Angeles. That launched a recording career that spanned nearly 20 years, composing, arranging and playing bass trombone, tuba and euphonium, for over 1200 cartoon episodes, 150 motion pictures, live television, record transcriptions and radio and television commercials. While living in Reno, NV, he often performed for big name acts which included Frank Sinatra, Frank Jr. and Nancy Sinatra, Barry Manilow, Dean Martin, Robert Goulet, Sammy Davis Jr., Crystal Gayle, Nancy Wilson, Debby Reynolds, and others. He moved to the Grand Rapids area in 2001 and has been actively playing, composing and arranging music for numerous performance organizations including Hark Up Ministries, Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra, Gull Lake Jazz Orchestra, River Rogues Jazz Band and the Flat River Big Band. He is a regular member of the pit orchestra for Grand Rapids Civic Theater, The Cathedral Brass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, and a founding member and arranger for the Antiphon Brass. Paul teaches low brass and advanced conducting at Cornerstone University and directs the Cornerstone Brass and Symphonic Winds.



John Gist hails from Grand Rapids and is a self-taught master of the alto, tenor and soprano saxophone. “I grew up listening to hip-hop, rap and R&B,” he said, “playing classic rock, wasn’t my bag. It was a learning curve. But it taught me to play with power.” Gist liked playing saxophone beginning in childhood. It gave him a satisfaction in his neighborhood, being the best at something. But his parents didn’t think there was a future in music, and certainly not as a lifetime career. But sometimes parents are wrong! John has certainly made a name for himself here in Grand Rapids. He is happy to be a big fish in a little pond, “It never took too much to make me happy.” Lucky for us John chose to stay in his hometown. John’s younger brother Randy left GR and is a nationally-touring saxophonist, currently with John Mayer. Gist includes jazz, funk, blues, r&b, gospel and soul music into his current repertoire. He John is a much sought after side man for a variety of local groups including the Steve Hilger jazz band.



Monday Night Jazz Series

September 18th

Susan Morris and Blue Monk



A Great Night and a great group, Blue Monk kicked off MNJ to a packed house at Knickerbocker that required the setup of extra chairs. Unfortunately some folks were turned away due to lack of space (an issue that has since been corrected). Susan Morris provided sultry vocals to some classic jazz tunes. Carlos Melendez was as always, an impeccable maestro on guitar. We were fortunate to enjoy Steve Talaga on keyboard, with the added delight of Robbie Smith sharing his skills on trumpet and sax equally well.

Blue Monk rolled through the first set with classics like “Route 66”; “Don’t Get around Much Anymore” and “Day by Day”. They played with the skills and nuance we have grown accustomed to from the gifted artists we are fortunate to enjoy here in West Michigan. The first set wrapped up with a stirring rendition of “Under My Skin” with a virtuoso performance bookended with Susan Morris rendering lyrics and scatting with equal aplomb.

During intermission the raffle netted a generous collection for the West Michigan Jazz Society’s Scholarship Fund, gathering \$115 for some worthy up and coming jazz student.

The second set was no let down for these top-flight jazz artists. They began with a classic Billy Holiday tune, “Crazy in Love”. The remainder of the set was filled with greats like “Hey Good Lookin” and “Witchcraft”. Susan stepped out for a moment to grant these great musicians an opportunity to stretch their musical muscles. The tunes were both hot and cool with the ambling, rambling renditions of classic as well as an original provided by Steve Talaga.

All in all this was a fabulous kick off to what promises to be a wonderful season for West Michigan Jazz. Please get online and check out the full schedule of events.

-Gary Miltner

Monday Night Jazz Series

October 16th

Petra van Nuis
and the Andy Brown Trio



Over the course of sixteen songs a cold fall night was rounded out by the warmth of wonderful jazz classics made popular by the likes of Tony Bennett, Mel Torme, Billie Holiday, Cole Porter, Dexter Gordon, (and more). The very talented quartet of Petra van Nuis (vocals), Andy Brown (guitar), Paul Keller (bass), and Peter Siers (percussion) sparked a full audience's heartstrings with a 'jivey' take on their first song, "Put on a Happy Face", and like a roaring fire, kept it hot to the very last beat of their last song.

A rollicking percussion solo turned up the heat during "I Got Lost in His Arms", followed by the simmering tune "Barbados" which had a smooth percussion solo, and rounded out by harmonized bass and guitar. As if it wasn't already cooking, Pete added spice to "Cheese Cake" with a snazzy snare beat, rallied by the bass. Paul provided a rumbling solo on bowed strings for Cole Porter's "At Long Last Love", and then played a low intro while Petra fed the flame with those first few lines, "Is it an earthquake or simply a shock? Is it the good turtle soup or merely the mock? Is it a cocktail, this feeling of joy? Or is what I feel the real McCoy?" And from those bellows, the next song burned bright, "Shadow of Your Smile", with exceptionally clear vocals leaving the audience mesmerized. Two particular tunes with their and happy, fast beats kept the dancers on their feet, "Day In and Day Out" and "Swing Brother, Swing", with catchy vocals and fan flaming guitar riffs. Whether as an accelerant to "The Good Life", "This Is Always", or "The Moon Was Yellow", Andy's guitar mastery poured natural ebb and flow that breathed to the night's many different styles and interwove every song with fiery solos.

After the smooth, romantic sounds of "The Moon Was Yellow", the late night ballad of "For Heaven's Sake", and all-time classic of "Some Of These Days", the quartet ended the night on a heartwarming "You Are My Sunshine" which at its crescendo "please don't take my sunshine away" had a passionate guitar solo was met with a round of heated applause.

For more music by these musicians, please check out their new CD's available for purchase: Petra and Andy's 'Lessons Lyrical' and Paul Keller's 'My Blue Heaven'

Thank you again to Jack Morrison, for sponsoring this Jazz Gumbo.

-Alex Pominville



Three More Monday Night Jazz Gumbos!

On stage and strolling through the room, **February 19th** will be a Mardi Gras celebration with **Carl Cafagna and the Creole Kitchen**. The traditional sounds of New Orleans's Jazz they promise to play may transport us to the warmer southern climates of Louisiana.

March 19th the **Fred Knapp Trio** featuring Dave Proulx on piano & vocals will provide our evening's entertainment. The other members are the rock steady band leader Fred Knapp on drums, and the solid bass man, Dave Rosin.

April 16th we will welcome the **JMM JAZZ BAND** to our stage for the first time. The group features two vocalists, Diana Vandewater & Diego.



West Michigan Jazz Society presents

The Progressions Jazz Series

Beginning January 2018 at the Knickerbocker in New Holland Brewing
417 Bridge Street NW Grand Rapids

The purpose of the Progressions Jazz Series is to educate and entertain the discriminating music listener on the many different genres of jazz. The loft in the Knickerbocker will become a Chicago style listening room for an incredible 90 minute set beginning at 7:00pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning January 23rd, 2018. Five concerts are planned.

Cost for members is \$5, non-members \$10

Early Bird Discount! Buy your series package before Dec. 31st and SAVE!

Single Series Member Ticket: \$20 before Dec 31st, \$25 after; non-member: \$40 before \$50 after

Couple Series Member Ticket: \$40 before Dec 31st, \$50 after; non-member: \$80 before \$100 after

Members and personal Patrons, please consider a personal donation to help us keep jazz alive and well!

PERSONAL DONATIONS

\$1000 Benefactor

\$500 Patron

\$100 Friend

A gift of any amount will be recognized in our Progressions Jazz Series Program. West Michigan Jazz Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization and your contributions may be deductible as provided by the IRS code.

Donations can be made on the website or mail a check to: West Michigan Jazz Society, PO Box 150307, Grand Rapids, MI 49515

There are **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS** available!
Please check the website www.wmichjazz.org for details!

St. Cecilia
Music Center
PRESENTS

2017-18 SEASON
SCMC-ONLINE.ORG
616.459.2224

JAZZ

*Some of SCMC's favorites are back with
this year's special Encore Jazz Series*

CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Four-time Grammy-winning jazz
bassist appears with his trio, *Tip City*

BRAD MEHLDAU TRIO

NOVEMBER 30, 2017

"The most influential jazz pianist of
the last 20 years" - *New York Times*

GREGORY PORTER

FEBRUARY 22, 2018

One of this generation's most soulful jazz
songwriters, and two-time Grammy-winner

KURT ELLING

MARCH 22, 2018

World-renowned jazz vocalist and
DownBeat Poll winner 14 years in a row



IT'S
JUST
SO
GOOD

And a HUGE thank you to all of our new and renewing members!
Our jazz concerts continue because of the support we receive from you!

LIFETIME

Louis Salak
Audrey Sundstrom

NEW MEMBERS

Erik Bobeda
Jan Bradley
Michael & Suzan Fant
Barbara Fisk
David Gillesse
Lori Jacobs
Lori Johnson
Bonnie Miller
Alexander Pominville
Annette Provenzano
Alva Thibault

RENEWING MEMBERS

Diane Barnes
Jim & Candice Bell
Kathleen Bloom
Paul & Janice Braman
Martin & Susan Bury
Robert Carpenter
Max Colley Jr
Thomas Dooley
Jack & Angie Gibson
Donovan Green
Jim Hagadorn
Madeline Heibel
Karen Kamerschen
Dave & Mary Kirvan
Susan Kohloff
Ian LeVine

John Briel & Kathleen Maguire
Lynn Mapes & Jane Muller
Lee & Susan Murphy
Robert Nolan
David & Jean Regester
Art & Linda Schichtel
Jay Schoettley & Gail DeYoung
Mark Siegrist
Deb Snow
David Stader
Pat Taylor
Barbara Termeer
Bob Thompson Jr
David Tulos
Joan Vander Till





West Michigan Jazz Society presents

The Progressions Jazz Series

Knickerbocker

in New Holland Brewing

417 Bridge Street NW Grand Rapids

On January 23rd our new Progressions Jazz Series will open at Knickerbocker Brewing. The concert will begin at 7pm. Price is \$5.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members, available at the door.

The first concert will focus on FUSION JAZZ performed by the Steve Hilger Jazz Quintet. Leader/guitarist and vocalist Steve Hilger has played in and written for a variety of bands in genres which include blues, jazz, rock and acoustic folk music. He also fronts a progressive Blues band, The Steve Hilger Band, a progressive Blues band that won five Jammie nominations for its 2008 release "Live in Eastown" and one Jammie nomination for Best Blues Album of the Year for its 2010 release "Want What You Have." He also won a Jammie nomination for the first jazz album; "Just a Taste." Steve writes and arranges all the original music for both of his groups. Steve surrounds himself with some of Grand Rapids area's best musicians. His jazz group includes pianist and WMJS's 2008 Musician of the Year, Steve Talaga, 2013 Musician of the Year drummer Randy Marsh, bassist Charlie Hoats and sax man John Gist.

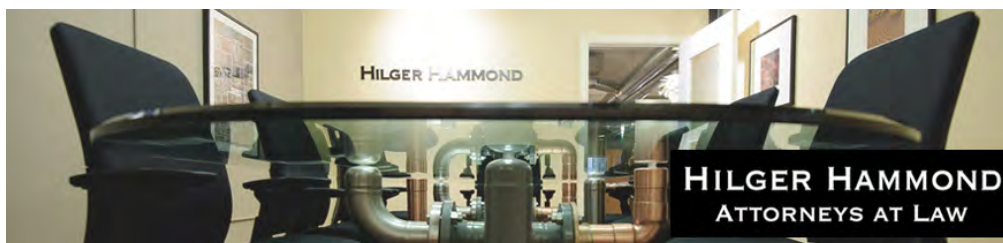
Pianist, composer, and arranger Steve Talaga has played for many small and large jazz ensembles including GRJO and the Grand Rapids Symphony. He is an adjunct professor of music at both Hope & Aquinas Colleges, and is also frequently on the faculty at the Aquinas College Summer Jazz Camp and the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. He is co-leader the jazz group "Mind's Eye", a jazz quartet with four compact discs to its credit, "Angst for the Spoiler," "Seasons," "Lucky Nine," and "Children of the Glacier." Music from "Seasons" has been featured on the nationally syndicated public radio program, "Jazz after Hours." Talaga has also released six compact discs under his own name: "Mirage," "Yin-Yang," "Basement Alchemy" (which was chosen as best release of 2000 by Lazaro Vega at WBLV-FM), "Two Worlds," "Contemplating the Heavens" (a companion to the poetry chapbook of the same title by Linda Nemec Foster), and, most recently, "Heartside Sketches" (a concert-length work for septet commissioned by MAJIC).

The sound of Charlie Hoats' six-string fretless bass has become his trademark sound. He has performed with many area groups and musicians including Bridge Street Band, Mark Kahny and Edye Evans Hyde. Over a lengthy professional career, Charlie has had the privilege of performing with a long and impressive list of musicians which includes Marvin Stamm, Gunnar Mossblad, Denis DiBlasio, Phil Keaggy, Claudio Roditi, Chris Vadala, Clay Jenkins, Sunny Wilkinson, Ray Kaczinski, Danny Draher, The Butterfat Trio, and Michael Brecker. Additional performance experience includes the National Touring Company of Grease; regional productions of Pump Boys and Dinettes, Ten November, Beehive, and other small- and large-scale musicals; and numerous performances with local and regional jazz, blues, and pop groups.

John Gist is a superb local talent with a versatile playing style. Music does so much more than just stimulate the brain to think outside the box for Gist, although he believes that to be its essential function to the human race. "John can make you want to get up and shake your 'groove thing' when he's blowin' out some funky rhythms one minute. And in the blink of eye, he can send a shiver up your spine and make your bones want to melt with some of the soft, sultry notes he throws on his audience." John has played in many local groups including Madhouse, Roberta Bradley & Gypsy, Junior Valentine & the All Stars, Organissimo and Bridge Street.

Drummer Randy Marsh has been a long standing mentor to upcoming young musicians and by inviting them to sit in play with his various jazz trios, providing them the opportunity to play with seasoned musicians. Randy is known for his unique drumming skills and his trademark humor. Randy has found another outlet for his experience, his endless creativity and his positive spirituality with the group Organissimo. This group has been together and successful for 17 years, with seven CD's under their musical belt, they have performed all over the USA and their albums consistently get a lot of air play.

This concert has been generously sponsored by the law firm of Hilger Hammond, PC. Located at 49 Monroe Center NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



How the West Michigan Jazz Society Began

Taken from writings of Betty Forrest



Immortalized by his famous composition "Night Train", Grand Rapids musician/composer Jimmy Forrest had met an untimely death in 1980. His widow, Betty Forrest, began a memorial Scholarship in his honor through the Grand Rapids Junior (now Community) College. The purpose was to award monies to students majoring in jazz studies, and to present an annual Memorial Concert as a fund-raiser for the scholarship.

Under the auspices of Ray Gill, then Director of Jazz Studies at the college, successful concerts were given beginning in 1980 with Yusef Lateef. In 1981 a concert at Welch Auditorium featured the Count Basie Orchestra, with whom Forrest had performed as lead tenor sax from 1970-77. The Heath Brothers appeared in 1982; the Basie Orchestra was back for an elaborate Black & White Ball at the Gerald Ford Gymnasium in 1983, and so on...until 1985 and Stan Getz was booked to appear at Fountain Street Church. It was a disastrous money losing event. It wasn't that Getz gave a bad performance, he certainly did not! The fault lay in the failure to provide enough advertising. It was such a financial loss that it threatened the maintenance of the scholarship program.

Regrouping after this concert, the idea was born to organize a formalized support group for jazz in the Grand Rapids and West Michigan area. Gill had a list of 20 names of people who had formerly tried to establish such a group. Coincidentally, the Jazz Times was running a series of articles on Jazz Societies that autumn, and featured an article about a new National Federation of Jazz Societies being formed. Taking Gill's list, Betty sent out letters in January 1986 as "feelers." The response was so good that a meeting was called and a dozen hard-core jazz lovers showed up to form the nucleus of what soon became known as the West Michigan Jazz Society. By April the first edition of Jazz Notes went out to an augmented list of 40 names. The first public meeting/gig was held in conjunction with founding member Bruce Early's appearance with his Big band at Pockett's. Membership rose to 50, and then doubled to 100 in June after a fund-raising party at Jim & Nancy Gould's residence. Jim Gould was "drafted" to be the first president and we were off and running!

December Jazz Around Town

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Noelle Frost Trio at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

- John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Kathy Lamar Trio at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm
- Mike Frost Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- Greg Miller for Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10am-1 pm
- River North Jazz brunch at the Old Goat, 11am-2 pm
- River Rogues Dixieland Jazz Band at New Harmony Hall, 2-4 pm
- GR Jazz Orchestra at Founder's, 5:30-7:30 pm
- Randy Marsh & Friends at SpeakeEZ, 7-10 pm, (Jazz Jam 8:30-10)
- Edye Evans Hyde Trio at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-9 pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- Tom Hagen Trio features Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm
- River North Jazz at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern Ave. SE, 6-9 pm
- JMM Jazz, the Black Sheep Baa & Grille, Holland 7:30-10:30
- Gull Lake Orchestra with Edye Evans Hyde at Union Cabaret & Grille, Kalamazoo, 8-11 pm - Last of the season

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- Third Coast Ensemble at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7-9 pm, \$5 cover
- Moodswings Jazz at JD Reardon's, 6:30-9pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Mary Rademacher Trio at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- Mary Rademacher Trio at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11pm
- Neil Gordon at JW Marriott, 7-10pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

- Mike Frost & Mike Hyde for Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10 am-1 pm

- River North Jazz brunch at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern Ave. SE, 11-2 pm
- Hugye, Beavan, Schock Jazz Trio at New Harmony Hall, 2-4 pm
- Randy Marsh & Friends at SpeakeEZ, 7-10 pm, (Jazz Jam 8:30-10)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- **WMJS Holiday Party with Mary Rademacher Reed with the Mid-Town Horns and Jazz Rhythm Band at Noto's**, 6600 28th St., GR, Those without dinner reservations can still get in after 8pm for \$15.00 at the door
- John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- Tom Hagen Trio features Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Green on Blue at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7-9 pm, \$5 cover
- My Thin Place at Sandy Point Beach House, 7175 Lakeshore Dr. West Olive, 6-9 pm
- Mary Rademacher Reed at JD Reardon's, 6:30-9 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Neil Gordon at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- The Noel Webley Jazzy Trio, JW Marriott 7-10 pm
- Neil Gordon at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

- Greg Miller for the Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10 am-1 pm
- River North Jazz brunch at the Old Goat, 11-2 pm
- River Rogues Dixieland Jazz Band at New Harmony Hall, 2-4 pm
- Randy Marsh & Friends at SpeakeEZ, 7-10 pm, (Jazz Jam 8:30-10)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm
- Truth in Jazz Orchestra at Watermark 920, 930 Washington, Muskegon, 7:30-9:30 pm cover, adults \$5, Students \$2

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- Tom Hagen Trio features Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm
- JMM Jazz, the Black Sheep Baa & Grille, Holland 7:30-10:30 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

- Checkers Morton at the Book Nook, Montague 7-9 pm, \$5 cover

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Noel Webley at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

- John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Noel Webley at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm
- Edye Evans Hyde Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

- Mike Frost & Mike Hyde for the Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10 am-1 pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

- "Christmas Brunch" Mike Frost Duo 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- Tom Hagen Trio features Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

- Checkers Morton at Sandy Point Beach House, West Olive, 6-9 pm
- Sidewinders Quintet at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7-9 pm, \$5 cover

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Noelle Frost Trio at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

- John Shea at Noto's, 7-10
- Kathy Lamar Trio at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm
- Edye Evans Hyde Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

- Greg Miller for the Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10 am-1 pm
- Mike Frost Trio with Noelle Frost at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand, 7-11 pm
- John Shea at JW Marriott 8pm-12:30 am
- River City Jazz Ensemble at Boat & Canoe Club, 401 N. Park St. NE \$45 couple, \$25 single, Pop & Hors d' oeuvres; dancing 8:30 pm-12:30 am Tickets – Boat & Canoe Club – 361-7685, or 866-0093, or at the door



Photo by Noel Webley

BETTY FORREST passed away November of 2011, but her vision of Jazz in West Michigan lives on. When we dedicated an issue of Jazz Notes to Betty, this is what then president Craig Benjamin had to say about her.

"Although we have had various wonderful Board Presidents over the years, it was Betty who was always our tireless and fearless leader. She so effectively steered the fortunes of the WMJS for 25 years, through all sorts of challenging financial and membership climates, that today with well over 500 members it stands as one of the leading jazz societies in the country. In doing all this, Betty earned the respect and love of numerous Board Members, hundreds of the finest jazz musicians in the region, and many thousands of jazz fans. Under Betty Forrest's leadership, the WMJS has made an enormous impact on the cultural life of West Michigan for a quarter of a century."

2018 January Jazz Around Town

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

- Jazz & Gin - Brad Fritcher's MOODS at Long Road Distillers, on Leonard Ave. 8-11 pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm
- Wally Michaels at Salt & Pepper, Lakeshore Dr., Holland, 6-9:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

- Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm
- JMM Jazz, the Black Sheep Baa & Grille, Holland 7:30-10:30 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

- Third Coast Ensemble at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7-9 pm, \$5 cover
- Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at West Bay Holiday Inn, Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Kathy Lamar at Noto's w/ Bob Van Stee & Kevin Jones, 7-10 pm
- Scott Veenstra at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand 7-10 pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

- John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Mike Frost Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Scott Veenstra at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand 7-10 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

- Mike Hyde & Mike Frost, Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10 am-1 pm
- River North Jazz brunch at the Old Goat, 11-2 pm
- River Rogues Dixieland Jazz Band at New Harmony Hall, 2-4 pm
- GR Jazz Orchestra at Founder's, 5:30-7:30 pm
- Randy Marsh & Friends at SpeakEZ, 7-10 pm, (Jazz Jam 8:30-10)

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

- John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm
- Jazz & Gin - Brad Fritcher's MOODS at Long Road Distillers, 8-11 pm
- Jazz Jam at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-10 pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

- Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

- Robin Connell at One Trick Pony, 8-11 pm
- My Thin Place at Sandy Point Beach House, West Olive, 6-9 pm
- Green on Blue Quartet at Book Nook, Montague, 7-9 pm, \$5 cover
- Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at West Bay Holiday Inn, Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Kathy Lamar at Noto's w/ Bob Van Stee & Kevin Jones, 7-10 pm
- Mary Rademacher at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand 7-10 pm
- Brad Fritcher's MOODS at 18th Amendment, 350 Western Ave, Muskegon, 8-11 pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

- John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Scott Veenstra Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Mary Rademacher Reed at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand 7-10 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

- Greg Miller Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10 am-1 pm
- River North Jazz brunch at the Old Goat, 11-2 pm
- Hugye, Bevan, Schock Jazz Band at New Harmony Hall, 2-4 pm
- Jazz in the Sanctuary, Fountain St. Church, Robin Connell with Jeff Haas & Jack Dryden, 3 pm
- Randy Marsh & Friends at SpeakEZ, 7-10 pm, (Jazz Jam 8:30-10)

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

- **WMJS JAZZ GUMBO** with Walt Gutkowski and the Bridge St. Band at New Holland Brewing in the Knickerbocker Lounge, 6:30-8:30 pm, Free parking at Swift Printing & behind the Brewery with member pass \$5 members, \$10 non-members, students with ID \$5
- John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm
- Jazz & Gin - Brad Fritcher's MOODS at Long Road Distillers, 8-11 pm
- Jazz Jam at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-10 pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm
- Truth in Jazz Orchestra at 920 Watermark, Muskegon, 7:30-9:30 pm, cover, \$5 adults, students \$2
- Wally Michaels at Salt & Pepper, Lakeshore Dr., Holland, 6-9:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

- Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm
- JMM Jazz, the Black Sheep Baa & Grille, Holland 7:30-10:30 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

- Checkers Morton at the Book Nook, Montague 7-9 pm, \$5 cover
- Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at West Bay Holiday Inn, Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm
- Fred Knapp Trio featuring Dave Proulx at Bistro Bella Vita, 6-9 pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Kathy Lamar at Noto's with Bob Van Stee & Kevin Jones, 7-10 pm
- Mary Rademacher Reed at 18th Amendment, Muskegon, 8-11 pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

- John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Neil Gordon Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

- Mike Frost & Mike Hyde Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10 am-1 pm
- River North Jazz brunch at the Old Goat, 11-2 pm
- River Rogues Dixieland Jazz Band at New Harmony Hall, 2-4 pm
- Randy Marsh & Friends at SpeakEZ, 7-10 pm, (Jazz Jam 8:30-10)

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

- John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm
- Jazz & Gin - Brad Fritcher's MOODS at Long Road Distillers, 8-11 pm
- Jazz Jam at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-10 pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

- Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

- John Harlow at the Book Nook in Montague, 7-9 pm, \$5 cover
- Checkers Morton at Sandy Point Beach House, West Olive, 6-9 pm
- Randy Marsh with Jeff Haas Trio at West Bay Holiday Inn, Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

- John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm
- Kathy Lamar at Noto's with Bob Van Stee & Kevin Jones, 7-10 pm
- River City Jazz Ensemble at 2nd Congregational Church, 625 Cheshire NE, Benefit concert, free will offering, at 7:30-8:45 pm
- Marlane Lewis at 18th Amendment, Muskegon, 8-11 pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

- John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm
- Mary Rademacher Reed Trio at JW Marriott, 7-10 pm
- Noel Webley at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand 7-10 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

- Greg Miller Sunday Brunch series at JW Marriott, 10 am-1 pm
- River North Jazz brunch at the Old Goat, 11-2 pm
- Hugye, Beavan, Schock Jazz Band at New Harmony Hall, 2-4 pm
- Randy Marsh & Friends at SpeakEZ, 7-10 pm, (Jazz Jam 8:30-10)

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

- John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm
- Jazz & Gin - Brad Fritcher's MOODS at Long Road Distillers, 8-11 pm
- Jazz Jam at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-10 pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

- Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, Grand Haven, 7-10 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

- Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm
- Noel Webley at Rendezvous in the Amway Grand 7-10 pm
- Wally Michaels at Salt & Pepper, Lakeshore Dr., Holland, 6-9:30 pm

***BE SURE TO CHECK www.wmichjazz.org,
& the MUSICIAN'S WEBSITES for updates
and changes in the schedules!***



**May your world
be filled with warmth,
joy and good cheer...
Wishing you a
Happy New Year!**

We are seeking new board members! Term begins in June 2018

This questionnaire is meant to help us evaluate and present your credentials to the board. 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 return by mail to: WMJS, PO Box 150307 Grand Rapids, MI 49515

Attention: Nominating Committee

Signature

Date

Duties and Obligations of West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

The WMJS seeks Board members with fresh ideas and planning and organizational skills they will make available to help lead the Jazz Society

- Terms are for three years, with a two-term limit. (Note: A past Board member may return after a one-year layoff). Current members are expected to solicit new board members when necessary
- Members must be available to attend monthly meetings, currently held on the last Thursday of each month (except December)
- Members are expected to serve on at least one committee, such as Program, Publicity, Education, etc
- Members should be willing to share their particular areas of expertise toward achieving objectives, and to support decisions made by the majority of the Board. One must be well-informed of the Society's purpose, programs, and objectives

- All business affairs of the Society are managed and directed by the Board. The Board establishes any required rules and regulations
- Board members may not receive any compensation greater than actual expenses incurred on behalf of the Society or its activities
- Members should be available to promote, attend, and assist at the majority of Society events, which currently include the following:
 1. Ten Jazz in the Park concerts, staged on Monday evenings throughout the summer
 2. Seven Jazz Fall/Winter concerts, held on the third Monday of each month beginning September and ending in April (none in Dec.)
 3. New Vintage Jazz (5 concerts)
 4. The annual Musician of the Year event, usually held in May
 5. The annual Holiday Party banquet and concert, held in early December



Each Year WMJS gives its members the opportunity to send in a nomination that will be considered when the next Musician of the year is chosen. Please exercise your membership right!

Musician of the Year Nomination Form

The West Michigan Jazz Society invites its membership to send in their nominations for the 2017 WMJS Musician of the Year Award. This award was established in 2000 to honor outstanding local musicians and is given annually to recognize someone who has contributed over a period of time to the West Michigan scene in perpetuating a greater awareness of jazz. This year's recipient will be announced in February.

CRITERIA for nominations should include some, not necessarily all, of the following:

- what the person has done to help jazz grow in Western Michigan, they are recognizable as a jazz ambassador
- has been a special asset to WMJS in performing and or promoting our programs
- the amount of their participation in the jazz scene, public recognition, community involvement, and inspires others
- furthering jazz education, has contributed to youth programs or other venues that perpetuate jazz for future generations

Please complete and submit the nomination form below. **The deadline is December 15th, 2017.** You must be a current member in good standing to submit a nomination.

Fill out and mail to:

WMJS, Attn: M.O.Y. Committee, P.O. Box 150307, Grand Rapids, MI 49515

Or send completed form by email with "M.O.Y. Nomination" in the subject line to:

Jerry Scott. (jazzzyjerry@gmail.com)

Your name _____

Email or address _____

Your nomination _____

Why do you think he/she deserves this honor?

Remember to notify Kathleen Jones (katjonesjazz@gmail.com) of any change of address by the first of the month BEFORE the change will take place so you don't miss out on any issues of Jazz Notes!



P.O. Box 150307
Grand Rapids, MI 49515



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT # 953

Jazznotes

December 2017/January 2018

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 10th of the month.

West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board meetings are held the last Thursday of each month, 6pm, Cooper's Landing.

Shannan Denison – President.....616-308-6611

Kathleen Jones – Vice President.....989-859-3539

WMJS main number . . . 616-490-9506 Email . . . wmjs.gr@gmail.com

Peni Reed616-922-4190 Peter Johnson.....616-498-1482

John Miller616-949-7633 Jerry Scott.....616-638-5162

Eddie Tadlock n/a Tim Froncek.....231-557-1445

George Zuiderveen...616-240-4176 Noelle Frost.....312-507-9219

Non-board personnel: Kathi Meulenberg, Secretary & Jim Reed, Treasurer - 616-942-0239

Student \$10 ☐

Single \$25 ☐

Couple \$40 ☐

Donor \$75 ☐

Patron \$125 ☐

Lifetime Member
single \$250 ☐

couple \$400 ☐

If a dual membership, BOTH names must be listed

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone _____

Interested in volunteering? ☐

Receive JazzNotes by e-mail ☐ or by mail ☐

Detach and mail with check made payable to

West Michigan Jazz Society

P.O. Box 150307, Grand Rapids, MI 49515

616-490-9506

(or join online) www.wmichjazz.org

This Dec. 2017/Jan. 2018 edition of Jazz Notes was produced by:

Donna Kahny Editor

Writers: Gary Miltner,
Alex Pominville, Donna Kahny

LK Creative Design, Graphic
Design and Production

Jan Basham, Event Calendar,

Contributing Photographers:
Bruce Robey, Noel Webley,
Donna Kahny

Printed by Storr Printing

Website Design and
Maintenance by Van Wyk
Technology Consulting LLC.

December 2017/January 2018