



An All-Volunteer Organization Since 1986

**Jazz  
notes**  
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WestMIJazzSociety

Dinner/dance  
in honor of  
Dr. Connell  
to be held in  
May. Details  
coming soon!

### WE HAVE MONEY TO GIVE AWAY!

Part of WMJS's mission statement is to provide music scholarships for deserving students in pursuit of jazz education.

We are pleased to announce that the committee is ready to receive requests for 2017!

PLEASE help us get the word out, we encourage our members to share this scholarship opportunity with college age music majors! Form available at: www.wmichjazz.org, or contact any board member.

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## *Dr. Robin Connell 2017 Musician of the Year*



He taught Robin to play his favorites before her feet could even reach the pedals! Her mom played a little piano and sang in the church choir. At age 7, she began formal lessons. She studied pipe organ for a year at age 12, studied classical

West Michigan Jazz Society is pleased to present their 2017 Musician of the Year Award to Dr. Robin Connell.

Robin is well known in west Michigan's jazz music scene as a pianist, vocalist, composer and an educator. She grew up in Detroit and Northport, MI., but has lived and studied in New York, Kansas and Colorado. She holds a Doctorate of Arts in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Northern Colorado. However, her life's colorful musical journey began in early childhood where music was central in the Connell family. Her parents, Gilbert & Theda Connell, had purchased a piano two years before their first car. At family gatherings the piano was the "hearth" they gathered around and at the dinner table they "sang" grace, often in 3 part harmony. Her dad was a major influence on Robin; he played the piano every night after work, by ear. He even had a folk band patterned after the Weavers.

voice in high school and did the singer-songwriter thing during college playing her guitar. But when she heard Eddie Russ in a Grand Rapids restaurant (Les Ides), she got hooked on jazz. She took lessons with Russ at GVSC where Bobby Schectman was her music composition teacher and advisor. In her senior year she played in the jazz band under Dan Kovats who also helped her learn jazz arranging.

*continued on page 2*



*Robin & Dad at piano*



*Robin, Gilbert, Theda  
and brother Richard Connell*



*a 1979 concert, back row right is  
Kathy Swets, front row left is Robin*

The summer after graduation Robin moved to New York City. Norman Simmons was her first teacher/mentor there, teaching her to be a better accompanist. Simmons is mostly known for being the pianist and music director with Joe Williams and Carmen



McRae. Later she studied jazz piano more extensively with Andy LaVerne. Robin admits she studied arranging & composition more than piano while in 'the City,' with her interest in composition eventually leading to grad school in Colorado. While in New York, Robin studied big band arranging and orchestral writing with Don Sebesky, studied with Earl McIntyre with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and was sponsored by BMI for a two year jazz composition workshop with Bob Brookmeyer. She said the most rewarding times in NYC were the concerts with various bands, including her own, playing original compositions. She worked and played hard to survive, being versatile, able to play the piano, the keyboard, be a vocalist, an arranger and a composer, (sometimes all in one day!) paid the bills. She has stories about her almost daily gigs, which include entertaining folks such as Billy Joel, and Elizabeth Taylor at a restaurant gig she had on 46th street. She also

had the opportunity to meet famous personalities including Mick Jagger and Tony Bennett in studios or at a party, and she got to play Cole Porter's piano at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

In 1990, anxious for a break from city life, Robin began teaching summers at the Interlochen Arts Camp. It was at the camp that she met Paul Brewer and they married, in 1996, at the Connell family cottage in Northport.

At the wedding Paul's son, Matthew, was the 'best man' and Robin's father whistled 'Here Comes the Bride'. Robin hadn't had much interest in having children, but after "being a stepmom to such a cool kid", she changed her mind. Robin and Paul named their son 'Benny' in honor of one of Paul's musician friends, Benny Garcia, and two of their favorite jazz musicians, Benny Powell and Benny Golson. Matthew has now become a world-renowned jazz bassist and Benny is playing bass and saxophone at Northview HS.



When asked if she had ever played with anyone famous, she humbly answered, "I'm not that good! But I did, a few times, enjoy performing with jazz musicians I revered and was delighted to have the opportunity. A few names for whoever might know them: Al Hirt, Benny Powell, Eddie Henderson,





Ricky Ford, John Stubblefield, Harold Mabern, Lester Bowie, and Matt Brewer!" Robin tries to include a "young" player in the band whenever possible. She remembers being taken under the wings of older musicians when she began performing and says it is her turn to show younger players the ropes. Her latest endeavors include co-producing and hosting a jazz piano concert series at Fountain Street Church, co-directing the St Cecilia Youth Jazz Ensembles, and giving lecture-performances on the Great American Songbook.



She performs frequently with her own trio, or quartet with Paul, and as a sidewoman.

Her aspirations for the future? "I haven't given up on hoping to be a better pianist some day! I will continue advocating for jazz piano concerts in Grand Rapids whether I perform in them or not. Hearing jazz played on a grand piano is so much more gratifying than an electric keyboard! And I will continue teaching and mentoring the young ones. Watching them get excited about jazz just makes my day!"

## CD Release Party and Concert for Organissimo



WMJS is happy to announce that Mercantile Bank is sponsoring the successful local jazz group, Organissimo, for a special concert and CD release party for their new Beatles tribute album B3eatles on Wednesday, March 8th from 6:30-8:30 at Founder's Centennial Room.

There will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. (FYI, the brewery only serves beer.)

Members: \$5, Non-Members: \$10



Concerts will be held the 3rd Monday of each month, January through April, at the Guest House, 634 Stocking Avenue NW, Grand Rapids MI. Doors open at 5:50 PM for those with accessibility issues, for all others at 6:00. Concert time: 6:30-8:30. Cost is \$10.00 for members: \$15.00 for non-members. A limited number of students with ID will be offered a special entrance for \$5.00 which does not include food.

Laura and the Guest House crew will be serving up our favorite, Gumbo! The other option for March will be Classic Chili, and April the second choice will be Chicken Noodle Soup, and will be accompanied by salad and a roll. Dinner seconds may also be purchased for \$3 and there may be a dessert table and coffee. Second helpings, as well as dessert and coffee will be an additional charge that is not included in your entry fee.

The last time WMJS had the pleasure of hearing **Nick Ayuob and The Family** was in 2012, much too long ago! Be sure not to miss their **March 20th** performance!

“The Family” has been together since 1996. The members share a connection through the music programs at Grand Rapids Community College and Western Michigan University. In 1998, The Family



begin a 10-year steady run at the Spinnaker Lounge in Grand Rapids. The band became known for its willingness to take audience requests as well as “trying” songs and arrangements on the spot. Over the years, The Family has performed at a variety of venues and private events, including the B.O.B., the Blue Water Grill, Kirby Grill and Coral Gables.

Pianist **Nick Ayuob** is also the vocalist for the group. While he can be seen in dueling piano bars playing and singing selections from the likes of Queen and Bon Jovi, he is most happy singing tunes from the American Songbook in the style of Tony Bennett and Nat King Cole. Nick enjoys finding new songs and imagining how they may have been interpreted by Frank Sinatra or the other great male vocalists of yesteryear. He studied vocal performance at Western Michigan University. For his “day job”, Nick practices law.

**Chris Bookie** is a versatile drummer who has been playing since his high school days. His musical interests are wide, which provides him a large vocabulary from which to draw from as a drummer. Chris has played with almost every style of group, from musical pit orchestras to heavy metal bands. He is also a very talented vocalist who has the ability to blend with other vocal types. His ability to lend backup vocals along with his versatile percussion work has made him an “in demand” musician. Chris is also a music teacher in the Kenowa Hills School District.

**Patrick Hanlin** performs throughout the West Michigan area on both upright and electric bass. Recognized as a well-rounded bassist with over 20 years of performance experience, Patrick is active performing in a number of settings including pit orchestras for musical theaters (Grand Rapids Circle & Civic, Actor’s, Red Barn, and Saugatuck Center for the Arts), accompanying area vocal soloists and with local professional production companies. Outside of music, Patrick works with children, adults and older adults providing psychiatric and behavioral health services.

**Mike Lutley**, WMJS’s Musician of the Year 2015, has performed over 30 years on the instruments he has mastered. Mike is one of the most in demand players in the area -witnessed by how many times he has been on WMJS’s various stages with many different bands! Some past performances include the Bruce Early Big Band, Lena Horne, Johnny Mathis, Bob Hope and The Temptations. He also played in the Grand Rapids Symphony with the Manhattan Transfer, Mel Torme, and Frank Sinatra Jr. By day Mike works at Meyer Music as an Instrument Repair Tech.





## The Kat Jones Quintet April 17th

Kathleen Jones is a versatile singer/songwriter with two CDs to her credit. Her jazz and pop style has been featured in theater productions and other musical events for over 30 years. She has worked professionally in the recording industry beginning as a young child providing voice over work, and progressing into music composition and arranging, recording engineering as well as vocal arrangement. She has enjoyed sitting in locally with the John Shea Trio and Randy Marsh's Sunday night jazz jam at the SpeakEZ Lounge as well as Jeff Shoup's jazz jam held at Moriarty's Pub in Lansing. Kathleen is the current vice president of the WMJS and uses her passion for music to support local musicians and promote jazz in the Grand Rapids area.

Percussionist **Ian LeVine** has amassed over 40 years of musical performance experience. Known as a versatile and supportive player, Ian has appeared throughout the Midwest. Present involvements include playing with the Arlene McDaniel groups; pit work with the Lansing Community College; two monthly Lansing drum circles; co-producing Mike Daniels' annual LaBatterie drum show; being part of the classic rock/pop group "Updraft", and roots music band "The Further Adventure of Fat Boy and Jive Turkey", and drumming for acclaimed Michigan crooner Ryan DeHues. Ian can be heard on jazz CD recordings by The Arlene McDaniel Trio – "Timeless" (2009) and Southeastern Michigan vocalist Danielle Blanchard - "Jazz Portrait" (2001).

**Chris Kjorness**, bassist, began his career in New Orleans while attending the University of New Orleans. Learning from some of the city's most legendary musicians, including Ellis Marsalis, he soon found himself playing events and clubs in the heart of the birthplace of jazz. He holds a Master's

in Music from The New England Conservatory in Boston. Since moving to Grand Rapids, Kjorness has been performing with regional artists and leading his own band, River North, every Sunday and Wednesday at The Old Goat in Alger Heights.

Pianist, composer and arranger **Steve Talaga** was WMJS's 2008 Jazz Musician of the Year. He has eight compact discs to his credit, available on iTunes and at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com). Steve holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Jazz Studies, a Master of Music Degree in Composition, and a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast and Cinematic Arts. He is co-leader of jazz quartet "Mind's Eye"; and an adjunct professor of music at Hope College. Steve is pianist for many other groups and is featured on multiple recordings. He has performed with many jazz greats, including the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and the Grand Rapids Symphony.

**Mike Lutley**, saxes, flute & clarinet, holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a Master of Music in Woodwinds. Past accomplishments include being a Band Director for Grand Rapids Catholic Schools, working for Yamaha Musical Instruments for 23 years, and being WMJS's "2015 Musician of the Year". He performs with many groups including the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra and The River City Jazz Ensemble, many local groups including the Beer City Saxophone Ensemble and the West Michigan Symphony Pops Series. Mike's 2014 instrumental CD "Double or Nothing" is available at Schuler's Books and Music and online at CDBaby.com and Amazon.com. For his day job, Mike is a Repair Technician for Meyer Music.





## MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ - THE TONY REYNOLDS QUARTET- 1/16/ 2017

First, a big thank you to all who braved the inclement weather to join us at Monday Night Jazz!

Vocalist Tony Reynolds introduced his band, John Kirt on sax, Greg Miller on guitar, Robbie Jewett on bass and Mark Weymouth on drums. Tony also played an interesting instrument, a Roland "Handsonic", a hand percussion instrument containing hundreds of sampled drum and percussive sounds activated by hitting or slapping the 12 pressure sensitive rubber pads.

Tony began the performance by thanking WMJS for inviting him, then, with tongue in cheek, noted our fine dining experience using plastic plates and silverware; everyone howled. He opened the set with "Stella by Starlight" followed by a jazzy version of "(There's) Always Something There to Remind Me". "Blue Skies" was dedicated to the faithful audience for braving the weather. The tempo changed for a couple of love songs. "Embrace Me" sung by Tony, was breathtaking. You could have heard a pin drop as Tony's deep whispering send a chill down every spine, and Robbie's bass solo was superb. The group took a pause, kidding around with each other with some un-justified criticism, funky hair, hats or mustaches, all in good humor. The first set closed with Tony singing in Louie Armstrong's gurgling deep throated bass, "What a Wonderful World", which brought everyone to their feet with smiles and extended applause.

Second set began with "beachy" music, Tony suggested we close our eyes and imagine big straw hats, big flowers and a sandy beach. The band completed the mood with "The Girl from Ipanema". Tony's facial expressions while crooning "Georgia" made him appear to feel every word all the way down to his toes. After "Take Five" Tony explained how difficult this piece is to play because it was written 5 beats to the measure, not the traditional 2 or 4. The closing piece was "Fly Me to the Moon". Tony called it a "brisk" rendition, and that it was. The audience gave the group a standing ovation, well deserved for another fine evening of entertainment.



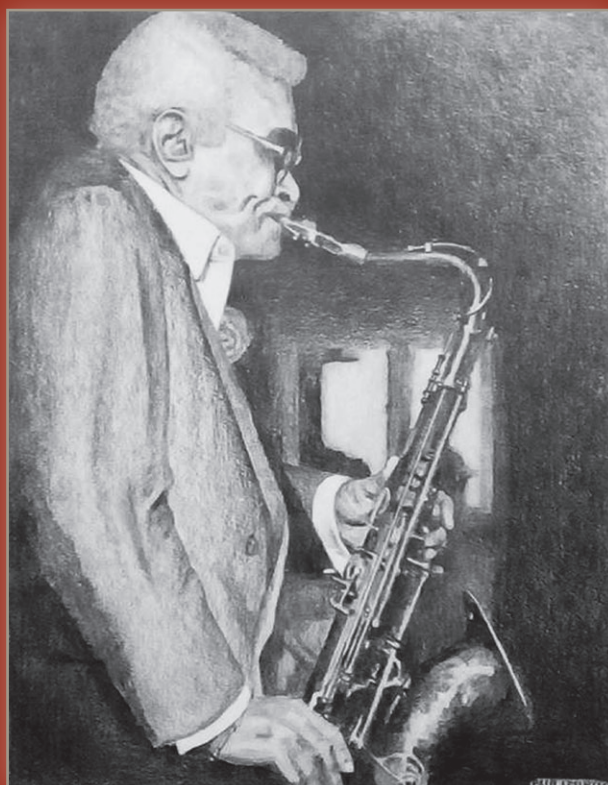
-Mary Catherine Vierheilg





Grand Rapids is blessed with so much talent! For many years photographer **NOEL WEBLEY** has provided the community with his breathtaking and poignant photography. **PAUL LESINSKI**, a favorite pianist in our area, and Noel have been long time friends. After obtaining special permission along with a few rendering lessons from Noel, Paul has adapted some of Noel's photographs as pencil sketch adaptations. This is a special relationship between Paul and Noel- as photographers mostly do not allow their photos to be "plagurized" by a recreation of the original.

This first one is of the late MEL DALTON, WMJS's 2002 Jazz Musician of the year. We thank them both for allowing us to share these with you, and will post another next month. ENJOY!



*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!*

#### **PATRONS**

Beacon Hill at Eastgate  
Peter Andrews

#### **DONORS**

Diane Hammerman  
Rick Reuther

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Katherine Gibson  
Jerry Gritzmaker  
Byron Kay Thomas

#### **RENEWING MEMBERS**

James & Kathryn Batema  
Ernie & Mary Beckwith  
Bill Coyne  
John & Sharon Cromartie  
Richard Davis  
Janice Erber  
Sally Fleming  
Carolyn Heines  
Kathleen Jones  
Richard Klinkner  
Jack & Patsy Krause

Gary McCourry  
Stuart Poel & Pauline Vanderhoek  
Mary Anne Rewa  
Bruce & Doris Robey  
Frank & Shelley Russo  
Peggy Serulla  
Eva Sitek  
Randy Smith & Ronda Pilczuk  
George & Gretchen Zuiderveen

The West Michigan Jazz Society was saddened by the passing of Mary Louise Morrison on Friday, December 30, 2016.

Mary was passionate about serving others and very active in the Grand Rapids community where she volunteered with the Butterworth Hospital Jr. Diet Kitchen Guild, Meals on Wheels, Porter Hills and many other organizations.



Mary loved her jazz music! She was one of WMJS's most dedicated and loyal members. Mary and her husband Jack could always be counted on to attend and help with our events. They hosted many jazz programs at their condo over the years and were generous contributors to our Scholarship Program and sponsored many WMJS concerts. Many donations were received for the scholarship fund in Mary's memory.

In addition to their involvement with WMJS, Jack and Mary were great fans and patrons, of the Four Freshman. They would travel across the country, and beyond, to attend concerts by this talented group of musicians. They were also very involved with the Four Freshmen Alumni Club. She was also a consummate bridge player, an avid reader, and had a great interest in art. She was a long time active member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, where she served as a deacon. She will be greatly missed by her loving family and many cherished friends.

Our condolences go out to Jack and their family, Mary will certainly be missed.

By John Miller



Bucky (IRMA) Love was a lifetime member of WMJS, and an annual event sponsor. She even "paid it forward" to sponsor the upcoming April Gumbo. She had a philanthropic generosity when it came to supporting the

arts and music in Grand Rapids. "She opened my world when she introduced me to the jazz scene in Grand Rapids", said longtime friend Mary Ann Pietras. Bucky loved a good party, meal, conversation, joke or argument. "She had a forthright way of speaking; you always knew where you stood with Bucky", added Mary Ann.

Bucky had a high soprano voice and loved to sing on the mic when invited to, and often was by Tom Hagen or Mark Kahny. She loved playing her grand piano until RA robbed her of that joy, but she continued to live life with zest. Her social calendar was always full and her list of friends grew weekly. The room always looked different when Bucky walked in wearing one of her many hats. A celebration of her life was held at WGVU studios on Feb. 11th. The food and wine selections were great, all picked according to Bucky's liking. Many local musicians played the music she loved; Tom Hagen, Bobby Thompson, Mike Lutley, Pat Sage and Gary Milner. And Mary Rademacher changed up some words in "They Can't Take That Away From Me" to "The way you drove those cars..." a tribute to Bucky's spunky lifestyle. She also sang "You Make Me Feel So Young", because she did!

At 94 Bucky kept active until only a few months before her passing. After suffering many years from RA, we are glad she is out of pain, but will miss her; Bucky was truly one of a kind.

By Donna Kahny





# March Jazz Around Town

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 6-9 pm  
Tavern House Jazz Band at Tavern & Tap, Lansing, 7:30-10:30 pm  
Terry Lower & Gull Lake Jazz Orch at Union Cabaret & Grille, Kalamazoo, 8-11 pm

## THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm  
Third Coast Ensemble at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7-9 pm, \$5 cover  
Jim Cooper Trio at Pinnacle Center, Hudsonville, benefit for Holland Hospital Foundation, 6pm

## FRIDAY, MARCH 3

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm  
Kathy Lamar Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Porto Bello, Grand Haven, 7-11 pm

## SATURDAY, MARCH 4

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm

## SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Mike Frost & Mike Hyde, Sunday Brunch series, JW Marriott, 11am  
Jazz Brunch at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 11am-2pm  
River Rogues at New Harmony Hall, Stocking & Bridge NW, 2-4 pm  
Randy Marsh at SpeakeEZ, with friends 7-10 pm, Open Jam 8:30-10 pm  
Jeff Haas Trio at West Bay Beach Holiday Inn, Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

## MONDAY, MARCH 6

John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm  
Open Mic Jazz Jam at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-9 pm

## TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, 22 Washington St. Grand Haven, 7-10 pm  
Organissimo with Randy Marsh at Moriarty's Pub, Lansing, 7-10pm

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

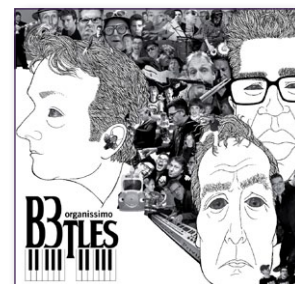
Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 6-9 pm  
JMM Trio at Black Sheep Baa & Grill, Holland, 7:30-10:30 pm  
Tavern House Jazz Band at Tavern & Tap, Lansing, 7:30-10:30 pm  
Jazz Mix Night at Union Cabaret & Grille, Kalamazoo, 8-11 pm

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 continued

Jeff Haas/Don Julin Quartet at Rare Bird Brewery, Traverse City, 8-12 pm

## Organissimo CD release Party

sponsored by Mercantile Bank and WMJS at Founder's Centennial Room 6:30-8:30.  
Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar  
Members, \$5.00,  
non-members \$10.00



## THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Green on Blue Quartet Jazz at the Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague, 7-9 pm, \$5 cover

## FRIDAY, MARCH 10

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm  
Kathy Lamar Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm

## SATURDAY, MARCH 11

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm  
Randy Marsh at One Trick Pony, 8-11 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Porto Bello, Grand Haven, 7-11 pm

## SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Jazz Brunch at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 11 am-2pm  
Mike Frost & Mike Hyde, Sunday Brunch, JW Marriott, 11 am  
Randy Marsh at SpeakeEZ, with friends 7-10 pm, Open Jam 8:30-10 pm  
Jeff Haas Trio at West Bay Beach Holiday Inn, Traverse City, 7-9:30 pm

## MONDAY, MARCH 13

John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm  
Open Mic Jazz Jam at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-9 pm

## TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, 22 Washington St. Grand Haven, 7-10 pm

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 6-9 pm  
Tavern House Jazz Band at Tavern & Tap, Lansing, 7:30-10:30 pm  
Terry Lower & Gull Lake Jazz Orch at Union Cabaret & Grille, Kalamazoo, 8-11 pm



# March Jazz Around Town

## THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Mary Rademacher Reed Trio at JD Reardon's, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm  
Checkers Morton at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague,  
7-9 pm, \$5 cover

## FRIDAY, MARCH 17

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm  
Kathy Lamar Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm

## SATURDAY, MARCH 18

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm  
Robin Connell Trio at the Garden Court in Amway Grand Plaza  
Hotel, 7-11 pm  
Neil Gordon Trio at Mixology, in JW Marriott, 7-10 pm

## SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Jazz Brunch at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 11 am-2pm  
Mike Frost & Mike Hyde, Sunday Brunch series, JW Marriott,  
11 am  
River Rogues at New Harmony Hall, Stocking & Bridge NW,  
2-4 pm  
Randy Marsh at SpeakEZ, with friends 7-10 pm, Open Jam  
8:30-10 pm  
Jeff Haas Trio at West Bay Beach Holiday Inn, Traverse City,  
7-9:30 pm

## MONDAY, MARCH 20

**WMJS Jazz Gumbo** with Nick Ayoub & the family at the Guest  
House, 634 Stocking NW 6:30-8:30 pm, \$10 members, \$15 non-  
members (Gumbo & Salad) (\$5 Student Special with ID,  
does not include food)  
John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm  
Open Mic Jazz Jam at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-9 pm

## TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, 22 Washington St.  
Grand Haven, 7-10 pm  
Truth in Jazz Orchestra at 920 Watermark, 920 Division,  
Muskegon, 7-9:30 pm, \$5 cover

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm  
River North Jazz at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 6-9 pm  
Jim Cooper Quartet with Robin Connell, Tom Lockwood & Randy  
Marsh at Cook Dewitt Center, GVSU campus, 12 Noon  
Tavern House Jazz Band at Tavern & Tap, Lansing, 7:30-10:30 pm  
Terry Lower & Gull Lake Jazz Orch at Union Cabaret & Grille,  
Kalamazoo, 8-11 pm

## THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm  
First Edition Jazz Band at Book Nook & Java Shop, Montague,  
7-9 pm, \$5 cover

## FRIDAY, MARCH 24

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm  
Kathy Lamar Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Porto Bello, Grand Haven,  
7-11 pm

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25

John Shea at Noto's, 7-10 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Porto Bello, Grand Haven,  
7-11 pm

## SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Jazz Brunch at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 11 am-2pm  
Mike Frost & Mike Hyde, Sunday Brunch, JW Marriott, 11 am  
Randy Napoleon Trio at La Fontsee Galleries, 833 Lake Dr. SE,  
see [www.adventuremusic.org](http://www.adventuremusic.org) for tickets, 3 pm  
Randy Marsh at SpeakEZ, with friends 7-10 pm, Open Jam  
8:30-10 pm  
Jeff Haas Trio at West Bay Beach Holiday Inn, Traverse City,  
7-9:30 pm

## MONDAY, MARCH 27

John Shea at Rockwell Republic, 8-11 pm  
Open Mic Jazz Jam at What Not Inn, Fennville, 6-9 pm

## TUESDAY, MARCH 28

Take Three Jazz Ensemble, at the Grand, 22 Washington St.  
Grand Haven, 7-10 pm

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Tom Hagen Trio featuring Rick Reuther at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm  
River North Jazz at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern SE, 6-9 pm  
Tavern House Jazz Band at Tavern & Tap, Lansing, 7:30-10:30 pm  
Terry Lower & Gull Lake Jazz Orch at Union Cabaret & Grille,  
Kalamazoo, 8-11 pm

## THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Noto's, 6:30-9:30 pm

## FRIDAY, MARCH 31

John Shea at JW Marriott, 6-10 pm  
Kathy Lamar Trio at Noto's, 7-10 pm  
Wally Michaels & Tony Reynolds at Porto Bello, Grand Haven,  
7-11 pm

**BE SURE TO CHECK**  
**[www.wmichjazz.org](http://www.wmichjazz.org),**  
**& the MUSICIAN'S WEBSITES**  
**for updates and changes**  
**in the schedules!**



# THE UNDERGROUND SERIES

For tickets to the Underground Concert Series presented by Adventure Music at LaFontsee Galleries, 833 Lake Drive SE, Grand Rapids, see [www.adventuremusic.org](http://www.adventuremusic.org). For directions to the venue (616) 451-9820.



Randy Napoleon

**Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m. guitarist Randy Napoleon leads his trio, including drummer Keith Hall and bassist Stanley Ruvinov. From his Michigan State University**

Faculty profile, Born in Brooklyn and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Randy Napoleon began his journey in jazz immediately after finishing his studies at the University of Michigan. Jeff Hamilton of the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra invited the young Napoleon to do a series of performances with them at the Hollywood Bowl. From there, Napoleon's career took off, first touring with pianist Benny Green nationally and internationally for a year, and then full time with the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. A three-year stint with crooner Michael Buble followed; Napoleon is featured on Buble's Grammy-nominated CD "Caught in the Act."

Guitarist George Benson calls Napoleon "sensational." Detroit Free Press critic Mark Stryker says Napoleon "plays with a gentle, purring tone that makes you lean in close to hear its range of color and articulation."

Washington Post critic Mike Joyce praises his "exceptionally nimble finger-style technique." Comparing him to Wes Montgomery, music critic Michael G. Nastos says, "he displays an even balance of swing, soul, and single-line or chord elements that mark an emerging voice dedicated to tradition and universally accessible jazz values."

Napoleon currently tours with the legendary singer/pianist, Freddy Cole, and is featured on Cole's 2009 album, "Live at Dizzy's Club: The Dreamer in Me." "He is the main arranger and the guitarist on "Freddy Cole Sings Mr. B," a 2010 Grammy-nominated release from High Note that features songs from the Billy Eckstine song book, as well as on "Talk to Me," Cole's 2011 album, and Cole's most recent album "This and That."

Today, Napoleon is one of the most sought-after guitarists in New York, where he is known as a forward-thinking musician with a passion for the jazz guitar tradition. In addition to backing the best, he leads his own bands, an organ trio, a trombone trio, a quartet with piano, and a three-horn sextet that includes organ, drums, trumpet, tenor sax, and trombone. He joined the MSU College of Music faculty in fall 2014 as assistant professor of jazz guitar.

- See more at: <http://www.music.msu.edu/faculty/profile/andy1#sthash.PPpXApN3.dpuf>.

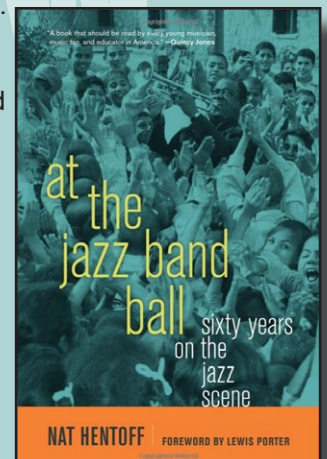
Nat Hentoff's "At the Jazz Ball", sixty years on the jazz scene" is a compilation of 64 essays, interviews and personal recollections of this internationally known jazz music critic and historian. Hentoff's impressive career spans several media, including newspapers, magazines, radio and authorship of over 30 books. "At the Jazz Ball", published at age 86, provides fascinating insights into the lives of jazz musicians and stories that can only be told by someone who has lived through the history of jazz in America.

Hentoff's subjects range over a number of topics exploring how jazz, education and social change are intimately interwoven. He writes about the havoc brought on by Hurricane Katrina to New Orleans, the birth place of jazz; and also how jazz lives and is taught in New York City. He speculates what a perfect jazz club should be. Hentoff digs into the roots of jazz from gospel, blues and other music. He explores what makes a jazz singer, and what constitutes a jazzman. He looks into the future of jazz

and is optimistic. This mosaic of stories and articles combine the pieces of history to tell the story of jazz. His very personal style of writing puts the reader on intimate terms with legends like Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong.

Quincy Jones was quoted saying "It is a book that should be read by every young musician, music fan and educator in America."

"At the Jazz Ball" is a celebration of life and music. Hentoff is a wonderful story teller; his book is informative and entertaining; it provides a perfect reading, reiterating the theme of jazz as "a mixed bag."



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# Jazznotes

March 2017

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.

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