

Scholarship news!



Caitlyn Tlachae



Thomas Tran

Each year the WMJS raises scholarship monies for deserving music students to attend college for Jazz Studies. Meet our 2025 recipients are Kaitlyn Tlachac and Thomas Tran. Read their bios on page 3.

2025 OKLAHOMA COLLEGIATE JAZZ EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Jordan VanHemert

Director of Jazz Studies
--
Northeastern State University

...
[@jvanhemusic](https://www.instagram.com/jvanhemusic)



Congratulations to WMJS board member, Jordan VanHemert!

Newsletter Preferences: Your Voice Matters

Seeking Membership Input on the Future of Our Newsletter

We are considering changing to an online only format. This transition would reduce our environmental impact, and lower costs associated with printing and mailing. However, we recognize that some members may miss the experience of a printed newsletter. It could easily be printed from your computer or delivered to your email if you desire. If not having a printed copy of the music schedule is of value to you, we could arrange that those be mailed.

Questions we need your input on:

Is the newsletter of value to you? If we continue to print the newsletter, do you want to keep seeing the schedules included? If we do go to

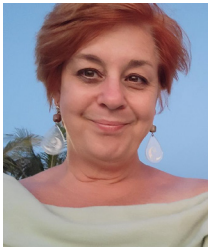
an online newsletter, would you be satisfied to just have the music schedules mailed to you?

What do you like most about the newsletter, what do you like the least? Do you read the entire newsletter? What articles do you read? The content now has articles about upcoming concerts and recaps of those same concerts. Should we eliminate the recaps? Shorten the biographies?

What changes or suggestions do you have to improve Jazz Notes?

It is IMPORTANT to hear from you on this. If no or little response is received, the next issue may be online only. Please email your answers to grjazz@gmail.com or mail them to D. Kahny, 11562 Norfolk Dr., Allendale, Mi.49401

Thank you in advance for your participation.



News from the Chair

The Jazz in the Park Summer Concert series wrapped up on August 25th with Houston Patton performing at Millennium Park on our last rain date (originally rescheduled due to excessive heat). This was a stellar performance, much appreciated by the crowds who just one week prior were chased away by rain. Sadly, Kevin Jones performance was cut short due to weather and unfortunately before the bucket brigade could gather donations for expenses.

Presently we are gearing up for our Awards celebration where we'll be honoring our Betty Forrest Jazz Ambassadors, Jim and Peni Reed along with our 2025 Musician of the Year, Rick Reuther. By time you read this we'll all be marvelling about the incredible music that night, led by John Shea Trio and including a lot of the past MOYs (Musicians of the Year). The Awards Celebration will function as our main fundraiser for the year.

The board of directors is still in transition after the terms of key board members, Jake Vanderhyden and Jim Reed ended back in July. I'm happy to report that current board members are picking up the slack and will be in the groove now sooner rather than later.

You may have noticed that Jazz Gumbos are on hiatus until the board can convene in October for a strategic planning meeting. The current structure at the Casino Club is a losing economic proposition mainly due to supplying food without having an RSVP system in place. Additionally, winter months are difficult to predict and low attendance also hurts our ability to host events and pay bands, etc. We will have jazz for our members we just don't know what it will look like yet for 2026 and beyond.

For 2025 you can put the Holiday Party on your calendar for December 10th. This will be at Noto's featuring our MOY, Rick Reuther and Friends. We will have a silent auction to help offset the costs. Please consider making a donation of an

experience, art, tickets or gift cards. Experiences offer the best returns.

Thank you all for your ongoing support to keep jazz alive here in West Michigan. I look forward to seeing you at our future WMJS events.

Shannan Denison
President West Michigan Jazz Society
Cell: 616.329.3143

*"Jazz washes away the dust of every day."
~ Art Blakey*

Save the Date

WMJS's Holiday Party




when
December 10, 2025

where
Noto's Old World Italian Dining

featuring
MOY, Rick Reuther and Friends

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 instagram.com/wmichjazz

Scholarships continued

Caitlyn Tlachae

Caitlyn graduated from Grand Haven High School and will attend Western Michigan University's Jazz Program this fall. Caitlyn plays the saxophone, including the baritone and also the flute. Her private instructor was Graham Koppi. Caitlyn was awarded the prestigious Bronco Merit Scholarship from Western University for her high academic grades. Her musical background includes being in the Buccaneers marching band all four years of high school. She was in the school's big band, their symphony, wind ensemble and pep band. In her sophomore year she was a member of the Holland Youth Orchestra, and in her senior year, The Hope College Jazz Arts Collective and the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's Birdland Jazz Combo. In 2025 she was selected by MBOA (Michigan Band and Orchestra Association) district 7 for the Honors Band.

WMJS's scholarship Chair, Jim Reed, stated that in his 15 years of being on this committee, and probably ever, Caitlyn, is the first woman awarded a WMJS scholarship. Until this year there were no women who even applied. Congratulations Caitlyn and best wishes for a long and happy career.

Thomas Tran

Multi-instrumentalist Thomas Tran plays saxophone, piano, drums and clarinet. His long list of instructors includes Michael Hamann, Lisa Sung, Jordan VanHemert, Walter Blanding, Marcus Howell and Max Colley III. While attending West Ottawa High School, Thomas was in the marching band, the West Ottawa Woodwind Choir and both their saxophone quartet and clarinet quartets. He was a member of the West Ottawa Jazz Combo, West Ottawa Jazz 1 and 2, West Ottawa Symphony and Wind Symphony. He also played in West Ottawa's Pit Orchestra for the school's productions of "Disaster" and "Music Man."

In 2024 he was awarded the University of Michigan Jazz Ambassadors and was part of the District All-Star Band. In 2025 he was in the Hope College Jazz Arts Collective and in 2025 he was chosen to be in the MBOA All state Honors Band. Thomas also played with the Holland Concert Jazz Orchestra, Big Band Nouveau and Tom Allport Big Band. His credentials are certainly impressive for a young man. Thomas wants to keep improving his skills and looks to the future to become an educator; he aspires to become a university professor. Thomas will be attending Michigan State University this fall. WMJS wishes Thomas to have a successful musical and educational career.

-Donna Kahny



July 21st Tommy Pancy Octet

This 8-piece orchestra certainly had a big band sound. The band members included Tommy Pancy on alto sax, Kevin Doll on tenor sax, Owen Timmerman on Bari sax, Dan Parish on trombone, Austin Muthyala on trumpet, Andrew DePree on piano, Jordan Richards on bass and Brian "Chopzilla" Allen on drums.

The band certainly catered to the WMJS crowd by playing many favorites. "Groove Merchant, which began with a driving piano solo by DePree, "Just Friends" which featured Pancy on alto, "Stolen Moments" with growling saxophone work courtesy of Timmerman, and the rousing number, "Caravan." The appreciative audience responded with lots of clapping and lively hoots of enjoyment.

Second set included "Take the A Train", "Lil Darlin'" and "Night in Tunisia," which ended with a trumpet



solo from Muthyala, then "Cottontail" where the rhythm section was smoking.

Tommy included a couple of his compositions, one aptly named "River City Strut." The group ended with "Sing, Sing, Sing, Sing," where Allen furnished the driving drum beats.

Tommy thanked WMJS for being a friend to him during his musical journey. He is busy creating his first jazz album. To help him succeed, please go to [tommypancy](#) on Facebook where there is a link to his Go Fund Me.

-Donna Kahny

August 4th GR Jazz Orchestra



We have all seen them many times and every time seems more impressive than the last. West Michigan is blessed with having so many outstanding musicians. This amazing group is the best of the best, with several of the players having been selected over the years as West Michigan Jazz Society's Musician of the Year. The GRJO are not just performers, they are Ambassadors for the jazz community, keeping Live Jazz alive even into the future. May it live forever.

-Chuck Piccard

August 11 Mark Kahny's Ensemble



A Jazz Collective Rooted in Soul and Story. In a quick backstage moment, pianist and vocalist Mark Kahny offered a glimpse into the heart of his ensemble, a group of seasoned artists whose chemistry is as rich as their sound. With Kahny at the keys, anchoring the rhythm with left-hand bass and expressive vocals, the band delivers a sound that's both classic and fresh, grounded in tradition but alive with spontaneity.

Joining him were Mark Weymouth on drums, providing a steady, intuitive groove, Terry O'Brien on tenor, alto, and soprano saxophones, as well as the electronic wind instrument, adding layers of texture and tone, Neil Gordon on guitar, bringing warmth and melodic depth,

Vocalists Francesca Amari, known for her radiant tone and seamless harmonies, and Amy Williams,

who channeled the elegance of Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan, inviting listeners into the romantic spirit of old-school jazz.

They created a sound that's both intimate and expansive, where each voice, each instrument, contributed to a shared musical story. Their performances were not just sets; they were conversations, full of nuance, memory, and joy.

Mark and I have known each other for over ten years, going back to his time at Mangiamo's. His artistry, generosity, and enduring love for jazz continue to inspire those around him, on stage and off. This ensemble doesn't just perform. They connect. They celebrate. And through every note, they remind us why jazz endures.

-Juan Daniel Castro



August 18 - Kevin Jones Quintet

As so often has happened this summer, an awesome group of musicians was rained out. This time at least we were treated to one set before the deluge. A treat for the feisty group of jazz fans that stuck it out until the concert had to be halted and everyone was soaked to the skin.

The first set was a mixture of Kevin's original and well-conceived compositions and a complementing array of popular jazz material that was appreciated by all. This first-rate group of musicians performed extremely well under less-than-ideal conditions.

Kevin and the rest of the quintet were hoping to do a second set, and the audience was hoping that they could. The sound team was ready to do their normal amazing job. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't willing to cooperate.

Hopefully the Kevin Jones Quintet can come back and treat us again soon.

-Chuck Piccard



August 25 - Houston Patton with Hidden Nomination

A Liberation in Four Voices. The quartet's members include Dylan Sherman (bass), Andre Crawford (piano), Brian Allen (drums) and saxophonist-leader, Houston Patton. They have been performing together for just a year. Patton recently graduated from the University of Michigan, the other three are from Michigan State.

Their sound is unmistakably modern jazz: harmonically rich, rhythmically intricate, and shaped by the same theoretical depth found in contemporary classical music. Drummer Brian Allen spoke with the same intentionality that shaped his playing: expressive, grounded, and generous. Allen described their sound as liberating, and it was—both emotionally and structurally.

Houston Patton leads with vision and humility, allowing each member to shine. As an interviewer, I'm drawn not only to the leader's voice but to the full ensemble's brilliance. In this group, every player is essential. Their music is a collective thesis—complex, communal, and deeply alive. Houston was awarded WMJS's scholarship award in 2021.

-Juan Daniel Castro



October/November Jazz Around West Michigan

Venue address is provided the first time it is listed, all events in Grand Rapids are free of charge unless noted
Schedules always subject to revisions, check online at www.wmichjazz.org for changes

Both October and Nov 2025 Repeating weekly music events listed here:

EVERY SUNDAY

- Fred Knapp Trio and Friends at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern, SE, 1am -2pm

EVERY MONDAY

- Mark Kahny at The Old Goat, 5:30-8:30pm
- John Shea Trio at Carolina Low Country Kitchen, 2213 Wealthy SE, 7-10pm

EVERY TUESDAY

- Robin Connell at The Old Goat, 5:30-8:30pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY

- Dutcher Snedeker at The Old Goat, 6pm
- Tony Viviano Duo at Drip Drop Lounge, 455 Bridge St. NW, 7-10pm
- John Shea at Social House, 25 Ottawa NW, 6-9pm
- Jazz 150 at Lucy's, 133 Columbus Ave., Grand Haven, 6-8pm

EVERY THURSDAY

- John Shea Trio at Sundance Grill and Bar, 151 Ottawa NW, 6-9pm
- Jazz Jam w/ The GRJO at Founder's, 235 Cesar E. Chavez, (Grandville Ave), Grandville 7-10pm
- The Jeff Haas Trio feat. Laurie Sears and Lisa Flahive at the Alluvion 414 E. Eighth St. Traverse City, honor cover at door, 5:30pm

EVERY FRIDAY

- Jazz150 at J.W. Marriott, 235 Louis St. NW, 6-10pm
- Third Coast Swing at The Old Goat, 6-9:30pm

EVERY SATURDAY

- Third Coast Swing at the Old Goat, 6-9:30pm
- John Shea Trio at Noto's, 6600 28th St, SE, 6:30-9:30pm

October 2025

Thursday, October 2

- Rufus Reid Quartet, Crawlspace Theater 315 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, 7:30-10pm
- LaJoye Quartet at Horrocks Beer Garden 5801 Beckley Rd. Battle Creek 5-8pm
- Mary Rademacher, Mark Kahny, and Cherie Lynn Hagen at JW Marriott, 6-10pm

Saturday, October 4

- Mary Rademacher Trio at JW Marriott, 6-10pm
- LaJoye Quartet at the Seasonal Grille, 150 W. State St. Hastings, 6-8pm

Sunday, October 5

- Eastown Swing at Harmony Brewing, 1551 Lake Dr. SE, 12:30-2:30pm
- Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra at New Holland Brewery, 417 Bridge St. NW, 1-4pm

Monday, October 6

- Big Fun at The Alluvion, 414 E. Eighth St., Traverse City, 6-8:30pm

Tuesday, October 7

- Terry Lower and Barry Ross, Martell's 3501 Greenleaf Blvd., Kalamazoo, 5:30-7:30pm
- Mike Lutley, Mark Kahny, and Charlie Hoats at Park Congregational Church, 10 E Park Pl. NE, Music at Midday, lunch afterward, 11:30am-1pm
- University Jazz Lab Band; Carlo De Rosa, Director at the Dalton Center Recital Hall, \$18, Senior \$14, Student/staff \$6 1300 Theatre Dr. Kalamazoo, 7:30pm

Thursday, October 9

- Mary Rademacher & Kevin Cavanaugh at Testa Rossa, 1017 Wealthy SE, 5:30-8:30
- University Jazz Orchestra w/ Scott Cowan directing at the Dalton Center Recital Hall Kalamazoo, \$18, Seniors \$14, Students/staff \$6, 7:30pm
- Jazz150 at the JW Marriott, 6-9pm

Friday, October 10

- Third Coast Swing Featuring Grant Flick and Chris Tabaczynski at the Dogwood Performing Arts Center, 4734 Campus Court, Fremont, \$20., 7:30pm
- Randy Marsh, Mary Rademacher, Mark Kahny at Horrocks, 4455 Breton Rd. SE 6-9pm

Saturday, October 11

- Rick Reuther with Chris Corey at Testa Rossa, 1017 Wealthy St. SE, 5:30-8:30pm
- Tim Johnson and Mark Kahny at Portobello 41 Washington Ave., Grand Haven 6-10pm
- A Trumpet Summit in Honor of Roy Hargrove feat. Jon Faddis, Maurice Brown, Freddie Hendrix, Ashlin Parker & Corey Wilkes, Educational Events 9:00 am -5:00 pm (Free to the public) Evening Concert, 7:30 pm Dalton Center Recital Hall, Kalamazoo Tickets \$18, Senior \$14, Staff/Student \$6

Tuesday October 14

- Terry Lower and Barry Ross at Martell's, 3501 Greenleaf Blvd., Kalamazoo, 5:30-7:30pm
- Mark Kahny at Park Congregational Church, lunch available after, 12:15pm-12:45pm
- Lew Russ at Sandy Point Beach House, West Olive 6-9pm

Thursday, October 16

- LaJoye Quartet at Horrocks Beer Garden, 4455 Breton, 6-9pm

Saturday, October 18

- Mary Rademacher Trio at JW Marriott, 6-9pm
- The Bad Plus at Alluvion, Traverse City, \$30 advance \$35 at the door, 2 shows, 7pm and 9pm

Saturday, October 18

- Mark Kahny with Tim Johnson at Portobello, 41 Washington, Grand Haven, 6-10pm

Sunday, October 19

- Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra at Founder's Brewing Co. 5:30-7:30pm 235 Grandville
- Bob Thompson, Mary Rademacher and Mark Kahny at What-Not-Inn, 2405 68th St. Fennville, 5:30-8:30pm
- Evidence Jazz Group at SpeakEZ Lounge 600 Monroe Ave NW, 7:30-9:30pm
- Eastown Swing at Harmony Brewing, 12:30-2:30pm

Monday, October 20

- Big Fun at The Alluvion, Traverse City \$10 honor cover, 6-8:30pm

Thursday, October 23

- Mary Rademacher & Mark Kahny at Testa Rossa, 4:30pm

Saturday, Oct 25

- Mark Kahny with Tim Johnson at Portobello, 6-10pm

Sunday, Oct 26

- Mary Rademacher and Mark Kahny, A Special Show! Testa Rossa, 4:30pm
- LaJoye Quartet at The Walldorff Bistro, 105 State St., Hastings

Monday, October 27

- Funky Uncle at The Alluvion, Traverse City, 6-8pm

Friday, Oct 31

- Gold Company Sneak Preview, at Dalton Center Recital Hall, tickets \$18, Senior \$14, Faculty/Staff/Student, \$6, 7:30pm

November**Saturday, November 1**

- Mary Rademacher Trio at JW Marriott, 6-10pm
- Mark Kahny at Lucy's, Grand Haven, 6-9pm
- LaJoye Quartet at the Seasonal Grille, 150 W. State St. Hastings, 6-8pm

Monday, November 3

- Big Fun at The Alluvion, \$10 honor cover at the door, 6-10pm

Thursday, November 6

- Mary Rademacher & Mark Kahny at Testa Rossa, 1017 Wealthy SE, 5:30-8:30pm
- LaJoye Quartet at Horrocks Beer Garden 7420 Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, 5-8pm

Friday, November 7

- Outside Pocket at Archival Brewing, 6266 West River Dr., 6-9pm

Saturday, November 8

- Charlie Hunter Trio at The Alluvion, \$30 advance tickets - \$35 at the door, 7pm and 9pm Shows

Sunday, November 9

- Big Band Nouveau at The Stray, 4253 S. Division Suite A 5-7pm

Monday, November 10

- Funky Uncle at The Alluvion in Traverse City 6-8:30pm \$10 Cover, 6-8:30pm

Thursday, November 13

- Bobby Watson Quartet at the Crawlspace Theater, 315 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo 7:30-10pm

Friday, November 14

- Annual Big Band Swing Tribute with the University Jazz Orchestra and University Jazz Lab Band at the Dalton Center Recital Hall, Tickets \$18, Senior \$14, Staff/Student \$6, 7:30pm
- Evidence Jazz Group at Horrocks, 4455 Breton Rd. 6-9pm

Saturday, November 15

- Mary Rademacher Trio at JW Marriott, 6-10pm
- Tim Johnson, Mark Kahny and Friends, Portobello, Grand Haven, 6-10pm

Monday, November 17

- Big Fun at The Alluvion Traverse City 6-8:30pm \$10 Honor Cover at the door

Tuesday, November 18

- The River Rogues at 10 East Park Place NE, with luncheon to follow, 12-1pm
- Thornapple Jazz Orchestra at Kloosterman's Sports Tap, 201 Jefferson St. Hastings, 7-9pm

Monday, November 24

- Jazz Combo Showcase at the Dalton Center Recital Hall, Kalamazoo, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 29

- Mary Rademacher Trio with Mark Kahny at JW Marriott, 6-10pm
- LaJoye Quartet at Walldorff Bistro, Hastings, 6-8pm
- Organissimo - 25 Years of Jazz with Soul at The Alluvion Traverse City, \$30 advance tickets, \$35 at the door, 7-9:30pm

Our apologies to member
Joni VanderTill
for misspelling her name
in the May issue!

Renewing members:
 Steve and Mary Anderson
 Dave and Kelly Arganbright
 Paul and Janice Braman
 Regina Johnston
 Karen Kamerschen
 Murray Leshner
 Lee Westervelt

New Members:
 Celeste Diehm
 Molly Kanzen
 Cath McGlynn

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Jazznotes

Newsletter for members of the West Michigan Jazz Society

October/November 2025

If you would like your jazz event included in our media publications please send your schedules to Donna Kahny, grjazzzer@gmail.com and Kevin Hubbard, nominations@wmichjazz.org by the **15th** of the month.

West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board meetings are held virtually on the 4th Saturday each month, and archived on the website.

WMJS main number . . . 616-490-9506

Email . . . info@wmichjazz.org

Shannan Denison – President, Laura Ohman – Vice President

Board members: Kevin Hubbard, secretary; James Sawyer, education and scholarship;

Jordan VanHemert, programming; Jan Basham, member-at-large

Other staff: James Reed, scholarship; Sam Needham, membership; Donna Kahny, media

This Issue of Jazz Notes was produced by:
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August/September 2025

If a dual membership, BOTH names must be listed

- Students** \$20 ☐
- Student Musician** \$20 ☐
- Single** \$35 ☐
- Individual Jazz Musician** \$35 ☐
- Couple** \$50 ☐
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- Jazz Band** (2-4 members) \$100 ☐
- Patron** \$250 ☐
- Featured Jazz Venue** \$250 ☐
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(or join online)

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