



Saxophonist Thomas Tran performs at Jazz at the Fountain on March 24, 2026. See more photos on Pg. 4.

Pg. 2 | Letter from the Editor

Pg. 3 | Jazz Around West Michigan

Pg. 4 | The Back Page Gallery

News from the Chair



Shannan Denison

April is a special month for our jazz community. **Jazz Appreciation Month** invites us to honor the history, creativity, and cultural impact of this uniquely American art form.

For the **West Michigan Jazz Society**, it's also a moment to recognize how fortunate we are to have such a vibrant local scene—and how essential each of you are in sustaining it.

Our **Tuesday Night Jazz at the Fountain** series opened with tremendous energy. We were thrilled to welcome back **Thomas Tran** saxophonist, who led an outstanding quartet that filled the room with life. Moments like these remind us exactly why we invest in emerging artists and create spaces where live jazz can flourish. If you missed the first night, don't worry—there's plenty more ahead.

This month, we're excited to feature **Mary Rademacher & Friends**, a beloved artist whose musicianship and community connection make her a perfect fit for the series.

As we continue to grow these offerings, I

want to underscore how vital membership renewal is to the sustainability of WMJS. Your membership directly supports:

- **Live performances like Tuesday Night Jazz**
- **Educational programming and scholarships**
- **Community outreach and partnerships**

Your support keeps jazz accessible, vibrant, and alive in West Michigan.

And there's an added reason to renew now: members will soon vote for our 2026 Musician of the Year—one of the most meaningful ways we celebrate excellence in our local jazz community. Your voice matters.

Continued on next page

News from the Chair (Cont.)

We're also delighted to welcome **Lynne Greening** to our Board of Directors. Lynne will serve as our new Membership Coordinator, helping us strengthen relationships with current members while welcoming new ones into the fold.

Looking ahead, we're proud to support jazz education in our region. On April 27, board member **Jordan VanHemert** will lead a special educational event at Mona Shores High School,

followed by a concert. Opportunities like this are at the heart of our mission—connecting students with world-class musicians and inspiring the next generation of jazz artists and listeners.

And just around the corner: **Monday night Summer Jazz in the Park** returns June 1 with the **East Kentwood High School Jazz Band and local All Star Jazz Band** kicking off

another summer of incredible live music in our community.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable community. Whether you attend a concert, renew your membership, or simply share your love of jazz with others, you help keep the music alive. With gratitude and swing,

Shannan Denison

President, West Michigan Jazz Society

Letter from the Editor



Juan Daniel Castro

You may have seen my name in the December 2025/ January 2026 issue of **Jazz Notes**. I joined the Board of Directors around that time, and since then I've taken on the joy and responsibility of producing and editing this publication. Live music has been a lifelong passion of mine. In my early twenties, I worked as a musician, and while I'm far from the jazz stage these days, my heart still gravitates toward intricate sounds — music that honors form while leaving room for improvisational freedom.

My vision for Jazz Notes is three-fold:

1. **A true monthly conversation.**

This publication should be a two-way channel between our community of musicians and listeners. We want to bring you the most up-to-date information on live jazz happening across West Michigan.

2. **A wider, younger, more diverse audience.**

You've likely noticed the growing movement of younger performers in our region. If we speak to a broader range of listeners — across ages and backgrounds — we can extend the life of this organization and keep momentum strong for local live jazz.

3. **A deeper focus on education.**

Over time, you'll hear directly from local jazz musicians in a podcast-style format. They'll guide your listening experience, offering insights on how to approach the music and how to expand your taste across genres.

This may sound ambitious, but I believe it's entirely within reach — and I welcome your thoughts. My inbox is open, and your feedback will help shape where we go next.

As we embark on this journey together, I'll be introducing a few new sections and features along the way.

Let's jazz it up.

Yours truly,

Juan Daniel Castro

- Students** \$20
- Single** \$35
- Couple** \$50
- Donor** \$100
- Jazz Band** (2-4 members) \$100
- Patron** \$250
- Featured Jazz Venue** \$250
(\$250 or equivalent product donation)
- Benefactor** \$500
- Sponsor** \$500
(\$500 minimum donation or equivalent product donation)
- Donation Only** \$_____

Become a member of WMJS

Name		
If a dual membership, BOTH names must be listed		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email		
Phone		

Interested in volunteering for the WMJS?

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)
wmichjazz@gmail.com



Jazz Around West Michigan

Venue address is provided the first time it is listed. All events in Grand Rapids and free of charge unless noted. Schedules are always subject to change, so please check with venue or artist. Changes will be noted by date*

Repeating weekly events

Every Sunday

Fred Knapp Trio and Friends at the Old Goat, 2434 Eastern, SE, 11am -2pm

Every Monday

Robin Connell 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

The Jeff Haas Trio feat. Laurie Sears and Lisa Flahive at the Alluvion 414 E. Eighth St. Traverse City, 5:30pm, honor cover at door

Every Friday

Jazz150 at J.W. Marriott, 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

May 2026 Schedule

Friday, May 1

Kw'est Unplugged (Jazz/Standards/Pop) at Rendezvous Lounge, Amway Grand Plaza, 187 Monroe Ave NW, 8:30-11:30

Truth In Jazz Orchestra at The Stray, 4253 S Division, 6-8pm, \$15/presale, \$20/door

Saturday, May 2

Mary Rademacher with Chris Corey & Cherie Lynn at JW Marriott, 235 Louis St NW, 6-10pm

General Assembly Big Band at Big Lake Brewing, 13 Seventh St, Holland, 6-9pm

Tuesday, May 5

Bruce Robey and Friends (Viviano/Connell/Hoats/Lutley), Park Congregational Church, 10 E Park Pl. NE, 12:15-12:50pm

Friday May 8

Werkema/Drost/Lutley Trio at the JW Marriott, 6-9pm

Tuesday, May 12

Lakeshore Jazz Connection Presents "Jazz Listening Party" at Borrowed Time, 22 Center St, Douglas, 7-9pm

Saturday, May 9

Cooper Bros. at the Rendezvous Lounge in the Amway Grand Plaza, 8:30 - 11:30pm

Sunday, May 17

Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra at Founders Brewing, 235 Cesar E. Chavez SW, 5:30-7:30pm

Tuesday, May 19

Truth In Jazz Orchestra at Teddy Spaghetti's, 513 W Pontaluna, Norton Shores, \$10/cover, students free

Saturday, May 23

Cooper Bros. at the Rendezvous Lounge in the Amway Grand Plaza, 8:30 - 11:30pm

Tom Allport Big Band at Unruly Brewing, 360 W Western Ave, Muskegon, 8-11pm

Tuesday, May 26

WMJS presents, **Jazz Tuesdays at the Fountain**, feat. 2025 **Musician of the Year, Rick Reuther** at Fountain St. Church, 25 Fountain St. NE, Doors open at 6:30pm, music at 7pm, \$10 members, \$15 non, beer, wine, and soft drinks for sale

The Back Page Gallery

Jazz at the Fountain – March 24, 2026
Thomas Tran Quartet



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Donna Kahny

Lynne Gorman Biernacki

Jan Basham

Kevin Hubbard

Graphic design:

Jonathan A. Barrera Mikulich

If you would like your jazz event included in our media publications please send your schedules to:

Kevin Hubbard

nominations@wmichjazz.org

by the 15th of the month

616-490-9506

info@wmichjazz.org