

Jazz notes

April/May 2013



An All-Volunteer
Organization

Vol. 28
No. 3

www.wmichjazz.org
616-490-9506
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The WMJS has it's Monday Night Jazz series on April 15, at Bobarinos, located on the second floor of the B.O.B., 20 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids MI. 6:30-8:30 pm.

Open seating. \$5.00 for students and members, \$10.00 for non-members.

Receive a WMJS gift if you join at this event.

Some free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the building. Order from the regular menu or from a special light menu. There will be wine specials as well.



Photo by Bruce Robey

April 15th

Multi award winner and WMJS's 2008 Musician of the Year Steve Talaga will headline our final installment in this series of Monday Night Jazz. Rounding out the trio will be Tom Lockwood on upright bass, Scott Veenstra on drums and special guest vocalist Diana VandeWater. Some of Steve's original compositions for the trio will be premiered this evening.

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Photo by Bruce Robey

As a pianist, composer and arranger Steve has been performing professionally for more than 30 years. He has released seven compact discs under his name: “Mirage”, “Yin-Yang”, “Basement Alchemy” (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 Nemece Foster), “Heartside Sketches” (featuring a suite commissioned by MAJIC of Grand Rapids) which won the WYCE-FM “Jammie” Award for Best Jazz Album of 2010, and most recently “The Shapeshifter,” which includes “Deadman’s Hill” for which he won third place in the 2011 International Songwriting Competition in the jazz category.

Steve is also co-leader of the jazz group “Mind’s Eye,” and performs with many other jazz ensembles. He has performed with jazz greats, including Kenny Wheeler, Terry Lynne Carrington, Wes Anderson, Marcus Printup, Michael Brecker, Randy Brecker, Bob Berg, Adam Nussbaum, Bobby Shew, Maria Schneider, Marvin Stamm, Jon Faddis, Phil Woods, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, the Grand Rapids Symphony.

He currently teaches music part time at Hope College in Holland, Michigan and has been on the music faculty at several area colleges and universities. He is frequently on the faculty at the Aquinas College Summer Jazz Camp and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Steve has a Bachelor of Music Degree in Jazz Studies, Magna Cum Laude, and a Master of Music Degree in Composition from Western Michigan University. He also received a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast and Cinematic Arts from Central Michigan University.

“We are so honored to be included in the calendar for this year’s Monday Night Jazz Series. The audiences for WMJS events are always so warm

and enthusiastic, it’s a treat for us to play for them. I’m especially looking forward to this performance because it will give me an opportunity to play a bunch of brand new music, which is always a thrill. Also, this gives the trio a chance to establish a relationship with vocalist, Diana VandeWater... one which I hope will prosper for many years to come. She’s such a dynamic, engaging singer and I’m really excited to work her talents into our trio format. She’s sat in with us a number of times and I was knocked out from the very first notes I heard her sing. Contrasting the new compositions with Diana singing some of our favorite standards will make for a very special evening. I can’t wait!”

- Steve Talaga



Diana VandeWater has been performing the past 16 years in places like Minneapolis, Austin TX, and Europe. Now it is our privilege to welcome her to Grand Rapids. While singing with her band in Austin, Diana opened for such artists as Basia, Stanley Jordan, Fourplay, Boney James, Lee Ritenour and George Winston. She has been sitting in at several of our local venues and is fast becoming a local favorite.

- Donna Kahny

**International
JAZZ
DAY**



APRIL 30th, 2013

Herbie Hancock and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz wants to remind all of us to celebrate International Jazz Day on Tuesday April 30th, 2013. They hope you will consider marking the day with an event, performance, shout out or email to your friends and community!



February Monday Night Jazz RECAP: Kathy Lamar and her Quintet, featuring jazz pianist Bob VanStee

For our Feb. Jazz Night, we learned that we would be on the 3rd floor rather than our usual spot in Bobarinos. In the tradition of our business, the show must go on. And when we arrived at the BOB we found a large venue, which was nicely set up, good acoustics, and a very adequate wait staff. The guests who went to the 2nd floor were quickly directed to the proper area. All in all, it worked out well.

Now, as to the show featuring Kathy Lamar: Anyone who has heard Kathy sing is aware of the warmth and feeling she gives to whatever music she offers. It seems she is giving a personal greeting to each and everyone in the room. This night was no exception, and the musicians with her made it all the better. Bob Van Stee on keyboard is familiar with all of Kathy's styles and deliveries. Bassist Robert Pace and Scott Veenstra on drums fit in nicely with the broad variety of tunes. As an added attraction,



Chris Lawrence joined the group adding his special talents on trumpet.

The show opened with a jazzy rendition of How High the Moon, followed by a swinging version of Summertime. Some slow ballads like The Nearness of You and If I Only Had a Brain changed the pace, but Bye Bye Blackbird and Route 66 put the beat back into the room.

After some lighting adjustments, the second set opened with a lively version of Lullaby of Birdland, where Robert gave a wonderful example of scat. Chris showed his horn expertise on Drowning In a Sea of Love. As the set went on, Kathy moved more into soul and blues tunes.

My favorite was an a cappella version of Stand By Me. You could literally hear a pin drop as the audience of more than 100 remained silently enthralled. Going through On The Boardwalk and Smooth Operator, Kathy closed with a haunting version of Misty. As an extra encore, Kathy then had a crowd of ladies dancing to a tune whose name I can't recall. But what a wonderful evening it was.

- John Miller



Photos by Bruce Robey

Letter from the President



NOTICE TO OUR MEMBERS

In an effort to improve efficiency and decrease expenses, we are changing our method of communicating with our members. We have a new computer program, Wild Apricot, which will enable us to do things that were not possible before. We will be able to send our bi-monthly Newsletter directly to your email address where you will be able to pull it up with a click of a button. You can then read it on line or print it out if you desire. Should you not have an email address, or wish to receive the Newsletter by post, we will use regular mail. However, we hope that most of you will try this electronic method, as it will save us both printing and mailing costs.

All memberships are recorded with a renewal month. So, near the end of the month preceding your anniversary month, you will receive a reminder by email, when applicable, and mail when necessary, that your renewal is due the next month and to please send us a check for the appropriate amount. About the 10th of the month following the renewal month, we will send a second notice to those whose checks have not been received. If we have not received a check by the end of that month, we will send you another letter indicating that we assume you no longer wish to be a member of West Michigan Jazz Society and that we will be removing your name from our active membership list. We hope that won't be the case!!

Please note that we have a new email address: wmjs.gr@gmail.com. If you are not sure that we have your personal email address, please send it to ours.

I know that there may be some glitches in changing over to this new format, but I hope that everyone can forgive them and advise us as to corrections. Being electronic saves us considerable costs and allows us to send out many more timely notices regarding events and activities of WMJS.

We ask for your cooperation and patience. Thank you.

John Miller
President, WMJS



**Make a Note of our
new email address!
wmjs.gr@gmail.com**



tune “Maiden Voyage”, and covering the gamut of crowd-pleasers.... “Bernie’s Tune”, “Killer Joe”, “You’ve Changed”, “Stella By Starlight”.... Of special note were the stellar Terry Lower arrangements of “Bernie’s Tune”, “Swingin’ at the Haven” and “Mambo Inn”. Pianist Terry Lower ripped through some impressive parallel octave solos that would have rivaled the piano cadenzas of late Beethoven! Rock solid drum work from Tim Froncek kept the group grounded even as the excitement level on stage peaked. Impressive flugelhorn work from Rob Smith on “You’ve

Changed” lent a tender ambience to the evening, and the ensemble horn work on “Pent Up House” was tight and swinging. IMHO, brilliant solos from Jeff and Terry on “Cookin’ at the Continental” were a highpoint of the night. And I did catch Rob’s clever paraphrase of “Old Devil Moon” in his “Killer Joe” solo! We expected no less from Chris who did his usual top-shelf job on his inspired solos and well-executed ensemble work with Rob. Nice work all around from these veterans of jazz from their Central Michigan University gigging days. A little greyer, a little more dim-sighted.... but they haven’t lost a beat.... or their chemistry playing together on stage. Fine work gentlemen!

- Mark Kahny

March 18 - RECAP: Monday Night Jazz @ Bobarino’s Chris Bickley and “Maiden Voyage”

The awaited return of Chris Bickley and company to the WMJS Monday Night Jazz series came to fruition this past week when he brought in his original college days group, “Maiden Voyage”, or as Chris called it.... “re-Maden Voyage”! Original members’ drummer Tim Froncek, acoustic bassist Jeff Beaven, pianist Terry Lower and trumpeter/flugelhornist Rob Smith joined Chris on multi-reeds and flute as they highlighted some tested and true contemporary jazz favorites. Kicking off with the group’s namesake, the haunting Herbie Hancock



Photos by Donna Kahny

SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!

April & May 2013

Music Schedule

BAR DIVANI - 15 Ionia NW 7-10 pm
Apr 2 Robin Connell & Paul Brewer
Apr 9 Tracy Mc Doughnon & Dave Hay
Apr 16 Lindsey Norton
Apr 23 Mary Rad Reed & Mark Kahny
Apr 30 Molly Bouwsma aka Molly Blue
May 7 Monica Da Silva
May 14 Lisa Townsend & Steve Talaga
May 21 Kathy Lamar & Bob Van Stee

THE B.O.B. 7 pm
Apr 11 @ Crush - Mark Kahny w/Boogie Woogie Babies
April 18 - Jimmy Leach Trio
Apr 25 @ Bobarino's 8- 10 pm
Big Band Nouveau-1st appearance
And In Crush Lounge
May 2 Diana VandeWater
May 9 Robin Connell & Libby York
May 16 Mary Rad Reed w/Kathy Lamar
May 30 Mary Rad Reed w/ Deborah Kay

BOOK NOOK-Montague 7-9 pm
Thursdays, Dave Collee & friends

FOUNDERS 235 Grandville SW, 5:30-7:30 pm
-GR Jazz Orchestra
Apr 7, May 5, First Sunday only

JU SUSHI 7-11 pm
Apr 5, 20 27, May 10, 18, 31
Mark Kahny

JW MARRIOTT 7:30-10:30 pm
John Shea, Every Sat
Apr 5 Steve Talaga & Rob Mulligan

MANGIAMO'S 1033 Lake Dr
Wed-Sat 7-10 pm
Apr 4, 12, 19 May 11, 24 Mark Kahny
Apr 5, 27, May 3, 30 Robin Connell
Apr 26, May 17 Kathy Lamar & Bob Van Stee
May 11 Robin Connell w/ Paul Brewer

NOTOS 28th St. Wed's 7-10 pm
Tom Hagen Trio w/ Rick Reuther
Apr 3 Mary Rad Reed
Apr 11, 25 Steve Hilger Trio
May 9, 11, 23 Steve Hilger Trio

PORTO BELLO'S Grand Haven 7-11 pm
May 3, 4 Mark Kahny

RED ROOSTER N. Muskegon
Scenic Drive Sundays 4-7 pm
Apr 7, May 5 Mark Kahny, Tim Johnson,
Mary Rad Reed

REPUBLIC Mondays 8-11 pm
John Shea

SPEAK EZ Sundays 7 pm
w/Randy Marsh

WEST SIDE INN Muskegon
Truth in Jazz Orchestra
Apr 9, 23 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Great Perch dinners @8 pm
Be there by 6 pm for a seat

WHAT NOT INN
M89/Fennville, Sat & Sun 7-11 pm
Mondays Jazz Jam @ 6 pm
May 12 Mark Kahny

Check websites for changes, updates and more!
Robin Connell www.robinconnell.com
Edye Evans Hyde www.edyeevanshyde.com
Mark Kahny www.markahny.blogspot.com
Mary Rademacher Reed www.maryrad.com



ALL THINGS JAZZ

Friday May 3rd at 7:30 pm - "Sizzlin' Hot-Cool Jazz" - at the VanSingel Fine Arts Center in Byron Center. **Aaron Diehl**, 2011 Cole Porter Fellow in Jazz of American Pianists Association will perform, joined by the Byron Center Jazz Ensemble. Call 616.878.6800 for more information or visit www.vsfac.com

June 3rd WMJS will kick off the **Jazz at the Zoo** series with the Northview High School Jazz Band. On the 10th, we'll feature Ann Arbor saxophonist **Paul VornHagen's Quartet**. June 17th we'll present our popular Grand Rapids based group headed by **Tom Hagen**. And trumpeter **Max Colley III's** septet will be playing a tribute concert of Louis Armstrong's music.

Thursday, June 20 - Sunday June 23, 2013 - The nationally acclaimed Elkhart Jazz Festival! A great way to swing into summer! **John Pizzarelli** will headline Friday night June 21st and The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with **Wynton Marsalis** will headline Saturday night June 22nd. More info at: <http://www.downtownelkhart.org/arts-entertainment/jazzfestival.html>

Sunday June 30 7:30-9:30 pm **Rick Reuther** and **Mary Rad-Reed** with the **Tom Hagen Quintet** Performing for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Canadian Lakes in their brand new music pavilion on the shores of Canadian Lakes. A special invitation to Jazz Society members and friends. Admission is free, details and directions at www.rickreuthersings.com

August 17th & 18th will be the second installment of **GGrandJazzFest**, a free event at Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids. This year's lineup will feature Michigan and national groups and will include a national headline act. Festival Founder Audrey Sundstrom said "Jazz has so many sub-genres - Latin, straight-up, contemporary and big band, to name a few - we'll celebrate this incredibly diverse American music art form during a very festive weekend this summer!"

More than 4,000 people attended GGrandJazzFest's 2012 event. More information on GGrandJazzFest - including the upcoming schedule and sponsorship/volunteer opportunities - can be found at www.grandjazzfest.org, and at the festival's Facebook and Twitter sites www.facebook.com/grandjazzfest and www.twitter.com/grandjazzfest.

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Tracy McDonough
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Marilyn & Jason Stansbury

RENEWALS

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Rafael Diaz
Mary Meade Fuger
Maarilyn Holmes

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William Van't Hof
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Jazznotes

April / May 2013

Articles, photos and comments are welcome! Send before the 15th of the month to:

JAZZ NOTES editor
Donna Kahny at miljazz@live.com
or (616) 745-5962

Information from another publication used in JAZZ NOTES are approved by the publisher and credited.

West Michigan Jazz Society Board Members

Board Meetings: Tues., April 30 & May 28, 7 pm at Watermark Grill



John Miller - President 949-7633

Pete Proli - Vice President 866-0147

WMJS's new phone number 616-490-9506

Craig Benjamin. 233-9829 Darryl Hofstra 648-5489

Jack Morrison. 949-6339 Donna Kahny. 745-5962

Barb Keller. 949-7633 Peter Johnson. 498-1482

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JAZZ NOTES is the newsletter for members of the West Michigan Jazz Society.

Your contributions are tax deductible.

JAZZ NOTES Staff: Donna Kahny, Mark Kahny, Jan Basham

Photography: Bruce Robey and Donna Kahny

Production and graphic design by LK Creative Design

Printed by Storr Printing

Our website is designed and maintained by VanWyk Technology Consulting LLC

April / May 2013

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

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