

## Michigan Jazz Festival Fundraiser



The annual Michigan Jazz Festival will be held on July 21 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. We have the complete schedule of performances inside this newsletter.

It is a free festival featuring the best of Michigan jazz, so funds have to be raised through fundraisers. Upcoming is the annual Father's Day Brunch on June 16 at the college featuring Sky Covington's *Satin Doll Revue* with a long line of area vocalists: Faye Bradford, Tasha Owens, Nina Simone Neal, Kimmie Horne and Sky Covington (left). The frequently-praised culinary program at Schoolcraft will prepare your meal. You can order your tickets by mail or online. Please go to Michigan Jazz Festival's website ([michjazzfest.org](http://michjazzfest.org)) for more information.

## 2024 Detroit Jazz Fest Preview

BY LARS BJORN

Wayne State University hosted this year's Detroit Jazz Festival Preview/press conference at the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center on April 10, with performances by Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band, plus Danilo Perez and the One-World Jazz Orchestra. I had the pleasure of listening to the Fellowship Band for the first time and was impressed with Blade's expert drumming and the soulful alto of Myron Walden.

The national lineup for the jazz festival was also presented; the local acts will be announced later. The lineup includes several well-known names like bassist, bandleader and former Artist in Residence Christian McBride. Others are saxophonist Joshua Redman, Jamaican born pianist Monty Alexander and his D-Day group, guitarist James "Blood" Ulmer and his Music Revelation Ensemble, the Bad Plus, Billy Childs Quartet with special guest



trumpeter Sean Jones, Latin Jazz Grammy winner trumpeter Charlie Sepulveda, pianist Cameron Graves the Planetary Prince from L.A., trumpeter Marquis Hill and Composers Collective, pianist Pablo Ziegler and his Quintet, a vibraphone summit with Warren Wolf, Joe Locke, Jason Marsalis, and Chien Chien Lu, the Zig Zag Power Trio with Melvin Gibbs, Vernon Reid, and Will Calhoun. Top of the line vocalists: Roberta Gambarini, Gabrielle Cavassa, Melanie Charles and Carmen Lundy. A group from Dallas, Texas called Ghost-Note will be this year's nod to funk and hip hop music. They are led by drummer Robert "Sput" Searight and percussionist Nate Werth, who both were members of Snarky Puppy. Their two albums have reached the top of iTunes's Jazz Chart.



**Left: Brian Blade**  
**Above: Myron Walden**



# Sencalar-Glassman Quintet at Schoolcraft College

REVIEWED BY IRA LAX

**O**n March 20, the Wednesday Noon Jazz Concert at Schoolcraft College featured the Sencalar-Glassman Quintet. Schoolcraft emeritus professor and SEMJA Board member Barton Polot introduced the group, noting that he had looked forward to hearing them play live after seeing their video entry for the 2021 Michigan Jazz Festival. The audience at the well-attended concert in Kehrl Auditorium showed their appreciation for the unusual pairing of two trombones — Altin Sencalar (upper right, tenor trombone) and Chris Glassman (lower right, bass trombone) — and rhythm section Bijan Taghavi (piano), Noah Jackson (bass), and Luther Allison (drums).



The repertoire gave nods to American and world music. “Bolivia” by Cedar Walton (arranged by Sencalar), “Impressions” by John Coltrane (arranged by Addison Frei), and “The Maze” by Herbie Hancock (arranged by Steve Davis) all showed wonderful collaboration and solos, especially by drummer Allison. The trombone duo showed great tone and grit in both solos and duet exchanges. The leaders displayed their writing chops on “28” and “Nuevo Dia,” and ended beautifully with Hoagy Carmichael’s “Stardust,” featuring a searing bass solo by Jackson. Sencalar now resides in Bronx, New York, while Glassman is head of Jazz Studies at Interlochen, and the others reside in the Detroit area. They don’t gig together very often these days, but clearly relished this opportunity, and the audience was very responsive as it was in full swing!

*photographs by Chuck Andersen*

## Blue LLama Happenings in May



The Blue LLama Jazz Club has a great lineup in May including Jonathan B Taylor's Quartet on the 2nd of the month and Dr. Prof. Leonard King & OOPAPADA — a perennial favorite at the Detroit Jazz Festival — on the 4th.

Grammy-winning vocalist Tierney Sutton and pianist Tamir Hendelman will perform on May 9, and Detroit's all-female group Straight Ahead appears on the 10th. Vocalist and arranger Alyssa Allgood and her quartet from Chicago perform on May 16.

Pianist Christian Sands (right), who records for Mack Avenue, performs May 17 with his trio plus saxophonist Marcus Strickland, trumpeter Sean Jones, trombonist Steve Davis, and guitarist Marvin Sewell and drummer Clarence Penn. Sands is touring while promoting his new recording, *Be Water*.



Former Oscar Peterson student Andy Milne has worked with artists like Ravi Coltrane, Cassandra Wilson, and Steve Coleman. He appears on with his group Unison on May 22. Milne was one of the teachers of Alyssa Smith, who hails from Wisconsin but now lives in Brooklyn.

Ann Arbor's own vocalist Joan Belgrave performs on May 18 with pianist Zen Zdravec's trio. She then returns to the LLama on May 24 to join fellow vocalist Kenny Washington on stage. Washington comes out of New Orleans and has appeared with the Joe Locke Group. Veteran Detroit drummer Bob Sweet will play Late Night on the 24th with his quartet featuring saxophonist Andrew Bishop and guitarist Max Bowen.

One of the most under-appreciated vocalists in the area, Shahida Nurullah appears on May 25 backed by Cliff Monear and his trio. A newer vocalist to metro Detroit, Adrienne Pisoni, is part of the Eastside Jazz Collective; the group performs on May 29.



Reedist Meg Brennan comes to the club with her quartet on May 30. The last Friday of the month, Detroit vocalist Kimmie Horne (left) will appear with her quartet.



## Michigan Jazz Festival

The 29th annual Michigan Jazz Festival offers a variety of live music on seven simultaneous stages. This free all-day event is Sunday, July 21, on the Livonia campus of Schoolcraft College. See [michiganjazzfestival.org](http://michiganjazzfestival.org) for more information.

### Open Air Stage

- Noon Chris Tabaczynski and the Wolverines
- 1:30 Sky Covington featuring Club Crescendo
- 3:00 Mark Lipson and the DCC Unity Octet
- 4:30 Mark Braun and his B10 Band
- 6:00 Dave Bennett Quartet
- 7:30 Kimmie Horne & Friends

### Rathskeller Stage

- 12:15 Third Coast Swing
- 1:45 J Rowe / Jordan Schug Sextet
- 3:15 Ryan Bills Organ Quartet
- 4:45 The Paxton/Spangler Band
- 6:15 Jeff Ponders II
- 7:45 UMPH Band

### Big Band Stage

- 12:15 Russ Miller and the Jazz Orchestra
- 2:00 MJF All-Star H.S. Jazz Band
- 3:45 Paul Keller Orchestra
- 5:30 CSO
- 7:15 Jeff Trudell Big Band

### Future of Jazz Stage

- Noon TBA
- 1:30 Cristina Aldo
- 3:00 TBA
- 4:30 Playing with the Pros
- 6:00 WSU Group

### Presentation Stage

- 12:30 Steve Wood Quartet
- 2:00 Russ Macklem Quintet
- 3:30 Terry Lower Trio – with vocalist Edye Evans Hyde
- 5:00 Anthony Stanco Quintet
- 6:30 Louis Jones Quartet
- 8:00 Aguankó

### Cabaret Stage

- 12:15 Olivia Van Goor & Scott Gwinnell
- 1:30 Christopher Kendall & Mike Harrison
- 2:45 Barbara Ware & Cliff Monear
- 4:00 Marvin Jones & Jay Valle
- 5:15 Lori Lefevre & Chris Buzzelli
- 6:30 Kait Wiegand & Scott Gwinnell

### Solo Piano Room

- 12:15 Bill Cessna
- 1:30 Steve Talaga
- 3:00 Zen Zdravec
- 4:15 Matthew Fries
- 5:30 Terry Lower
- 6:45 Jacob Hart

# WEMU 89.1

*The Choice for NPR...  
news, jazz and blues.*

## Schedule

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
5						PUB.JAZZ	
6	MORNING EDITION NPR news, information, and public affairs Local news, traffic and weather with David Fair					PUB.JAZZ	
7							
8						WEEKEND EDITION Scott Simon	WEEKEND EDITION Rachel Martin
9						THIS AMERICAN LIFE	
10	89.1 JAZZ MORNING Hosted by Michael Jewett					WAIT, WAIT... DON'T TELL ME!	SUNDAY BEST Nik Thompson
11						TRAVEL Rick Steves	
12	THE BREAK	PUB.JAZZ	THE BREAK	PUB.JAZZ	THE BREAK	FROM MEMPHIS TO MOTOWN Wendy Wright	GROOVEYARD Daniel W. Long
1	89.1 JAZZ AFTERNOON						THE IN CROWD Jessica Webster
2	BLUES TIME						BIG CITY BLUES CRUISE Joe Tiboni
3	ALL THINGS CONSIDERED NPR news, information & public affairs					ROOTS MUSIC PROJECT Jeremy Baldwin	
4						REVEAL	MOUNTAIN STAGE Larry Groce
5						ALL SONGS CONSIDERED	
6						JAZZ NIGHT IN AMERICA	JAZZ NIGHT IN AMERICA
7						MOUNTAIN STAGE Larry Groce	
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
1	PUB.JAZZ						
2							
3							
4							

**National Public Radio**  
Eastern Michigan University

# jazz events May



		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			

## ATTENTION all venue owners, musicians, and listeners

Please let us know about upcoming jazz events in the area!

- Write us at SEMJA  
3020 Bolgos Circle.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
- Phone us at 734-668-7470
- Submit information online at  
[www.semja.org/submit](http://www.semja.org/submit)

We will include notices if they reach us by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

## Aretha's Jazz Café at Music Hall

[jazzcafedetroit.com](http://jazzcafedetroit.com)

350 Madison

DETROIT 313-887-8500

### MAY

- 9 7:00 Alex Anest Organ Trio  
16 8:00 Bill Heid Quartet - with Pat Prouty, Jeff Shoup, RJ Spangler

### ONGOING

- Sun 7:00 Aretha's Jazz Jam



## Baker's Keyboard Lounge

[theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com](http://theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com)

20510 Livernois

DETROIT 313-345-6300

### ONGOING

- Fri 8:00 Ralphe Armstrong Trio - with Gerard Gibbs, Brandon Williams  
Sat 8:00 Ralphe Armstrong Trio - with Gerard Gibbs, Brandon Williams

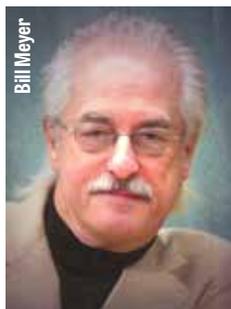
## Bert's Jazz Club

2727 Russell Outside in Eastern Market

DETROIT 313-657-8493

### ONGOING

- Thu 7:00 Bill Meyer Group - with Ibrahim Jones, Butter Hawkins



## Blue LLama Jazz Club

[www.bluellamaclub.com](http://www.bluellamaclub.com)

314 South Main St.

ANN ARBOR 734-372-3200

### MAY

- 1 7:00 Wyatt Forhan Unity Quartet  
2 7:00 Jonathan Baharal Taylor Quartet  
3 5:00 Sean Dobbins Trio  
3 7:00 Zen Zdravec Quartet 9:30  
4 7:00 Dr. Prof. Leonard King & OOPAPADA 9:30  
4 10:45 Nick Collins Sextet  
5 7:00 William Bennett Trio  
8 7:00 John Arbold / Pathe Jassi / Jesse Kramer  
9 7:00 Tierney Sutton & Tamir Handelman  
10 7:00 Straight Ahead 9:30



- 10 10:45 Paul Cornish Trio  
11 7:00 Morgan James 9:30  
12 11:30a Sean Dobbins Quartet - 2:00 featuring Athena Johnson  
15 7:00 La Tanya Hall  
16 7:00 Alyssa Allgood Quartet  
17 7:00 Christian Sands Trio 9:30  
17 10:45 Jacob Hart Quartet - with Michael Abbo, Christian Bush, Sam Melkonian  
18 7:00 Joan Belgrave - with Zen 9:30 Zdravec, Trevor Lamb, Nate Winn  
18 10:45 Nick Collins Sextet - with Dwight Adams, Vincent Chandler, Andrew Bishop, Rick Roe, Jeff Pedraz  
22 7:00 Andy Milne & Unison - with Andy Peck, Nate Winn  
23 7:00 Alyssa Smith Trio  
24 7:00 Kenny Washington - with 9:30 special guest Joan Belgrave  
24 10:45 Bob Sweet Quartet  
25 7:00 Shahida Nurullah & Good Company 9:30 - with Cliff Monear, Jaribu Shahid, David Alvarez  
26 7:00 Eastside Jazz Collective - with Adrienne Pisoni, Chris Mike, Brian Rose, Mike Shriver, Mike Williams  
30 7:00 Meg Brennan Quartet - featuring Aya Ishida  
31 7:00 Kimmie Horne - with 9:30 Maurice O'Neil, Raymond Pettway, Marcus Douglas, Tony Horne  
31 10:45 Lorenzo Rhodes Trio

## Cadieux Café

[www.cadieuxcafe.com](http://www.cadieuxcafe.com)

4300 Cadieux Rd.

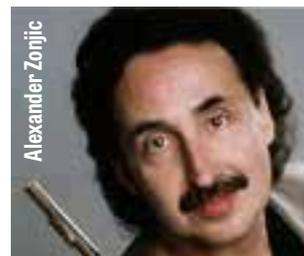
DETROIT 313-882-8560

### MAY

- 5 3:00 Carl Stone & the Detroit Jazz Factory  
12 7:00 Alexander Zonjic & Friends  
26 4:00 Planet D Nonet

### ONGOING

- Mon 8:00 Open Blues Jam - with Bobby East, Pat Smillie & Friends



## Cliff Bells

[www.cliffbells.com](http://www.cliffbells.com)

2030 Park Ave at West Adams

DETROIT 313-961-2543

### MAY

- 3 7:30 Sean Perlmutter's 9:30 Signal Quartet  
4 7:30 Smoke Jones 9:30  
5 5:30 Vincent Chandler 7:30 Experience  
9 7:30 Kevin Brewster's 9:30 Black Renaissance  
10, 11 7:30 Chris Plum 9:30  
12 5:30 Eat It Up Trio 7:30  
16-18 7:30 Leafar Village 9:30  
19 5:30 Leafar Village 7:30  
23-25 7:30 Straight Ahead 9:30  
26 5:30 Straight Ahead 7:30

### ONGOING

- Wed 7:30 Kasan Belgrave Residency and Session 11:00

## Common Grill

www.commongrill.com  
112 South Main St.

CHELSEA 734-475-0470

### ONGOING

Tue 5:00 Rob Crozier Trio



Rob Crozier

## Dirty Dog Jazz Café

www.dirtydogjazz.com  
97 Kercheval

GROSSE PTE. FARMS 313-882-5299

### MAY

2-4 6:00 Mark Hershberger's Detroit Jazz Project

9-11 6:00 Kimmie Horne

### ONGOING

Wed 6:30 Michael Zaporski

## The Earle

www.theearle.com  
121 West Washington St.

ANN ARBOR 734-994-0211

### ONGOING

Tue 7:00 Jake Reichbart

Wed 7:00 Jake Reichbart

Thu 7:00 Jake Reichbart

Fri 6:45 Robert Warren plus various

Sat 6:45 Robert Warren plus various



Jake Reichbart

## Imagine Restaurant

imagineaterestaurant.com  
401 South Lafayette Ave.

ROYAL OAK 248-633-8899

### ONGOING

Wed 6:30 Eat It Up Trio

## Johnny's Royal Oak

johnnysroyaloak.com  
215 South Main St.

ROYAL OAK 248-794-1261

### ONGOING

Sun 6:30 Sheila Landis and Rick Matle

## Kerrytown Concert House

kerrytownconcerthouse.com  
415 North Fourth Ave.

ANN ARBOR

### MAY

12 2:00 Ellen Rowe – with Sunny Wilkinson

16 7:30 Stave Talaga Trio



Ellen Rowe

## Lucille's Jazz Lounge

lucillesjazzlounge.com  
1447 North Summit St., Suite C  
TOLEDO, OH

### MAY

18 8:00 Jean Holden



Jean Holden

## MacKenzie Hall

windsorjazzconcertseries.com  
3277 Sandwich St.  
WINDSOR, ONT

### MAY

26 2:30 Dave Young – with Kasan Belgrave

## North Star Lounge

nstarlounge.com  
301 North Fifth Ave.

ANN ARBOR

### MAY

1 6:00 Philip Buchman Trio – with Rowan Tucker-Meyer, Jack Nissen

1 7:30 The Triumvirate

11 6:30 Belhaj & McIntyre

15 7:00 Mr. B and Bill Heid

### ONGOING

Wed 7:00 Hot Club Jazz

Thu 7:00 Piano Bar with Mr B

## Shield's

25101 Telegraph Rd.  
SOUTHFIELD

### MAY

11 1:00 Djangophonique – with Katie Smith

25 1:00 B10 Band – with Mark Braun



Mark Braun

## Venue by 4M

experience4m.com  
1919 South Industrial Hwy.  
ANN ARBOR 734-800-0128

### ONGOING

Sun 11 am Jazz Sunday Brunch

Sat 7:00 Saturday Night Jazz

## Weber's Habitat Lounge

www.thehabitatannarbor.com  
3050 Jackson Rd.

ANN ARBOR 734-665-3636

### ONGOING

Mon 6:00 Kevin Royer, Josef Deas

Tue 6:00 Kevin Royer, Josef Deas

Wed 6:00 Kevin Royer, Josef Deas

Thu 6:00 Kevin Royer, Josef Deas

Sun 5:00 William Marshall Bennett



William Marshall Bennett

## Zal Gaz Grotto

zalgaz.org  
2070 West Stadium Blvd.  
ANN ARBOR 734-663-1202

### ONGOING

Sun 5:00 Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings

Mon 7:00 Paul Keller Orchestra

Tue 5:30 Paul Klinger's  
Easy Street Jazz Band

# Upcoming Jazz Events

### JUNE

1 Kerrytown Stompers – with Pete Siers • North Star Lounge, Ann Arbor

1 Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet • North Star Lounge, Ann Arbor

2 Bill Frisell • Blue LLama Jazz Club, Ann Arbor

7 Chuchito Valdes • Blue LLama Jazz Club, Ann Arbor

12 Alex Anest Organ Trio • North Star Lounge, Ann Arbor

16 Michigan Jazz Festival Father's Day Brunch – featuring Sky Covington's Satin Doll Revue • Schoolcraft College, Livonia

29 Ramona Collins Quartet • Blue LLama Jazz Club, Ann Arbor

21, 22 Summer Solstice Jazz Festival • East Lansing

### JULY

21 Michigan Jazz Festival • Schoolcraft College, Livonia

### AUGUST

30, 31 Detroit Jazz Festival • Hart Plaza to Campus Martius, Detroit

### SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Detroit Jazz Festival • Hart Plaza to Campus Martius, Detroit



3020 Bolgos Circle  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 240  
Ann Arbor, MI

### Membership

#### Renewals

Greg and MK Barkley  
Lee Berry  
Michael Cogley  
Jeff and Ellen Dunn  
Fred Eurich  
Ronald Kramer  
Ken Kozora  
Ira Lax  
Len Lofstrom  
Rob and Quincy Northrup  
Bart Polot  
Ellen Rowe  
Judy and David Thurman

### The Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association

(SEMJA) was formed in 1987 for the purpose of promoting understanding and appreciation of jazz as an art form. The organization is comprised of professional musicians, jazz scholars, jazz writers, club owners, broadcasters and listeners. The organization operates through a Board and with a volunteer staff.

SEMJA is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

#### Inquiries

All mail should be sent to SEMJA,  
3020 Bolgos Circle,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
For phone messages  
call: 734.668.7470  
email: [semja@semja.org](mailto:semja@semja.org)

### Publication

The *SEMJA Update* is published monthly and sent to members at no cost. It is edited by Lars Bjorn and Piotr Michalowski with additional assistance from Barton Polot (production editor), Margot Campos (layout), and Jeff Gaynor.

#### SEMJA Board Meeting

The SEMJA Board meets normally on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our next meeting on May 21 will be in person at 3020 Bolgos Circle, Ann Arbor. Please call Lars at 734-353-3568 if you have questions.

### Board Members

Lars Bjorn, *President*  
Piotr Michalowski, *Vice-president*  
Jeff Gaynor, *Secretary*  
Kenji Lee, *Treasurer*  
Barton Polot, *Webmaster and Production Editor*  
Ron Brooks, *President Emeritus*  
Ira Lax  
Ingrid Racine  
Ellen Rowe  
Sandy Schopbach  
Linda Yohn

## SEMJA Membership Application

Mail to: SEMJA • 3020 Bolgos Circle.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

- New Member
- Renewal

#### Membership Levels

- Basic \$30
- Student \$20
- Couple \$40
- Patron \$60
- Nonprofit Corp. \$50
- Corporate \$250
- Lifetime \$500

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to SEMJA  Credit Card | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Exp. | | | / | | | CVV | | | |