

Edgefest 2022

REVIEW BY LARS BJORN

The 26th Edgefest kicked off in a unique way at Trinosophes in Detroit featuring the Cosmic Music Community directed by Ken Green. Edgefest has always had Detroit musicians on the bill, but this was the first time this festival has split its time between Detroit and Ann Arbor. The opening was a long line of Detroit's best in free jazz/avant-garde, and turned into an exhilarating event with



many highlights featuring dancers, reeds, bassists and percussion galore. Standouts were saxophonists Alex Harding, Rafael Leafare Statin, Tony Holland, bassists Joel Peterson, Jaribu Shahid, and Ed Coburn and percussionists Akunda

Hollis, Djallo Djakate, Ali Allan Colding, Ray Dumas, and Clifford Sykes (who also played a saw inherited from master drummer Roy Brooks). Shirley Hayden also contributed to the proceedings with her expressive voice.

By Thursday the festival was back at its base, Kerrytown Concert House, which filled up three days with eager Edgeheads. The theme this year was "Breathing Free," and there was plenty of horn-blowing on stage; the breathing was free even with masks on. Ann Arbor's Fortune Teller Trio led by tenorist Kenji Lee kicked things off with the strong bass notes and bowing by Andy Peck and the expert drumming of Jon Taylor. Drummer William Hooker and his trio started with a poem by the leader, "You and Me Again," which was a repeated phrase throughout interspersed by Hooker's heavy and commanding drumming. Some buzzing from an amp signaled the arrival of Theo Woodward, his chants and synthesizers, and guitarist Hans Tammen. I was impressed with how the three created a

ABOVE: Ken Green directing at Trinosophes

RIGHT: Saxes at Trinosophes (from left): Tony Holland, Alex Harding, Rafael Leafar

photographs by Lars Bjorn

fascinating wall of sound. Bassist Ken Filiano was busy throughout the festival this year and he always impresses with his solid sound and sense of rhythm. In a duo with veteran voice artist Jay Clayton, who got her start in the loft jazz movement of the 1970s, Filiano was the ideal partner.

They started with a piece by fellow vocal artist Jeanee Lee, who passed away

last year. The lyrics were organized as several dualities: no words; only a feeling, no questions; only a life, no secrets; only a being no journeys; only a dance. The standard "You Don't Know What Love Is" followed as a tribute to pianist and bandleader Connie Crothers. The evening ended with a fabulous set by pianist Matthew Shipp and his trio. I heard Shipp decades ago and was turned off by the barrage of chords; a lot of banging was my simple-minded interpretation.



It might be that he has reformed and become much more aware of the dynamics of his presentation. This time he was a master of nuance and in command of his trio. Michael Bisio treated us to a terrific bass solo, a real tour de force! As drummer Newman Taylor Baker shifted from brushes to sticks and finally to both hands which he used to drum on his own rib cage. Eventually, he picked up the mallets for the finale.

Friday started with the work of the Thomas family: Ann Arborite Kenn on the piano and multi-instrumentalist Oluyemi from the Bay Area on woodwinds, spoken word artist Ijeoma Thomas and Joel Peterson on bass, David Hurley on percussion and drummer Jon Taylor. This was a well-designed presentation appreciated by the audience. Michael TA Thompson's Quintet followed, with last-minute replacement Vinny Golia from L.A. as Piotr Michalowski had medical issues. The highlight of the evening was the Dave Rempis,

continued on page 2



Edgefest 2022

continued from page 1

Mark Feldman, and Tim Daisy trio out of Chicago. Violinist Feldman and saxophonist Rempis were a fine-tuned frontline even when Rempis used his baritone (in the upper register) rather than the alto. Daisy was a super-adaptive percussionist in the style of Edgefest alumnus Jim Black. It was great to get reacquainted with Feldman's versatile fiddling. The evening ended with the vocal mastery of Fay Victor and her Mutations for Justice project. She dedicated her set to trumpeter Jaimie Branch, who passed away recently. Victor's group walked in as a line with bells ringing and wordless vocals, but once on stage, they picked up the pace with Victor's booming voice reminiscent of a classic blues singer adapted to a Black Lives Matter messages: "Slow Degradation of Norms," "Any Means to Get Anywhere," "Trust the Universe" and "Brown People Out!" Victor's group included the wonderful violist Melanie Dyer, the powerful bass player Luke Stewart, and veteran drummer Michael Vatcher. I hope this group is recorded soon!

Dyer returned on Saturday morning in the WeFreeStrings ensemble with violinists Gwen Laster and veteran Charles Burnham (who replaced Billy Bang in the New York String Trio), the ever present Ken Filiano on bass, and percussionist Michael Wimberly. This is another under-recorded group!

The grand finale was held as usual at Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Most of the program was taken up by the works of Anthony Braxton, first by the composer in a duo with fellow saxophonist James Fei. Their performance was marred by serious sound problems probably due to the incorporation of pre-recorded pieces which led to serious feedback. An acoustic dectet from the University of Michigan under the direction of Andrew Bishop and Mark Hannaford fared better in terms of sound quality, but to these ears gave a deadpan reading of Braxton's compositions. It could very well be what the composer intended, but it did not appeal to this reviewer. In contrast, I was enlivened by Jason Kao Hwang's Burning Bridge ensemble playing a brand-new composition by Hwang which included some traditional Asian instruments (flute and pipa), electric guitar, and brass by trumpeter Herb Robertson, trombonist Dick Griffin, and tubaist Joe Daley all relying on the dynamic and infectious rhythms of bassist Ken Filiano, and drummer Andrew Drury. It was a great ending to an expertly designed festival — kudos to Edgefest Artistic Director Deanna Relyea!



TOP: Jason Kao Hwang's Burning Bridge at Bethlehem Church

ABOVE: Michael Bisio and Newman Taylor Baker; Jay Clayton and Ken Filiano

LEFT: WeFreeStrings (from left) Gwen Laster, Charles Burnham, Michael Wimberly, Melanie Dyer, Alexander Waterman, Ken Filiano

PAGE 3 (FROM TOP): Carolyn Fitzgerald, director of bands, Ann Arbor Scarlett Middle School, giving instructions to her students about the Edgefest Parade on the steps of Kerrytown Concert House

Anthony Braxton chatting with fans outside Kerrytown Concert House

Mark Feldman and Tim Daisy

Vocalist Fay Victor with (from left) Luke Stewart, Michael Vatcher, Melanie Dyer

Anthony Braxton and James Fei at Bethlehem Church

photographs by Lars Bjorn





WEMU 89.1

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

Schedule

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

National Public Radio
Eastern Michigan University

November



	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			

ATTENTION all venue owners, musicians, and listeners

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

- Write us at SEMJA
712 East Ann St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1502
- Phone us at 734-668-7470
- Submit information online at 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

350 Madison
DETROIT 313-887-8501

NOVEMBER

3	8:00	Pretty Stringz Live - with Candice Smith
10	8:00	Vladimir Cetkar Jazz Soul Funk Ensemble
15	7:00	Scott Gwinnell Jazz Orchestra
21	8:00	The Satin Doll Review - with Nina Simone Neal & Tasha Owens
29	7:00	Scott Gwinnell Jazz Orchestra

ONGOING

Sun 6:00 Aretha's Jazz Jam

Baker's Keyboard Lounge

theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com
20510 Livernois
DETROIT 313-345-6300

ONGOING

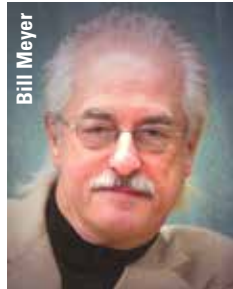
Fri	7:00	Ralphe Armstrong Trio - with Gerard Gibbs, Brandon Williams
Sat	7:00	Ralphe Armstrong Trio - with Gerard Gibbs, Brandon Williams

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



Bill Meyer

Blue Llama Jazz Club

www.blue llamaclub.com
314 South Main St.
ANN ARBOR

NOVEMBER

1	7:00	Rollie Tussing
2	7:00	Latin Jazz Wednesday: Urban Tropical
3	7:00	Keith Hall Trio
4	7:00	The Music of Chet Baker - with Don Hicks and Friends
5	6:00	Jason Stein Quartet
	8:30	
9	7:00	Latin Jazz Wednesday: LL7 Latin Jazz
10	7:00	Josef Deas Trio
11	7:00	Olivia Van Goor
12	6:00	Sean Dobbins Trio
	8:30	
17	6:00	Jordan Rattner Quartet - with Chris Thompson-Taylor, Aidan Cafferty, David Alvarez
	8:30	
18	6:00	Lady A Guitarist Slim Gambil
	8:30	
19	6:00	Tariq Gardner's Evening Star
	8:30	
23	7:00	Latin Jazz Wednesday: Armando Vega & 313 Orchestra
25	6:00	Vanessa Rubin
	8:30	
26	6:00	Gene Dunlap Band - with Nick Stone, Derrick Benford, Matt Callaway, Carl Holmes
	8:30	
30	7:00	Latin Jazz Wednesday: Aguanko

Cadieux Café

4300 Cadieux Rd.
DETROIT 313-882-8560

ONGOING

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



Michael Malis

Cliff Bells

www.cliffbells.com
2030 Park Ave at West Adams
DETROIT 313-961-2543

NOVEMBER

3	7:30	Josh Lawrence Quartet
	9:30	
4-6	7:30	Mike Malis Trio
	9:30	
10	7:30	Andrew Brown's Djangophonique
	9:30	
11-13	7:30	Leslie DeShazor
	9:30	
17	7:30	Gerard Gibbs & ORGANized Crime
	9:30	
18-19	7:30	Spare Parts (Chicago)
	9:30	
20	7:30	Luke Sittard and the Launch Pad Quartet
	9:30	
25-26	7:30	Ben Sharkey
	9:30	
		ONGOING
Wed	7:30	Noah Jackson and Full Circle
	9:30	



Djangophonique

Dirty Dog Jazz Café

www.dirtydogjazz.com
97 Kercheval
GROSSE PTE. FARMS 313-882-5299

NOVEMBER

2-3	7:00	Sean Dobbins
4-5	6:30	Sean Dobbins
	9:00	
9-10	7:00	Michael Zaporski
11-12	6:30	Michael Zaporski
	9:00	
16-17	7:00	Anthony Stanco
18-19	6:30	Anthony Stanco
	9:00	
22	7:00	Alvin Waddles
25-26	6:30	Alvin Waddles
	9:00	

ONGOING

Tue 6:00 Ron English



Sean Dobbins

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

Imagine Restaurant

imagineaterestaurant.com
401 South Lafayette Ave.
ROYAL OAK 248-633-8899

ONGOING

Wed 6:30 Eat It Up Trio

Kerrytown Concert House

kerrytownconcerthouse.com

415 North Fourth Ave.

ANN ARBOR 734-769-2999

NOVEMBER

- 11 7:30 Marion Hayden Sextet, Ocean: The Life of Poet Phillis Wheatley
- 20 2:00 All About the Trio – with Ellen Rowe, Paul Keller, Sean Dobbins: Celebrating Barry Harris

Lucille's Jazz Lounge

www.lucillesjazzlounge.com

1447 North Summit St.

TOLEDO, OH

NOVEMBER

- 3 8:00 Rob Crozier Jazz Ensemble
- 5 8:00 Ingrid Racine – with Vincent Chandler, Rick Roe, Josef Deas, Alex White
- 11 8:00 Steve Wood Quartet – with Phil Kelly, Ray Parker, Jonathon Blanchette
- 12 8:00 Bobby G & Friends Band
- 18 8:00 Jean Holden

North Star Lounge

nstarlounge.com

301 North Fifth Ave.

ANN ARBOR

ONGOING

- Wed 7:00 Hot Club Jazz
- Thu 7:00 Piano Bar with Mr B

Schoolcraft College

schoolcraft.edu/music

VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Rd.

LIVONIA 734-462-4403

NOVEMBER

- 2 Noon Jonathon Muir-Cotton and Expressions

Shield's

25101 Telegraph Rd.

SOUTHFIELD 248-476-2674

NOVEMBER

- 5 1:00 Pete Siers and the Kerrytown Stompers – with Dave Kosmyna, Ray Heitger, Alex Belhaj, Chris Tabaczynski
- 12 1:00 Sixth Edition/Lori LeFevre – with Kim Buehler, Lisa Young, John Johnson, Kevin Eikum

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

Wesley's Bar & Grill

1201 Adams St.

TOLEDO, OH

ONGOING

- Sat 10:00 [1st & 3rd] Quick Trio – with Zac Kreuz

Zal Gaz Grotto

zalgaz.org

2070 West Stadium Blvd.

ANN ARBOR 734-663-1202

ONGOING

- Mon 7:00 Paul Keller Orchestra
- Tue 5:30 Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band



Around Town

Steve Wood's quartet performed music of the Duke Ellington and Count Basie big bands at Schoolcraft College's Wednesday Noon Concert Series October 19. Saxophonist Wood was joined by Phil Kelly (piano), Ray Parker (bass) and Jon Blanchette (drums).

photograph by Jeff Dunn



Marion Hayden's Phillis Wheatley Suite

Detroit bassist Marion Hayden has written the Phillis Wheatley Suite, a musical work in seven parts dedicated to the life of poet Wheatley, a pioneer African American writer from the latter half of the 1700s. The suite will be performed by her sextet at Kerrytown Concert House, November 11 at 7:30 p.m. If you have not heard Hayden's fiery sextet this is a unique chance to do so.

Upcoming Jazz Events

DECEMBER

- 2 The Cookers – with Billy Harper, Eddie Henderson, Donald Harrison, George Cables • BlueLLama Jazz Club, Ann Arbor
- 3 Paul Keller Quintet • Lucille's, Toledo
- 3 Sky Covington – with Thornetta Davis, Gerard Gibbs: "Satin Doll Revue" • Shield's, Southfield
- 8 Sullivan Fortner • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
- 15 Alvin Waddles & Friends • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 17 Holiday Concert – with Dave Tatrow Quartet, Barbara Ware, Marvin Jones • Shield's, Southfield
- 18 Holiday Vibes with Cary Kocher @ Ellen Rowe's All About the Trio • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 31 New Year's Eve: Pete Siers – featuring Dave Bennett, Cliff Monear • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor

North Star Lounge Opens

A new music venue has opened in Ann Arbor, connected to the Detroit Street Filling Station next to the Farmer's Market in Kerrytown at 301 North Fifth St. on the corner of Fifth and Catherine Streets. It is named North Star Lounge and features a variety of sounds, from Bluegrass on Fridays to Hot Club Jazz on Wednesdays, a piano bar with boogie-woogie specialist Mr B on Thursdays and a variety of artists on Saturdays. Please go to nstarlounge.com for more up-to-date information.

Satin Doll Review at Shield's

Sky Covington leads several area vocalists for a show called "Satin Doll Review" at Shield's in Southfield on December 3 (1:00 p.m.). The vocalists — Thornetta Davis, Nina Simone Neal, and Faye Bradford — are accompanied by Gerard Gibbs on piano, Jonathan Muir-Cotton on bass and Terrance Neal on drums. Should be fun!



1306 Ardmoor Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-5348

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

**Membership
Renewal**

Marion Severs

**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,
1306 Ardmoor Ave.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-5348
For phone messages
call: 734.668.7470
email: 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. This month's meeting on November 15 will be held online via video conferencing (Zoom). Please call Lars at 734-668-7470 if you have questions.

Board Members

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

SEMJA Membership Application

**Mail to: SEMJA • 1306 Ardmoor Ave.
Ann Arbor MI 48103-5348**

- 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 ____