

## Recent Recordings by Area Jazz Artists

BY IRA LAX

It's a nice coincidence to hear new recordings from the veteran vocalist Sheila Landis (*Walkin' After Midnight* with Rick Matle) and the younger Estar Cohen (*Live at Willis Sound* with a quintet). While Landis has performed a great variety of material in her career, this recent date offers four originals in a studio and six other tunes live at Arts, Beats and Eats 2017, with a preponderance of pop on her plate. Cohen's effort gives us six original searching jazz pieces with her capable quintet before an in-studio live audience.

Landis grabbed me with her special Jimi Hendrix tribute on "Little Wing" and "Jimi Poem: Bold as Love," a heartfelt homage/col-lage using the outdoor Royal Oak crowd to bring a soulful, expressive Hendrix experience to life. Musicians Rick Matle (guitar), Kurt Krahnke (bass) and Karen Tomalis (drums) propelled a big sound. Her funk groove is strong on "I Ain't Got Nothin' But the Blues" and "Walkin' After Midnight," with nice sax lines from George Benson.

Estar Cohen's tunes explore a range of emotions about nature and relationships. She heads gently down a "Mountain Road" vocally exploring the uncertain terrain with Josh Silver on piano, Ben Rolston on bass, Travis Aukerman on drums, Dan Palmer on guitar and Patrick Booth on sax. "Endings" begins as Cohen ventures out alone, slowly joined by a bowed bass and other instruments. These cuts reward close listening with the risks they take.

Both Landis and Cohen display their chops in a wide variety of formats providing thoughtful and swinging listening.



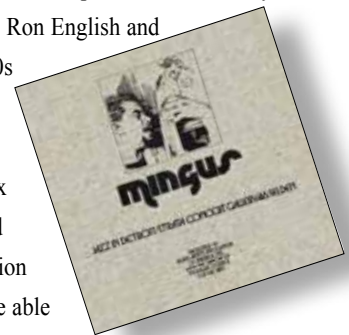
BY PIOTR MICHALOWSKI

Two relatively new record labels have been preserving the rich legacy of Detroit jazz — one focusing on the past and one on current artists. This month I focus on two of their releases; fuller overviews will follow. Also reviewed is a sophisticated large ensemble recording by Matt Endahl that features most of the top younger players on the Detroit and vicinity scene.

Due to the diligence and persistence of Amir Abdullah, BBE has begun to reissue records from the long out-of-print Strata catalog, beginning with classic albums by Bert Myrick, Lyman Woodard and the Contemporary Jazz Quintet (CJQ). The label was part of the Strata Corporation, founded by Kenn Cox, Charles Moore, Ron English and Bud Spangler in the late 60s in Detroit, rooted in self-determination and artistic self-reliance. Spangler, Cox and Moore were associated with local public radio station WDET and as a result were able to broadcast concerts taking place at the Strata Gallery, which was located at 46 Selden St., between Woodward and Cass. At a time when work was hard to find for jazz musicians, the Gallery produced concerts by its members, including Lyman Woodard and CJQ, but also by major touring artists such as Keith Jarrett and Ornette Coleman. In February of 1973, seven months into its existence, the venue hosted a five-day run by the Charles Mingus quintet that was broadcast on WDET; the music was recorded, and tapes of the performances rested with Roy Brooks' widow Hermine and brought to release by Abdullah as *Jazz in Detroit*.

During the second half of 1972, the Mingus quintet was in

*continued on page 8*





## Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe

is proud to announce its  
Schedule of Performers for  
February 2019:

### Randy Napoleon

Guitarist

### Rob Crozer

Bassist

### Anthony Stanco

Trumpeter

### Dave Bennett

Clarinetist

### Gerard Gibbs

Pianist

*The best Jazz and Cuisine is at the  
Dirty Dog! Lunch menu featuring  
a great selection of burgers,  
sandwiches, and entré salads.*

For more information visit:

**DirtyDogJazz.com**

*Reservations highly recommended.*

*For reservations call:*

**313-882-5299**

**Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**

97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

## Blue LLama Jazz Club to Open in Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor has been without a dedicated jazz club since the Bird of Paradise and the Firefly closed in 2004 and 2009 respectively. It looks like the Blue LLama Jazz Club will be starting a new chapter in Ann Arbor's jazz history this spring.

On March 23 the  
Blue LLama will open  
with the Mathias Eick  
Quintet for two shows:



7:00 and 9:30. Eick is a trumpeter born in 1979, and his most recent album *Ravensburg* on ECM features a sextet of Norwegian musicians playing compositions by Eick.

The club has scheduled saxophonist Ravi Coltrane on April 12 & 13 and pianist Ellis Marsalis on April 5 & 6. Trumpeter Nicholas Payton's Trio is scheduled for May 10 & 11.

Blue LLama is located at 314 South Main St. in downtown Ann Arbor and will feature fine small-plate dishes prepared by Chef Louis Goral. Artistic Director for the club is Ann Arbor's own Dave Sharp, bassist, bandleader, and organizer of the A2 Jazz Fest. The club's web page is [www.bluellamaclub.com](http://www.bluellamaclub.com).

### Jaime Branch and Fred Lonberg-Holm to Detroit

Last year's Edgefest in Ann Arbor celebrated the Chicago Avant Garde jazz scene. Trumpeter Jaimie Branch and cellist Fred Lonberg-Holm were two of the participants. They return to the area with a performance at Trinosophes in Detroit on February 11. Both are masters of their instruments and have many challenging musical ideas.

Trinosophes is located at 1454 Gratiot in the Eastern Market area of Detroit. There is ample parking behind the building.

*photograph by Lars Bjorn*



**Jaime Branch**



## Kerrytown Concert House and Cliff Bells feature Sean Dobbins

Drummer Sean Dobbins is one of the busiest of Detroit area musicians. He plays Cliff Bells in Detroit on February 23 & 24, and Kerrytown Concert House in Ann Arbor on February 9 & 24. On February 9 he leads the new Tad Weed Jazz Masters Series with a tribute to Ron Brooks. Brooks has been a major figure in jazz in the area since the 1960s and led a trio with pianists Tad Weed and Rick Roe for several years at his Bird of Paradise jazz club in downtown Ann Arbor. Weed has passed away but Roe is very active and will be the pianist for this celebration of Ron Brooks. Bassists Kurt Krahnke and Brooks will also be on hand. Dobbins will also present another chapter in his Rising Stars series on February 24. Dobbins was mentored by trumpeter Louis Smith when he started his career and is now pay-

ing back by sponsoring a number of young talents.

Other concerts this month at KCH are the Joe Policastro Trio on February 16 and boogie master Mr B's annual Birthday Bounce on February 23. The Policastro trio is Chicago based and features bassist Policastro with guitarist Dave Miller and drummer Mikel Avery. The trio has released four albums to date.

In early March KCH welcomes back the PD9 (Planet D Nonet) Sun Band in a tribute to bandleader Sun Ra (March 2), one of the early inspirations of drummer RJ Spangler and trumpeter James O'Donnell as they created Planet D. On March 3 British pianist Gwilym Simcock returns to the KCH Steinway with his mix of jazz and classical music.

*photograph by Lars Bjorn*



# WEMU 89.1

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

## Schedule

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
5						JAZZ24	JAZZ24
6							PIANO JAZZ
7						NEW JAZZ ARCHIVE	REVEAL
8						WEEKEND EDITION Scott Simon	WEEKEND EDITION Rachel Martin
9						THIS AMERICAN LIFE	SUNDAY BEST Nik Thompson
10						89.1 JAZZ MORNING Hosted by Michael Jewett	
11						WAIT, WAIT... DON'T TELL ME!	
12						ASK ME ANOTHER	
1						JAZZ24	GROOVEYARD Daniel Long
2						89.1 JAZZ AFTERNOON Hosted by Michael Jewett	THE IN CROWD Jessica Webster
3							BIG CITY BLUES CRUISE Joe Tiboni
4						ALL THINGS CONSIDERED NPR news, information & public affairs	ROOTS MUSIC PROJECT Jeremy Baldwin
5							
6							
7						REVEAL	CUBAN FANTASY Marc Taras
8						ALL SONGS CONSIDERED	MOUNTAIN STAGE Larry Groce
9						JAZZ NIGHT IN AMERICA	GLOBAL VILLAGE JAZZ NIGHT IN AMERICA
10						MOUNTAIN STAGE Larry Groce	STRANGE CURRENCY
11							
12						JAZZ24	
1							
2							
3							
4							

**National Public Radio**  
Eastern Michigan University

# jazz events

# February



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17	18	19	20	21	22	23					
24	25	26	27	28							

## 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](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 Ave.  
DETROIT 313-887-8532

### ONGOING

Sun 6:00 Jam Session with Scott Gwinnett Trio



## Amore Da Roma

[www.amoredaroma.com](http://www.amoredaroma.com)  
3401 Riopelle  
DETROIT 313-831-5940

### ONGOING

Sun 5:00 Heidi Hepler & Michèle Ramo

## Ann Arbor Distilling Co

[www.annarbordistilling.com](http://www.annarbordistilling.com)  
220 Felch St.  
ANN ARBOR 734-882-2169

### ONGOING

Sun 5:30 Brennan Andes Trio

## The Ark

[www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org)  
316 South Main St.  
ANN ARBOR 248-645-6666

### FEBRUARY

20 8:00 Ladysmith Black Mambazo  
24 7:30 Gina Chavez  
26 8:00 Estar Cohen: New Jazz Songwriting

## Bacco Ristorante

[www.baccoristorante.com](http://www.baccoristorante.com)  
29410 Northwestern Hwy.  
SOUTHFIELD 248-356-6600

### ONGOING

Wed 6:30 Michèle Ramo



## Baker's Keyboard Lounge

[www.theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com](http://www.theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com)  
20510 Livernois  
DETROIT 313-345-6300

### ONGOING

Tue 8:00 313 The Live Experience, Isis Damil  
Wed 8:00 OGD — featuring Gerard Gibbs, Perry Hughes, Gene Dunlap and Sky Covington

## Bert's Jazz Café

[www.bertsentertainment.com](http://www.bertsentertainment.com)  
2727 Russell (in the Eastern Market)  
DETROIT 313-567-2030

### ONGOING

Thu 8:30 Open Jam — with RGB Trio (Bill Meyer, Ralph Armstrong, Gayelynn McKinney)  
Fri 9:30 John Douglas Jazz Quartet  
Sat 9:30 Blues with Champagne and her Band

## Bert's Motown Bistro

[www.bertsentertainment.com](http://www.bertsentertainment.com)  
2735 Russell St.  
DETROIT 313-567-2811

### ONGOING

Wed 8:30 Piano/Vocal Jazz Duo — with Bill Meyer on piano and various vocalists



## Black Lotus Brewing Co.

[www.blacklotusbrewingco.com](http://www.blacklotusbrewingco.com)  
1 E. 14 Mile  
CLAWSON 248-577-1878

### ONGOING

Mon 9:00 Open Mic — with Brando  
Tue 9:00 Music Brazilian  
Wed 9:30 Jam session — led by James Hughes & Jimmy Smith

## Blue Goose Inn

[www.bluegooseinn.net](http://www.bluegooseinn.net)  
28911 Jefferson between 11 & 12 Mile  
ST. CLAIR SHORES 586-296-0950

### ONGOING

Wed 8:00 Open Jam with various bands  
Thu 6:00 [2nd] Riverboat Ramblers — featuring Patrick MacCarroll, Bob Ervin and the gang

## The Blue Nile

[www.bluenilemi.com](http://www.bluenilemi.com)  
221 East Washington St.  
ANN ARBOR 734-255-3371

### ONGOING

Fri 6:00 Louis Johnson & "Motown" Larry Walton  
Sat 6:00 Louis Johnson & "Motown" Larry Walton

## Callahan's Music Hall

[www.atcallahans.com](http://www.atcallahans.com)  
2105 South Blvd.  
AUBURN HILLS 248-858-9508

### FEBRUARY

2 8:00 J D Simo  
8-9 8:00 Steepwater Band  
10 7:30 Amanda Fish



15 8:00 Otis  
16 8:00 Duke Tomatoe  
23 8:00 Mike Ledbetter Blues Band

## Canterbury House

[www.canterburyhouse.org](http://www.canterburyhouse.org)  
721 East Huron St.  
ANN ARBOR 734-665-0606

### ONGOING

Sun 5:00 Quartex Jazz Mass with afterglow

## Cariera's Cucina Italiana Ristorante

[www.carieras.com/dearborn](http://www.carieras.com/dearborn)  
6565 North Telegraph  
DEARBORN HEIGHTS 313-278-4060

### ONGOING

Fri 7:00 Mike Gabriel  
Sat 7:00 Mike Gabriel



Sean Dobbins

### Cliff Bells

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

#### FEBRUARY

- 1 9:00 Hughes/Smith Quintet
  - 2 9:30 Elaine Dame (Chicago)
  - 5 8:00 Trunino Love Quartet
  - 6 8:00 Xavier Bonner's Spirit Talk Trio
  - 7 7:00 Scott Gwinnell Jazz Orchestra
  - 8 9:30 Soul Cycle
  - 9 9:30 Doug MacDonald Trio
  - 10 7:00 Bobby Muncy's Radiohead Jazz Project
  - 12 8:00 Allen Dennard Organ Trio
  - 13 8:00 Becoming Quintet: Detroit CD Release
  - 14 7:00 Valentine's Day with Dave Vessella Quartet
  - 15 9:30 Oopapada — with Dr Prof Leonard King
  - 19 8:00 Alexis Lombre Trio
  - 20 8:00 Darryl Roenicke Trio
  - 21 8:00 Joni Crawford
  - 22 9:00 The Nathan Trio — with Felix Lemerle, Peter Traunmueller
  - 23 9:30 Sean Dobbins
  - 24 5:00 Sean Dobbins SMA Jazz Session
  - 24 7:30 Harlo — with Formanek
  - 26 8:00 Alexis Lombre Trio
  - 27 8:00 Beartrap
  - 28 8:00 Carl Cafagna & North Star Jazz
- ONGOING**
- Sun 11 am Jarrod Champion
  - Tue 8:00 Alexis Lombre Trio — with Brian Juarez, David Alvarez III
  - Fri 5:30 Jeff Cuny Duo
  - Sat 6:00 Samuel Chase Harris Duo — with David Dunham

### Club 54

www.nightclub54.com  
37722 Van Dyke  
STERLING HEIGHTS 586-795-0054

#### ONGOING

- Thu 7:00 [1st, 3rd] Gary Greenfelder Orchestra

### Cobo Joe's Smokehouse BBQ and Sports Bar

cobojoes.com  
422 West Congress St.  
DETROIT 313-965-0840

#### ONGOING

- Sat 8:00 Motown with Joan Belgrave — with Robert Jones, Jerome Spearman



Joan Belgrave

### Commonwealth Club

www.commonwealthclubmi.com  
30088 Dequindre Rd.  
WARREN 586-751-9560

#### ONGOING

- Thu 7:00 [3rd] Riverboat Ramblers — with Patrick MacCarroll

### Cultivate Coffee

www.cultivatepsi.com  
307 North River St.  
YPSILANTI 734-249-8993

#### ONGOING

- Thu 7:00 Jim Dapogny & Plenty Rhythm

### D'Amato's

www.damatos.com  
222 North Sherman Dr.  
ROYAL OAK 248-584-7400

#### ONGOING

- Sun Noon Jazz Brunch — with Steve Jarosz, Carl Cafagna, Shannon Wade

### Dakota Inn

www.dakota-inn.com  
17324 John R  
DETROIT 313-867-9722

#### ONGOING

- Thu 7:30 [3rd] Kerry Price

### Dirty Dog Jazz Café

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

#### FEBRUARY

- 1 & 2 6:00 Randy Napoleon
- 2 9:00 Randy Napoleon
- 6-9 6:00 Rob Crozier
- 9 9:00 Rob Crozier
- 13-16 6:00 Anthony Stanco
- 16 9:00 Anthony Stanco
- 20-23 6:00 Dave Bennett
- 23 9:00 Dave Bennett
- 27-28 6:00 Gerard Gibbs

#### ONGOING

- Tue 5:00 Charles Boles Quartet



Randy Napoleon

### Eagles Aerie #3607

141 Schroeder Park Dr.  
HOWELL 517-548-1630

#### ONGOING

- Sun 3:00 [3rd] The Blue Notes, Thomas Halm director

### The Earle

www.theearle.com  
121 West Washington  
ANN ARBOR 734-994-0211

#### ONGOING

- Tue 7:00 various pianists / guitarists
- Wed 7:00 Jake Reichbart
- Thu 7:00 various pianists / guitarists
- Fri 8:00 Rick Burgess Trio
- Sat 8:00 Rick Burgess Trio

### Eddie V's

2100 Big Beaver Rd.  
TROY 248-649-7319

#### ONGOING

- Sun 6:00 RJ Spangler Trio, plus Tbone Paxton

### Elks Pratt Lodge

220 West Sunset Rd.  
ANN ARBOR 734-761-7172

#### ONGOING

- Thu 6:00 Dan Bennett Ensemble
- Fri 6:00 Tim Haldeman Trio

### Fusion Liquefaction Lounge

38 St Clair St.  
TOLEDO, OH 419-243-8224

#### ONGOING

- Wed 7:00 Nicole Heitger, Ray Heitger, Bob Miller



Ray Heitger

### Gandy Dancer

www.muer.com/gandydancer.html  
401 Depot St.  
ANN ARBOR 734-769-0592

#### ONGOING

- Sun 10 am Ingrid Racine Quartet

### Goodnight Gracie

www.damatos.com  
222 North Sherman Dr.  
ROYAL OAK 248-584-7400

#### ONGOING

- Tue 8:00 Jimmy Smith Trio

### Haab's Restaurant

www.haabsrestaurant.com  
18 West Michigan Ave.  
YPSILANTI 734-483-8200

#### ONGOING

- Tue 7:30 [4th] Depot Town Big Band

### Harbor House

440 Clinton  
DETROIT 313 967-9900

#### ONGOING

- Mon 10:00 Phil Hale  
Open Mic and Jam Session

### Jean's Lounge

12002 Joseph Campau  
HAMTRAMCK 313-892-9689

#### ONGOING

- Sun 1:00 [2nd] Attic Dweller's Jam Session

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# jazz events

# February



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## Jenuwine Cigar Factory

44791 Schoenherr Rd.  
STERLING HEIGHTS 586-997-1731

### ONGOING

Tue 7:00 Michele Ramo Quartet — with Danny Patrona, plus guests

Thu 7:00 Michele Ramo

Fri 8:00 Michele Ramo Trio — with Danny Patrona, plus guests

Sat 7:00 Michele Ramo Duo, plus guests

## Kerrytown Concert House

www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com  
415 North Fourth Ave.  
ANN ARBOR 734-769-2999

### FEBRUARY

9 8:00 Tad Weed Jazz Masters Series: Tribute to Ron Brooks — with Sean Dobbins, Kurt Krahnke, Rick Roe, Ron Brooks

16 8:00 Joe Policastro Trio — with Dave Miller, Mikel Avery

23 8:00 Mr B's Birthday Bounce

24 8:00 Rising Stars — with Sean Dobbins



Ron Brooks

## LaMusique

www.hotelstregisdetroit.com/dining.html  
St Regis Hotel, 3071 West Grand Blvd.  
DETROIT 313-873-3000

### ONGOING

Fri 8:15 Jam — with Karen Fox & Jerome Clark Trio

## The Last Word

thelastwordbar.com  
301 West Huron St.  
ANN ARBOR 734-585-5691

### ONGOING

Thu 9:30 The Pherotones — with Ross Huff, Giancarlo Aversa, Brennan Andes, Wes Fritzmeier



The Pherotones

## Leonardo's

U-M North Campus  
ANN ARBOR 734-647-6838

### ONGOING

Thu 8:30 Jazz Jam Session

## Marge's Bar & Grill

www.margesbar.com  
15300 Mack Ave.  
GROSSE POINTE PK. 313-881-8895

### ONGOING

Thu 7:00 [2nd, 4th] Marge's Bar Band — Terry Kimura, Davy Lazar, John Hammer, Bill Bolle, Bob Pinterich, plus guests

## Metropolitan United Methodist Church

www.metroumc.org/rush  
8000 Woodward Ave.  
DETROIT 313-875-7407

### ONGOING

Tue 5:00 5 O'clock Rush Concert Series

## Motor City Wine Bar

608 Woodward Ave., 2nd Floor  
DETROIT 313-483-7283

### ONGOING

Wed 9:00 Ian Finkelstein and friends

Thu 9:30 Jesse Kramer Trio

Fri 9:00 [1st] Damon Warmack Trio  
[2nd] B Williams Experiment  
[3rd] Hughes-Smith Quintet



Jesse Kramer

## Nagomi Sushi and Noodle

www.nagomiannarbor.com/northcampus  
1754 Plymouth Rd.,  
ANN ARBOR 734-635-6028

### ONGOING

Thu 8:00 [2nd, 4th] Doug Horn

## Nikola's

www.nikolasbbq.com  
25225 Telegraph Rd.  
SOUTHFIELD 248-355-4695

### ONGOING

Thu 7:00 [2nd] Don Swindell Quartet

Thu 7:00 [others] Jerry McKenzie Trio, plus guest

## 1917 American Bistro

www.1917americanbistro.com  
19416 Livernois  
DETROIT 313-728-2001

### ONGOING

Fri 8:00 [except 4th] Brad Shearer Duo — with Sean Harris

## Northern Lights Lounge

northernlightslounge.com  
660 West Baltimore St.  
DETROIT

### ONGOING

Tue 8:00 Dennis Coffey and various vocalists [1st] Pat Smillie [3rd] Lady Champagne



Dennis Coffey

## Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325

www.plyaa325.com  
41700 Ann Arbor Rd.  
PLYMOUTH 734-453-1780

### FEBRUARY

12 7:00 Sax Maniacs

26 7:00 Barbara Ware & Clifford Monear Trio

## Ravens Club

www.ravensclub.com  
207 South Main St.  
ANN ARBOR 734-214-0400

### ONGOING

Sun 8:00 Ingrid Racine, Michael Malis, Josef Deas, Jesse Kramer

Mon 9:00 Roe / Bickley / Kramer Trio

## Schoolcraft College

www.schoolcraft.edu/music  
VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Rd.  
LIVONIA 734-462-4403

### FEBRUARY

6 Noon Ellen Rowe: All About the Trio

20 Noon Ellen Rowe: All About the Trio



Emma Aboukasm

### Shield's

25101 Telegraph Rd.  
SOUTHFIELD 248-476-2674

#### FEBRUARY

- 2 1:00 Craig Strain Orchestra — with Emma Aboukasm
- 16 1:00 Dave Tatrow, Dave Bennett, James Dapogny, Chris Smith, Paul Keller, Doug Cobb



Dave Tatrow

### The Sodbuster

www.sodbusterbar.com  
Haymarket Square, 5758 North Main St.  
SYLVANIA OH 419-517-1045

#### ONGOING

- Wed 8:00 Ragtime Rick and the Chefs of Dixieland

### Soggy Bottom Bar

613 Martin Luther King Ave.  
FLINT 810-239-8058

#### ONGOING

- Tue 7:00 Pat Cronley, John Hill, others

### Sports Channel Bar

www.sportschannelscs.com  
25419 Jefferson  
ST CLAIR SHORES 586-296-0950

#### ONGOING

- Thu 7:30 [1st] Gabby and Ron Rosolino, Tom Ploeger, Dennis DeCello, Jerry Neeley

### Stone House Bar

thestonehousebar.tripod.com  
19803 Ralston near State Fair  
DETROIT 313-891-3333

#### ONGOING

- Sat 10:00 Blues bands

### Tavern and Tap

www.tavernandtap.com  
101 South Washington Sq  
LANSING 517-374-5555

#### ONGOING

- Wed 7:30 Jam with Tavern House Jazz Band — with John Patrick Peters, Duncan Tarr, Nathan Grant, plus guests

### Third Monk Brewing Company

228 South Lafayette  
SOUTH LYON 248-278-6366

#### FEBRUARY

- 9 8:00 Chrissy Morgan and her Band

### TV's Grand Event

www.tvsgrandevent.com  
2651 2651 W. Jefferson  
TRENTON 734-671-5676

#### ONGOING

- Wed 6:30 [1st] Ron Kischuk Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band



Ron Kischuk

### Trinosophes

1464 Gratiot (at Russell)  
DETROIT

#### FEBRUARY

- 11 8:00 Fred Lonberg-Holm & Jaimie Branch

### UDetroit Café

Dan Good Pizza, 1427 Randolph  
DETROIT 313-962-0660

#### ONGOING

- Thu 8:00 [last] Jump and Swing with the Millionaires — with Steve Wood
- Fri 7:00 Ralphe Armstrong Show

### Union Street

unionstreetdetroit.com  
4145 Woodward Ave.  
DETROIT 313-831-3965

#### ONGOING

- Tue 6:30 Dawn Giblin Trio — with James Dapogny, Mike Karoub and guests

### Weber's Habitat Lounge

www.webersinn.com  
3050 Jackson Rd.  
ANN ARBOR 734-665-3636

#### ONGOING

- Sun 8:30 Jazz Collective — with Tony Viviano, Arlene Pritchard, McDaniel, Rob Avsharian, Rob Crozier

### Whisky Parlor

www.whiskyparlor.com  
608 Woodward Ave., Second Floor  
DETROIT 313-961-3043

#### ONGOING

- Thu 6:00 Various jazz
- Sat 8:00 Various jazz and blues

### The Whitney

www.thewhitney.com  
4421 Woodward Ave.  
DETROIT 313-832-5700

#### ONGOING

- Thu 4:00 Louis Johnson — with Will Austin

### Zal Gaz Grotto Club

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

#### ONGOING

- Sun 5:00 Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings (PORK)
- Mon 7:30 Paul Keller Orchestra
- Tue 6:00 Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band

## Upcoming Jazz Events

#### MARCH

- 2 PD9 Sun Band, Tribute to Sun Ra • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 3 Mardi Gras with Mike Karloff, Dave Tatrow, Brian Delaney, Carol McCartney • MacKenzie Hall, Windsor, Canada
- 3 Gwilym Simcock • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 3 Jason Ricci • Callahan's, Auburn Hills
- 6 Audio Birds — with Sean Blackman • Aretha's Jazz Café, Detroit
- 7 Sonny Landreth / Marcia Ball • The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 7 Emmet Cohen Trio • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 10 Ellen Rowe: All About the Trio • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 16 & 17 Coco Montoya & Tinsley Ellis • Callahan's, Auburn Hills
- 22 Tom Sharpe • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 22 Anat Cohen & Kendrick Scott • Orchestra Hall, Detroit
- 23 Mathias Eick Quintet • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
- 24 Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour • Wharton Center, East Lansing
- 26 Dave Bennett Quartet • Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, Plymouth
- 26 Estar Cohen • The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 30 Lisa Hilton • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor

#### APRIL

- 4 Peter Madcat Ruth • The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 5 Shawn Maxwell's New Tomorrow • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 5-6 Ellis Marsalis • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
- 6 Planet D Nonet — with Camille Price • Shield's, Southfield
- 6 Boneshaker — with Mars William Ken Kessler, Paal Nilssen-Love • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 7 Michigan Jazz Festival Fundraiser — featuring Dave Bennett Quartet plus Dave Tatrow • VisTaTech, Schoolcraft College, Livonia
- 12 & 13 Ravi Coltrane • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
- 13 Andy Milne & Unison ¶ Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 14 Monterey Jazz on Tour: Cecile McLorin Salvant & Christian Sands, plus Melissa Aldana, Bria Skonberg • Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor
- 20 Alexis Lombre Trio • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 26 Tommy Castro • Callahan's, Auburn Hills
- 27 Mr B's Blues and Boogie Celebration • The Ark, Ann Arbor

#### MAY

- 19 Lynn Speakman, Ingrid Racine, Roe Bickley, Kramer Trio • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
- 24 Manuel Valera Trio • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor

# Recent Recordings by Area Jazz Artists

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constant shift. The band that reached Detroit in 1973 is one that was never officially recorded. Drummer Dannie Richmond had left temporarily to play with a rock band in the summer, replaced by Detroit's Roy Brooks (who had left the city to go on the road with Horace Silver and was also featured here on his trademark musical saw); trumpeter Joe Gardner had joined in late fall and pianist Don Pullen shortly after. Tenor saxophonist John Stubblefield was in the midst of a five-month stint with Mingus but, hardly alone in this, got into a fight with the bassist and that was that. Two decades later, he would become the stalwart of the Mingus Big Band from its beginnings until his death.

This five-LP/CD is a major historical landmark that includes station announcements and an interview conducted by Spangler with Roy Brooks, but it is not just a document—it is filled with fabulous music. There are ten different compositions, two played twice, and since these were concert performances not programmed for recording, the tracks are long, with extensive solos by all members of the quintet. Gardner, who remains the least well-known among these musicians, was an expressive player, well-suited to the Mingus mold. He had obviously listened to both Kenny Dorham and Clifford Brown but had his own way with the trumpet and was definitely among the top tier of trumpeters who played with the great bassist. His understated melodic sensibilities are well heard on the relaxed “The Man Who Never Sleeps.” The musical partnership of Mingus and drummer Dannie Richmond was one of the most enduring and successful in jazz and it is therefore interesting to hear Brooks, who was a very different percussionist, in this context. Each had his own approach to time, and Brooks had a heavier beat and a singular way of playing cymbals so that he meshes with the bass and with soloists in his own way. He plays hard on these sessions, prodding the front line in his own fashion, but does not overwhelm; his drums are also

somewhat back in the mix. The way he could build excitement is particularly evident on the opening “Pithecanthropus Erectus.” The two members who excel, to these ears, are pianist Pullen and saxophonist Stubblefield. Pullen is the only member of this lineup who would stay on with the bassist, working in the band through 1975. Already here the pianist shows all the characteristics that would surface in his subsequent performances and recordings, with Mingus, in his quartet with George Adams

## This five-LP/CD is a major historical landmark

and on his own. Pullen could play anything and knew the whole jazz tradition; these recordings are filled with his lyrical runs, percussive chords and the occasional outside playing that made his style, and his long solos are filled with long lines and rich melodic ideas. Some of the greatest moments, as I hear it, come from John Stubblefield, whose seems to feed off this amazing rhythm section and who seems to revel in the shifting rhythms and textures of the leader's compositions. His later work reveals a tenor saxophonist who had complete mastery over every aspect of his instrument and a rich distinctive sound, and all of this is already here on these tracks. His inventiveness is evident on the two takes of “Celia” on which he solos in singular ways, building tension and excitement in different ways.



Two Room Records ([www.tworoomsrecords.com](http://www.tworoomsrecords.com)) was created by Joel Peterson and Sam Hooker to feature musicians who are either from Detroit or who have been connected with the local scene, open to various genres, without borders. True to current trends, this is primarily a vinyl label, although digital downloads are also available ([tworoomsrecords.bandcamp.com/merch](http://tworoomsrecords.bandcamp.com/merch)). Three records have been released to date (with others in the pipeline): Leonard King and Alex Harding's

*Quartet Now!; 7000 Year Plan* by the electronic duo Viands; and the genre-bending microtonal piano music of another duo, Thollem and Clem Fortuna, on *Your Letter Must Have Followed Me All Over the World*.

The first release on Two Rooms, *Quartet Now!* (TR-001), came out last July; the multi-generational group was cofounded by baritone saxophonist Alex Harding and drummer Leonard King, joined by trombonist Vincent Chandler and bassist Rocco Popielarski.

The combo tips its collective hat to the Strata legacy by including compositions written by Kenn Cox

and Charles Moore. The opening notes of Luqman Lateef's “Farid,” from a 1968 recording date by Ed Blackwell that only recently saw the light of day, provide clues to the quartet's intentions. King, who many remember as coming to prominence with Lyman Woodard's fusion Organization, sets down a perfect funky beat and Harding comes in with some out sounds; the beat settles in and then comes the bluesy theme, followed by solos by all members of the quartet, with shifting textures and rhythms. After a relatively calm restatement of the main



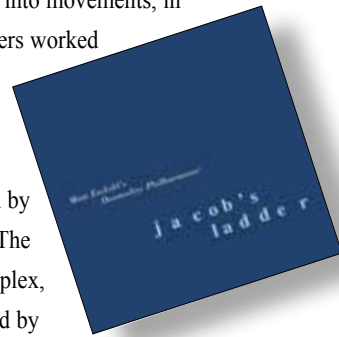


theme comes a chant about freedom and then a free jazz freak-out blast. King is a dominating force on the whole album, which works well in the absence of a piano and Popielarski, the youngest member of the band, finds just the right patterns, his deep resounding acoustic bass setting up rhythmic and harmonic grooves for the horn men to ride on. The music grooves and in many ways harkens back to the soul jazz of decades ago, but the foursome uses this as an anchor for exploring a wide variety of approaches, distilled into individual styles. Chandler likes to combine agile, harmonically complex lines that can go far to the outside but nevertheless anchored in the changes of a tune, with a broad timbral palate that sometimes includes the imaginative use of mutes. Harding is a hard-driving baritone player who, like Chandler, does not stick to one tone on his instrument, but exploits all the possibilities of the big horn, from soft subtones, or boppish lines to screaming vocalisms, with an enviable control of multiple registers. During his many years in New York he played with many of the more adventurous players in jazz, including Julius Hemphill and Sun Ra, and he is no stranger to the explorations of unorthodox sounds. Harding is also at heart a full-fledged blues and ballad player: his identifiable, highly personal style combines these various musical impulses; as a result, his solos are full of surprises with unexpected colors and contours. He is not alone in this — all four musicians are rooted in the blues and the quartet manages to be contemporary and traditional at the same time, communicating directly with the heart without artistic compromise. The music goes in many directions but is always riding on the groove; even the one ballad “You Don’t Know What Love Is,” which begins with expressive *a cappella* baritone, eventually settles into a slow groove. This is exciting, sophisticated funk!

Pianist and composer Matt Endahl has released *Jacob’s Ladder*, performed by his Domsday Philharmonic ([soundmansion.bandcamp.com](http://soundmansion.bandcamp.com)). The large ensemble consists of cellist Abigail Alwin, Mike Khoury on violin and viola, Patrick Booth, Collin Johnson, Molly Jones and Eric Schweitzer, Kirsten Carey on saxophones, clarinet and flute, vocalist Alex Koi, guitarist Kirsten Carey, Derek Worthington on trumpet, Jon Taylor on drums and percussion, bassist Ben Willis and the leader on piano and electric Rhodes piano. The composition consists of various combinations of musicians, trios, quartets, etc., who created improvised sections, blending into movements, in which performers worked from scores notated in an idiosyncratic system devised by the composer. The concept is complex, partly explained by Endahl as follows: “instead of specifying sounds, rhythms, dynamics, and silence, the notation consists of numbers, which are arranged into measures; and transitions, the period over which one measure is moving to another. Musicians can choose when to play, what to play, and when not to play. As such *Jacob’s Ladder* is (almost) entirely improvised. The only constraint on the performers is given by the numbers and the regions between them.” The numbers were derived from the building blocks of DNA. The result is that every performance of the piece is completely different, and the recording is but one document of such an event.

The resulting music is rich in textures and melodic contours; the composer manipulated endless combinations of instruments and musicians to create novel segments but was able to combine them into movements with an impressive compositional unity. It is helpful that his musicians all know each other and have been playing together in

different contexts and combinations for years, but the unity of *Jacob’s Ladder* is created by Endahl’s larger musical vision and his unique notation system. Endahl took advantage of this familiarity, carefully matching musicians and instruments in anticipation of specific artistic outcomes, with each section encompassing its own developing shape, some quietly sublime, others brimming with passion. The result is a massive work that blurs boundaries between what could be described as modern or postmodern jazz and new classical music; perhaps most impressive is the fact that listening to the recording one would think that the music had been through-composed with occasional improvised sections and while it is supremely modernist, it also seems accessible to listeners versed in jazz or classical music who are interested in new works. This is an ambitious and original large-scale project that deserves a broad audience.





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### 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, 712 East Ann St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1502  
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), Jeff Gaynor, and Marcel Niemiec

#### SEMJA Board Meeting

The SEMJA Board meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. On February 19 we meet at 1306 Ardmoore Ave. For more information, please call 734-353-3568. All members are invited to participate.

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