

March Events at Kerrytown Concert House

Kerrytown Concert House
415 North Fourth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Reservations Recommended: call 734-769-2999
Or visit www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

March Art Exhibit

March 2 – April 3, 2011

Caplan at 80: Explorations, Experiments and Prospects

Works by Nathan Caplan

An abstract painter and old friend of KCH, Nathan Caplan presents an exhibit of his most recent works.
Proceeds from the sale of artwork will benefit Kerrytown Concert House.

A reception will take place on Saturday, March 12 from 3 – 6 pm.

SHORT LISTING:

Saturday, March 5 at 8 pm

Peter Soave and Friends

Accordion Bash

Peter Soave, accordion/bandoneon

Mady Soave, accordion

Ginnka Ortega, flute

Nadine Deleury, cello

Dennis Tini, piano

Monday, March 7 at 8 pm

Chakra Tuning

Rozanne Levine, clarinets/bamboo flute

Perry Robinson, clarinets

Mark Whitecage, clarinet/alto saxophone

Rosi Hertlein, vocals/violin

Wednesday, March 9 at 8 pm

All About the Trio

Jazz and Conversation with the Ellen Rowe Trio

Ellen Rowe, piano

Paul Keller, bass
Pete Siers, drums

Friday, March 11 at 8 pm

Ibrahim Aminou

African Journey

Ibrahim Aminou, vocals/guitar/African percussion
Eric Schweizer, flute/bartione saxophone
Patrick Donley, guitar/vocals/percussion
Eileen Bristol, electric bass

Sunday, March 13 at 4 pm

A Tribute to Louis Smith

A SEMJA Event

Sean Dobbins, drums
Additional personnel, TBA

Sunday, March 13 at 7:30 pm

Alicia Doudna, violin

Hannah Shields, piano

Thursday, March 17 at 8 pm

Ein Liederabend

Songs of Schumann & Wolf

Martin Katz, piano
Deborah Selig, soprano
Liza Forrester, mezzo-soprano
Scott Murphree, tenor
Jesse Blumberg, baritone

Sunday, March 20 at 4 pm

Robert Satterlee, piano

Remembering William Albright

Tuesday, March 22 at 8 pm

Robert Spalding Newcomb

Solo sitar, guitar and poetry reading

Saturday, March 26 at 11:30 am

A Celebration of Art and Music

Allen Creek Preschool Benefit

Saturday, March 26 at 8 pm

Maureen Choi Quartet

Maureen Choi, violin

Rick Roe, piano
Rodney Whitaker, bass
Sean Dobbins, drums

LONG LISTING:

Saturday, March 5 at 8 pm

Peter Soave and Friends

Accordion Bash

Peter Soave, accordion/bandoneon
Mady Soave, accordion
Ginnka Ortega, flute
Nadine Deleury, cello
Dennis Tini, piano

\$30 Assigned Rows 1-2
\$20 Assigned Rows 3-5
\$15 General Admission
\$10 Students

Recognized worldwide as the foremost master of the bandoneon and concert accordion, Peter Soave has established himself as the leading soloist of his generation. The hallmark of his performances is the excitement of his execution and the sensitivity of his touch. He presents an accordion bash with his group: tangos, waltzes, and fugues with some swing!

This performance is presented by Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates

Peter Soave, accordion/bandoneon

A native of Detroit, Peter Soave began playing the accordion at age 5. At 16, he was sweeping international competitions and is the only player in history to win the gold medal in all four major world championship accordion competitions. Deeply inspired by the music of Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla, Mr. Soave began including the characteristic bandoneón (also known as the tango accordion) in his performances as well, and now performs regularly on both instruments. Soave's professional career includes performances as a soloist and with orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas. He has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica de Puerto Rico, the Zagreb Philharmonic, The Zagreb Soloists, the Belgrade Philharmonic and San Salvador Philharmonic, among others. For the only North American appearance in 1999 of the "Three Tenors" (Pavarotti, Domingo, and Carreras), Soave performed as the featured bandoneónist. In 2006, Soave premiered Astor Piazzolla's oratorio "El Pueblo Joven," written for symphony orchestra, voice recitative, soprano, bandoneón, choir, and percussion with the National Radio Orchestra of Bucharest, Romania. Soave has recorded several CDs, both as a solo artist and with orchestra. He received the 2001 Detroit Music Award for Best Classical Recording and in 2003, the Detroit Music Award for Best Classical Instrumentalist.

Monday, March 7 at 8 pm

Chakra Tuning

Rozanne Levine, clarinets/bamboo flute
Perry Robinson, clarinets
Mark Whitecage, clarinet/alto saxophone
Rosi Hertlein, vocals/violin

\$25 Assigned Rows 1-2
\$15 Assigned Rows 3-5
\$10 General Admission
\$5 Students

In Chakra Tuning, Rozanne Levine brings forward her love of improvisational spontaneity and organic, subtly shifting sounds. Sonic conversations emerge and develop as the group explores textures, sonorities and space. The music of Chakra Tuning weaves in and out of melodies, exploring rhythms, moods and inner space in a transforming, unfolding journey. Ms. Levine's compositions form the thematic material from which the musicians improvise. Electronic manipulation plays a part in the group sound, as do storytelling, bird whistles, ocarinas, half horns and percussion. Chakra Tuning was featured at 28 Hours of Innovative Art, Roulette and Tonic in New York City, and at the First Annual Hudson County Performing Artists' Showcase in Union City, NJ. Chakra Tuning released their debut CD "Only Moment" on the Acoustics label in 2009.

Wednesday, March 9 at 8 pm

All About the Trio

Jazz and Conversation with the Ellen Rowe Trio

Ellen Rowe, piano
Paul Keller, bass
Pete Siers, drums

\$25 Assigned Rows 1-2
\$15 Assigned Rows 3-5
\$10 General Admission
\$5 Students

Back by popular demand, Ellen Rowe and her trio present a concert/lecture series exploring various aspects of the jazz piano trio. Take a behind-the-scenes look at the foundations of jazz with insight of some of the region's most swingin' all-stars.

Other concerts in the series are on select Sundays at 2 pm: April 3, May 1 and June 1, 2011.

Ellen Rowe, piano

Ellen Rowe, jazz pianist and composer, is currently Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation at the University of Michigan. Winner of the Hartford, CT Advocate Readers' Poll for Best Acoustic Jazz, Rowe has performed at jazz clubs and on concert series throughout the U.S., as well as touring in Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Ireland, Poland, and Australia.

Paul Keller, bass

Paul Keller is one of the busiest bassists in the Detroit area today, earning the nickname “The House Bass Player For The State Of Michigan.” Since 1989, Paul has led the 15-piece Paul Keller Orchestra, which plays original, obscure and classic big band material from all periods of jazz history, and performs every Monday night at the Keystone Underground in Ypsilanti. Paul also plays in the popular Keller/Kocher Quartet and in The Paul Keller Ensemble, a three-horn sextet that features creative arrangements by Keller and his bandmates. Paul has been recognized internationally for his association with pianist/singer Diana Krall and guitarist Russell Malone.

Pete Siers, drums

A Michigan native, Peter Siers can be heard performing in groups throughout the region, including the Latin group Los Gatos and his own trio and quartet. Siers is an original member of the award-winning Paul Keller Orchestra (PKO), which plays original, obscure and classic big band material from all periods of jazz history. He also performs and has recorded with Bess Bonnier, Mr. B, guitarist Ray Kamalay and his Red Hot Peppers, The Easy Street Jazz Band, The Motor City Classic Jazz Band with Marcus Belgrave, The Ron Brooks Trio, The Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble, and James Dapogny & his Chicago Jazz Band.

Friday, March 11 at 8 pm

Ibrahim Aminou

African Journey

Ibrahim Aminou, vocals/guitar/African percussion

Eric Schweizer, flute/bartione saxophone

Patrick Donley, guitar/vocals/percussion

Eileen Bristol, electric bass

\$25 Assigned Rows 1-2

\$15 Assigned Rows 3-5

\$10 General Admission

\$5 Students

A native of Niger, West Africa, Ibrahim Aminou began playing music as a child and performed with the Goumbe Drum Ensemble. His musical studies expanded to include guitar, voice, drums, bass and balafon (African xylophone). This concert will feature a variety of both traditional and modern stringed and percussion instruments. Ibrahim Aminou is a true entertainer with an ability to light up the audience with his enthusiasm — a show not to be missed!

Sunday, March 13 at 4 pm

A Tribute to Louis Smith

A SEMJA Event

Sean Dobbins, drums

Additional personnel, TBA

\$30 Assigned Rows 1-2

\$20 Assigned Rows 3-5

\$15 General Admission

\$10 Students

Trumpeter Louis Smith is one of most celebrated jazz musicians and educators in the region. A former artist on the Blue Note label, Smith has performed with the great artists of our day, including Miles Davis, Art Blakey and Dizzy Gillespie. After retiring from an international performance career, he settled in Ann Arbor where he taught for many years at the University of Michigan and in the Ann Arbor public schools. He has influenced many young artists over his long career, setting them up for their professional music careers.

In this concert and award ceremony, the Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association will present this year's Ron Brooks Award to Louis Smith for his contributions to the Southeastern Michigan jazz community as a trumpeter and educator. Drummer Sean Dobbins and other disciples of this great jazz artist pay tribute to him with a special performance highlighting his compositions and legacy. *Proceeds from this event go toward SEMJA, whose mission is to support live jazz and to unite the jazz community in the region.*

Sunday, March 13 at 7:30 pm

Alicia Doudna, violin

Hannah Shields, piano

\$25 Assigned Rows 1-2

\$15 Assigned Rows 3-5

\$10 General Admission

\$5 Students

Area violinist Alicia Doudna — who is no stranger to the KCH stage — performs a concert of Vivaldi, Brahms, Suk, Mozart and Ravel.

Program:

Antonio Vivaldi - Sonata in A major, Op. 2, No. 2

Maurice Ravel - Sonata for Violin and Piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Sonata in E minor K. 304

Josef Suk - Four Pieces for Violin and Piano, Op. 17

Johannes Brahms - Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108

Alicia Doudna, violin

Violinist Alicia Doudna has performed and taught throughout the US and abroad. She has performed with Itzhak Perlman, Paul Katz, Ronald Copes and members of the Cavani Quartet. As a chamber musician she has appeared at various festivals including Yellow Barn, Kneisel Hall, The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival and the Festival de Musique de Chamber du Larzac in France. She has also performed as a guest with various chamber orchestras and ensembles, including A Far Cry, The East Coast Chamber Orchestra, The Suedama Ensemble, Radius Ensemble, and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. As a member of the Phoenix Quartet, she performed and taught as an artist-in-residence at the University of Michigan. Ms. Doudna was previously the director of the Peninsula Strings Program in Blue Hill, Maine and also served as a Fellow and teaching assistant to Merry Peckham at the Perlman Music Program in New York. She has been on the faculty of the Sphinx Preparatory Program in Detroit, MI and has given guest artist master classes at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Chamber Music Connection in Columbus, Ohio. She currently teaches a

private studio in Ann Arbor, Michigan of over twenty students, ranging in age from four to eighteen. Her principal teachers included Lucy Chapman, David Updegraff, Mimi Zweig and Suzuki Method pioneer, John Kendall. She holds a BM from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a MM from The New England Conservatory.

Hannah Shields, piano

Hannah Shields has performed widely throughout the US both as a soloist and a chamber musician. She has appeared as a soloist in the Bach concerto for four keyboards at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Itzhak Perlman, and she has performed in major venues throughout the country, including Alice Tully Hall, Boston's Jordan Hall, the Metropolitan Museum, the Seattle Opera House, and Carnegie's Weill Hall. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, a Master's degree from Yale School of Music, and a Graduate Diploma from the New England Conservatory of Music. Her primary teachers have been Daniel Shapiro, Claude Frank, and Vivian Hornik Weilerstein; her chamber music coaches include Paul Katz, Lawrence Lesser, Kim Kashkashian, Donald Weilerstein, Lucy Chapman, Joel Krosnick, and Robert Mann. She is a prizewinner of the Kosciuszko Chopin Competition, and has attended numerous music festivals, among them the Yellow Barn Music Festival, the Banff Chamber Music Festival, and the Taos School of Music. Ms. Shields has collaborated with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Barbara Stein Mallow, Andre Emelianoff, and Myung-Wha Chung, among others, and is a founding member of the "Musique a la Mode" chamber music series in New York City.

Thursday, March 17 at 8 pm

Ein Liederabend

Songs of Schumann & Wolf

Martin Katz, piano

Deborah Selig, soprano

Liza Forrester, mezzo-soprano

Scott Murphree, tenor

Jesse Blumberg, baritone

\$35 Assigned Rows 1-2

\$25 Assigned Rows 3-5

\$20 General Admission

Celebrated pianist and collaborator Martin Katz performs with some of New York's rising vocal stars, including UM alumni Deborah Selig and Jesse Blumberg, who have both given memorable performances at KCH. The program, devoted to the music of Robert Schumann and Hugo Wolf, was previously performed at the Five Boroughs Music Festival in New York last fall.

This concert is made possible by a generous contribution from Maurice and Linda Binkow

Program

Music by Robert Schumann:

Liederkreis, Op. 39

Er und Sie, Op. 78, No. 2

Sehnsucht nach der Waldgegend, Op. 35, No. 5

Music by Hugo Wolf:

Auch kleine Dinge

Auf dem grünen Balkon

Anakreons Grab

Die Kartenlegerin, Op. 31, No. 2
Ich bin dein Baum, Op. 101, No. 3
Er ist's, Op. 79, No. 24
Mein schöner Stern, Op. 101, No. 4
Ich bin geliebt, Op. 74, No. 9

Nachtzauber
Selections from Mörike-Lieder

Martin Katz, piano

Martin Katz has been dubbed “the gold standard of accompanists” by the New York Times. His 40-year career has taken him to 5 continents, collaborating with the world’s most celebrated singers in recital and recording. Marilyn Horne, Frederica von Stade, Kathleen Battle, David Daniels, Karita Mattila, and Jose Carreras are among his regular partners, and he has recorded for RCA, CBS, BMG, EMI and Decca labels. Mr. Katz is also active as a conductor and editor. He has led opera productions for San Francisco’s Merola program, the BBC, Tokyo’s NHK, as well as innumerable performances in Ann Arbor. His editions of baroque and belcanto operas have been performed in Houston, Ottawa, and at the Metropolitan Opera. On the faculty of the University of Michigan for more than two decades, he has chaired the program in collaborative piano and coached vocal repertoire for singers and pianists alike. Now an author too, Mr. Katz’s first opus, *The Complete Collaborator* has been published by Oxford University Press.

Deborah Selig, soprano

Soprano Deborah Selig is quickly gaining recognition for her rich shimmering voice and fine execution of the lyric soprano repertoire on operatic and concert stages. Ms. Selig has performed with a number of US opera companies including Pittsburgh Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Central City Opera, Kentucky Opera, Dayton Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Roanoke, Mobile Opera and Connecticut Lyric Opera. She has sung with the Albany Symphony, Asheville Symphony, Cincinnati Baroque, Cincinnati Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Erie Philharmonic, Greater Bridgeport Symphony, Kentucky Symphony and Pittsburgh Symphony, as well as appearing in song recitals in Ann Arbor, Ames (IA), Boston and New York City. Ms. Selig’s training included two seasons each as an apprentice artist with the Santa Fe Opera, Pittsburgh Opera and Chautauqua Opera as well as a fellowship with both the Tanglewood Music Center and the Steans Institute for Singers at the Ravinia Festival. She earned an Artist Diploma in Opera and a Masters in Music from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, having earned both a Bachelor of Music and English, summa cum laude, from the University of Michigan. Upcoming engagements include song recitals in Ann Arbor, Washington, DC and Laramie, Wyoming; Pamina in *The Magic Flute* with Chautauqua Opera; and *Musetta* in *La Boheme* with Central City Opera. www.deborahselig.com

Liza Forrester, mezzo soprano

Liza Forrester, mezzo soprano, is gaining acclaim on both the operatic and recital stage. Recent notable engagements include her debut at New York City Opera as Aloës in *L'Étoile*, New York Festival of Song's *Night and Day USA* and *Great American Song Writing Teams*, presented at the Kaufman Center in New York and the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater in Washington D.C., and *Flora* in *La Traviata* with Glimmerglass Opera. Ms. Forrester made her international debut as *Dido* in *Dido and Aeneas* with Teatro Nacional Sucre in Quito, Ecuador. As an avid recitalist, Ms. Forrester has been presented in recital by the prestigious New York Festival of Song (NYFOS), the Caramoor Festival, the Ravinia Festival Steans Institute, Glimmerglass Opera, Five Boroughs Music Festival, New York University, and Western Kentucky University. She recently completed *The Song Continues...* professional training workshop with the Weill Institute and Marilyn Horne Foundation at Carnegie Hall. Upcoming engagements include *Broadway and Beyond* with Tracey Moore, and *Mahler's Lieder eines Fahrenden Gesellen* with the Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Forrester received her masters and doctorate of musical arts from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Scott Murphree, tenor

Tenor Scott Murphree is a distinguished singer of the recital, concert and opera stage. His recent engagements include concerts with The Mirror Visions Ensemble, The Five Boroughs Music Festival and the New York Festival of Song. He has sung Britten's War Requiem with the Princeton Pro Musica and the Westfield Symphony. He has also sung Handel's Messiah in Carnegie Hall with the Oratorio Society of New York and the National Chorale in Avery Fisher Hall as well as Bach Cantatas with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra at the Metropolitan Museum. He has sung Tamino in Die Zauberflöte at Utah Opera and Opera Delaware, as well as Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni also at Opera Delaware. He created the role of Nikola Tesla for the world premiere of Violet Fire by Jon Gibson at the Belgrade National Theatre in Serbia and for the United States' premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He received his education at the University of North Texas, Yale University and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Voice at New York University.

Jesse Blumberg, baritone

Baritone Jesse Blumberg's recent engagements include Bernstein's Mass at Royal Festival Hall, Ariadne auf Naxos at Boston Lyric Opera, and recitals in Paris with the Mirror Visions Ensemble. His operatic credits include featured roles at Minnesota, Utah, Pittsburgh, and Annapolis Operas, and at Opera Delaware, Opera Vivente, and the Boston Early Music Festival. Jesse has been a featured soloist with American Bach Soloists, Los Angeles Master Chorale, and Berkshire Choral Festival, and has premiered two important chamber works: Ricky Ian Gordon's Green Sneakers and Lisa Bielawa's The Lay of the Love and Death. He has toured with the Mark Morris Dance Group and the Waverly Consort, and given recitals for the Marilyn Horne Foundation. In 2008 he won Third Prize at the International Robert Schumann Competition in Zwickau, becoming its first American prizewinner in over thirty years. Jesse's current season includes recitals in New York, Boston, and Washington, debuts with New York Festival of Song, Clarion Society, UMS, and Apollo's Fire, and returns to American Bach Soloists, Minnesota Opera, and Boston Early Music Festival. Jesse is also the founder and artistic director of the Five Boroughs Music Festival, a new concert series in New York City. www.jesseblumberg.com

Sunday, March 20 at 4 pm

Robert Satterlee, piano

Remembering William Albright

\$25 Assigned Rows 1-2

\$15 Assigned Rows 3-5

\$10 General Admission

\$5 Students

In memory of the great American composer William Albright, pianist Robert Satterlee has commissioned piano works from Albright's colleagues and former students. He will premiere these pieces in a program including Albright's Five Chromatic Dances, and will tour with the program throughout the year.

Participating composers include: William Bolcom, Evan Chambers, Gabriela Frank, David Gompper, Evan Hause, Doug Opel and Marilyn Shrude.

Robert Satterlee, piano

Robert Satterlee, a pianist and faculty member at Bowling Green State University, has a reputation as a versatile soloist and chamber musician. An active performer of contemporary music, Satterlee has premiered several works. His chamber music experience includes collaborations with members of the Chicago, London, Philadelphia and Detroit Symphony Orchestras. He also has participated in many music festivals and summer programs, including the Aspen Festival, Banff Centre, and the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp. His recent international appearances include performances in Romania, Sweden, Holland and Kenya.

Tuesday, March 22 at 8 pm

Robert Spalding Newcomb

Solo sitar, guitar and poetry reading

\$25 Assigned Rows 1-2

\$15 Assigned Rows 3-5

\$10 General Admission

\$5 Students

Robert Spalding Newcomb explores improvisation in a finely crafted, yet always spontaneous and riveting journey through uncharted musical and emotional terrain. A primarily self-taught virtuoso string player, he is also an accomplished software artist, poet and music philosopher-theorist.

Robert Spalding Newcomb, sitar/guitar/poetry reading

Newcomb has performed on tour in India as a guest of the US Embassy in 2005. His compositional theories and his unique music software are documented in his article, Music In The Air, published in the Cambridge University Press (UK) journal, 'Organised Sound' (1998). His computer music has been featured in electronic music festivals and conferences in the US, Brazil, Europe and China. (1993-1999). Newcomb has been commissioned to compose music for disciplines as diverse as dance, yoga and carillon. He has produced six self-published albums of original music, including Anastasia of the Gardens (2008), featuring more than two hours of electronic studio and computer-based music, and Undiscovered, a live recording of a solo sitar and guitar performance at Kerrytown Concert House in January 2007.

Saturday, March 26 at 11:30 am

A Celebration of Art and Music

Allen Creek Preschool Benefit

\$10 General Admission

\$5 Children under 6

\$30 Families

Enjoy a showcase of performing arts from the Ann Arbor community — fun for the whole family! Featuring Ann Arbor Suzuki Institute, Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, Randazzo Dance Studio, Rudolf Steiner High School, classical pianist Hanna Song and Bob Rohwer Jazz. *Proceeds from this event benefit the Allen Creek Preschool.*

Saturday, March 26 at 8 pm

Maureen Choi Quartet

Maureen Choi, violin

Rick Roe, piano

Rodney Whitaker, bass

Sean Dobbins, drums

\$30 Assigned Rows 1-2

\$20 Assigned Rows 3-5

\$15 General Admission

\$10 Students

An Ann Arborite now living in Boston, jazz violinist Maureen Choi performs with an all-star ensemble.

Maureen Choi, violin

Violinist Maureen Choi is originally from Ann Arbor. She graduated from Michigan State University and is currently finishing an Artist Diploma from the Berklee College of Music in Boston this May. Ms. Choi performs a wide variety of musical styles, including classical, Latin, jazz and pop. She is expected to graduate from Berklee this May and is working on a CD with Rodney Whitaker, Rick Roe and Sean Dobbins.

Rick Roe, piano

Rick Roe is a renowned jazz pianist. He is one of the world's leading authorities and performers of Thelonious Monk's music that can be heard on his first recording called Monk's Modern Music, and on a more recent recording called "Sphere." Roe won first place in the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, and was a two-time semifinalist in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition. He is an Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies and Piano at Michigan State University.

Rodney Whitaker, bass

Rodney Whitaker is a Michigan treasure and one of the world's renowned jazz bass performers and educators. A Detroit native, he grew up in the city soaking in the sounds of jazz and classical music. He completed a seven-year tenure as bassist with the Wynton Marsalis Sextet and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. He has toured the world over the last twenty years, collaborating with legendary performers such as Dianne Reeves, Mulgrew Miller, Diana Krall, Terence Blanchard, Kathleen Battle, Cyrus Chestnut, Benny Golson, Kenny Garrett, Branford Marsalis, Tommy Flanagan, Curtis Fuller, Donald Byrd, Dizzy Gillespie, Johnny Griffin, Joshua Redman, Cassandra Wilson, Pat Metheny, Chick Corea and Roy Hargrove, as well as with leading symphony orchestras. Now based in East Lansing, Whitaker continues to remember his Detroit roots, serving many of the city's talented students as Director of the Detroit Civic Jazz Orchestra, Musical Director for Jazz Education at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Director of the Jazz in the Studio Mentorship Program and summer jazz camp in cooperation with the Arts League of Michigan. Currently, he is on Michigan State University's faculty as Director of Jazz Studies and Professor of Jazz Bass and has built a leading jazz degree program and performing faculty, Michigan State University Professors of Jazz as the Artistic Director. His legacy of teaching promises to be distinguished, with former students currently performing with jazz greats such as Wynton Marsalis, Dianne Reeves, Stephon Harris and many others.

Sean Dobbins, drums

Sean Dobbins got his start as a sought-after Detroit area jazz sideman at a young age, when he would regularly play with Blue Note artist Louis Smith. Though still young by jazz standards, Dobbins has amassed

an impressive list of playing companions. He has performed/toured/recorded with Johnny Basset, Benny Golson, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Frank Morgan, Joey DeFrancesco, George Cables, James "Blood" Ulmer, Marcus Belgrave, Larry Willis, Rodney Whittaker, Claude Black, Johnny O'Neal, Paul Keller, Tad Weed, Kurt Krahnke, Jon Hendricks, David "Fathead" Newman, Donald Walden, Cyrus Chesnut, Barry Harris, David Baker, Randy Johnston, Marion Hayden, Mose Allison, and a host of other great musicians. Dobbins is known in his community as a band director, drum teacher and positive influence for many. In 1999, he became the director of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Summer Jazz Program. In one year, the enrollment more than tripled, and in 2001 the group was featured on WEMU. Dobbins frequently plays at venues such as Baker's Keyboard Lounge (Detroit), the Music Hall Jazz Cafe (Detroit), Murphy's Place (Toledo) and Buddy Guy's (Chicago). He currently plays with such groups as Dobbins, Krahnke and Weed; The Modern Jazz Messengers; and other local and national acts.