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Celebrated Pianist Steve Richko Dies at Age 32

Paul Keller and his trio present a concert in his honor on Oct. 8

October 5, 2010 — Ann Arbor, Mich. — Pianist Steve Richko, a true musical force on the jazz scene in Southeastern Michigan, passed away suddenly at the age of 32 on Sunday, Oct. 3. “Steve was one of the most gifted pianists I’ve ever worked with,” said friend and colleague Paul Keller. “He was like a brother to me.”

Richko, who grew up in a family of musicians dating back several generations, pursued jazz from an early age. Considered one of the finest jazz pianists on the jazz scene these days, Richko was known for his virtuosic piano technique and his keen understanding of ensemble playing and trio arranging. He had a passion for the music of Oscar Peterson, and spent much of his career studying and performing his music, culminating in the release of “To Oscar, With Love: A Tribute To Oscar Peterson” on PKO Records. “Steve was such a kind, beautiful soul,” Keller said. “He had a big heart that matched his massive talent.” Richko, who was based in Dearborn, is survived by his wife Elizabeth and three children.

Richko was scheduled to perform with the Paul Keller Trio featuring the music of the Nat King Cole Trio. In his honor, bassist Keller, along with guitarist Ralph Tope and pianist Glenn Tucker, will continue with the concert as a celebration of Richko’s life and artistry. The concert will take place on **Friday, Oct. 8 at 8 p.m.** at the **Kerrytown Concert House**. Tickets are \$30 for café tables up front, \$20 for rows 3-5, and \$15 for general admission. To reserve tickets, call 734-769-2999 or visit www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com. Kerrytown Concert House is located at 415 N. 4th Ave. in Ann Arbor, Mich.

About Kerrytown Concert House

The Kerrytown Concert House is an arts organization focused on community engagement and bringing fine artists and their audiences together. An intimate 110-seat venue, the Concert House has diverse offerings in a wide range of musical styles, while rotating art exhibits are displayed on the walls of the house. Located in the Kerrytown district of Ann Arbor, Mich., KCH is available to the community, including educators, students and organizations for recitals, meetings and events. In addition, it is home to the internationally acclaimed festival Edgefest, and is a presenter of artists of the highest artistic excellence. Kerrytown Concert House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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