

34th Annual Western Invitational Jazz Festival

2013–14 Season
 484th–486th Concerts

Saturday 15 March 2014
 Dorothy U. Dalton Center

BILLY DREWES, Saxophone, Guest Artist

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Big Bands

8:00 Kalamazoo Central High School
 8:20 Byron Center High School Jazz Lab
 8:40 West Michigan Home School
 9:00 Mishawaka High School
 9:20 Reeths-Puffer High School
 9:40 Grandville High School
 10:00 WMU Jazz Lab Band
 10:30 Byron Center High School Jazz Band
 10:50 Black River High School
 11:10 Ripon High School
 11:30 Comstock Park High School
 11:50 Mona Shores High School

Combos

8:40 Loy Norrix High School
 9:00 Black River – “Truth”
 9:20 Byron Center I
 9:40 West Michigan Home School
 10:00 Northview
 10:30 Community 5
 10:50 Community 4
 11:10 Grandville
 11:30 Northside

BREAK

1:00 Stevenson High School
 1:20 Northside High School
 1:40 East Kentwood High School
 2:00 Lincoln Way High School
 2:20 Northview High School
 2:40 Byron Center Jazz Orchestra

12:40 Mona Shores
 1:00 Byron Center II
 1:20 Community 3
 1:40 Community 2
 2:00 Waterford Kettering
 2:20 Stevenson
 2:40 Community 1

3:15 WMU Advanced Jazz Combo (*Rehearsal B*)
 4:00 Clinic with guest artist Billy Drewes and the Western Jazz Quartet (*Recital Hall*)
 5:00 Announcement of Outstanding Band and Combo Awards and Individual Citations

BREAK

7:30 Evening Concert featuring an Outstanding Band and Combo from the Festival and Billy Drewes with the WMU Jazz Orchestra

If the fire alarm sounds, please exit the building immediately. All other emergencies will be indicated by spoken announcement within the seating area. The tornado safe area in Dalton Center is along the lockers in the brick hallway to your left as you exit to the lobby behind you. In any emergency, walk—do not run—to the nearest exit. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance. Because of legal issues, any video or audio recording of this performance is prohibited without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.



ROOM 1120
3:15 p.m.

WMU ADVANCED JAZZ COMBO – Andrew Rathbun, Director
Dominic Carioti, saxophone; Blake Cross, saxophone;
Marcus Johnson, saxophone; Curtis James, trumpet; Luke Marlowe, trombone;
Mark Niskanen, piano; Kellen Boersma, guitar; Denis Shebukhov, bass;
Steven Perry, drums

Program to be announced.

RECITAL HALL
4:00 p.m.

WESTERN JAZZ QUARTET featuring BILLY DREWES, Saxophone
Andrew Rathbun, Saxophone
Jeremy Siskind, Piano
Tom Knific, Double Bass
Keith Hall, Drums
with Scott Cowan, Trumpet

Program to be announced.

RECITAL HALL
7:30 p.m.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL COMBO

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL BIG BAND

UNIVERSITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Tom Knific, Director

with guest artist
Billy Drewes, Saxophone

Joe Lovano	<i>Birds Eye View</i>
Thad Jones	<i>Three and One</i>
Billy Drewes	<i>Vision and Oh Yes</i>
Hoagy Carmichael	<i>The Nearness of You</i>
arr. Billy Drewes	
Billy Drewes	<i>At Ease/Turn the Beet Around, Baby</i>

GUEST ARTIST

BILLY DREWES has been creating music, composing, performing and recording since the mid 1970s. His main instruments include soprano, alto and tenor saxophones, clarinets, flutes, drums, percussion and piano. Featured on over 150 CDs, with performance credits worldwide, he continually searches out new avenues for creative expression. He shares the stage with Joe Lovano, Bill Frisell, Paul Motian and Toninho Horta at venues from Egypt to Cuba, Israel to Africa, New York's Carnegie Hall to Albert Royal Hall in London.

Drewes was born in New York in 1952. After a wonderful period of development in his early years, he moved to Boston in 1970 where he earned his degree from Berklee College of Music and where new areas of musical possibilities were defined. His intense involvement with many different avenues of music molded him into the creative artist he is today. While in Boston he worked with Tony Bennett, The Boston Symphony and Gary Burton. He also lead a number of his own bands.

A big move back to New York City in 1975 propelled him into new musical acquaintances such as Kenny Werner, John Scofield and Joe Lovano. Upon arriving in New York, he immediately joined the bands of Lionel Hampton and Eddie Palmieri as well as other serious leaders. Soon after, he toured with Woody Herman doing concerts and clinics.

The creative energy of the late 70s was great for Drewes and his wide circle of musical friends. This explosion of new ideas extended into the 80s at which time he joined Paul Motian's band. This band included Joe Lovano and Bill Frisell and toured Europe and the U.S., and recorded an album PSALM for ECM records. This period led to a musical relationship with Lyle Mays (of Pat Metheny's Band) with whom Drewes performed concerts and recorded albums. New and exciting projects were now becoming part of a daily groove for Drewes. The eclectic range of work kept things fresh and uplifting.

Drewes became involved with Brazilian and Indian Music, performed and recorded for dance troupes; Nikolais Dance Company and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. In 1990 he joined the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra. Drewes wove classical music into a wide body of music that he composed and performed. He continued recording and touring with artists Herbie Hancock, Bill Frisell, Eddie Gomez, Randy Brecker, John Scofield, Toninho Horta, John Abercrombie, Fred Hersch and Peter Erskine.

WMU JAZZ FACULTY

The WESTERN JAZZ QUARTET is a resident faculty ensemble in the School of Music at Western Michigan University. Formed in 1974, the quartet combines performing and teaching with uncommon success as they promote jazz music and jazz education through a very active schedule of tours, concerts and workshops. Activities range from performances for school children of all ages to concerts, tours and recordings with such artists as Art Farmer, Stefon Harris, Kenny Werner, Billy Hart, Mark Murphy, Randy Brecker, Dave Liebman, Janis Siegel and Bobby McFerrin.

The Western Jazz Quartet has performed from Boston to Los Angeles, and tours regularly world wide. It has been featured at festivals in Canada, Europe and the United States, and at a week of performances at La Villa in Paris, France. The group was honored with sponsorship by the Arts America Program and often tours as artistic ambassadors for the U.S. Department of State including Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Poland, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia. The quartet has also toured Europe four times with pianist Wlodek Pawlik, drum legend Billy Hart and jazz legend Randy Brecker.

The Western Jazz Quartet has released five CDs in the United States: *Mayan Myths* (2006), *Premiere* (2005) with trumpeter Scott Cowan, *Sabine's Dance* (2000), *Blue Harts* (1995) and *Firebird* (1992) with Billy Hart. Both *Firebird* and *Blue Harts* received top reviews in *DownBeat* magazine, with *Firebird* being named one of the best CDs of the 1990s. The group has released several CDs in Europe with pianist Wlodek Pawlik: *Waning Moon* (2000) on Universal Mercury Records, *Turtles* (1996) with Randy Brecker on Polonia Records and *Live at the Jazz Club Aquarium* (1995) with Billy Hart on the Koch International label.

In April of 1996, the quartet was invited to tour Thailand in honor of the 50th anniversary of the king's accession to the throne. The Western Jazz Quartet has recently been appearing throughout the United States as soloists with symphony orchestras performing Patrick Williams' *An American Concerto* and other works. As members of the contemporary music ensemble, OPUS 21, the Western Jazz Quartet has premiered over a dozen new works in New York City since 2004.

SCOTT COWAN has performed with Billy Hart, Fred Hersch, Richie Cole, Bob Mintzer, Donny McCaslin, Ingrid Jenson, Michael Philip Mossman, Slide Hampton, Shelly Berg, Jiggs Wigham, Ken Peplowski, Alan Dawson, Jim McNeely, George Garzone, James Carter, Kenny Wheeler, Billy Ekstine, Bob McChesney, Jon Faddis, Kenny Burrell, and Lou Donaldson. He was awarded the Boston Jazz Society Outstanding Jazz Soloist Award and was a finalist in the International Trumpet Guild Jazz Competition. His award winning jazz compositions and arrangements have been premiered at Lincoln Center-New York City, IAJE conferences, the Boston Globe Jazz Festival and the Detroit International Jazz Festival. He is an Artist/Educator clinician for the Conn-Selmer instrument company and a published composer/arranger with UNC Jazz Press. He has been a clinician for IAJE, Michigan Music Conference, and universities and colleges around the country, and has articles featured in the International Trumpet Guild Journal, JAZZed Magazine, and Conn-Selmer's electronic periodical Keynotes. His first CD, *Premiere*, features his original compositions with the Western Jazz Quartet on Sea Breeze records.

GREG JASPERSE is returning to Kalamazoo as an assistant professor of vocal jazz and the new director of Gold Company and GC II at Western Michigan University. A world-renowned composer and arranger, he is sought after internationally as a clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor. His conducting credits include all-state jazz choirs in New York, California, Oklahoma, Indiana, Arizona, Missouri, Colorado, New Hampshire, Illinois, and Iowa, as well as the British Columbia Honors Jazz Choir. Jasperse's voice can be heard on numerous movie soundtracks including *Epic*; *Oz*, *The Great and Powerful*; *The Campaign*; *Star Trek* and *Star Trek 2*; *National Treasure 2*; *SALT*; *The Last Airbender*; and *Real Steel*, as well as the Red Hot Chili Pepper's song "Monarchy of Roses" and Muse's album *The 2nd Law*. Jasperse is a member of two professional vocal

groups – Sixth Wave and Vertical Voices. He spends his summers teaching at several music camps including the New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp, the University of North Texas Vocal Jazz Camp, and Showchoir Camps of America.

KEITH HALL received his Bachelor of Music in jazz studies from Western Michigan University and a Master of Arts in jazz studies from Queens College in New York. Hall records and tours with singer Curtis Stigers, performing extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe. During his years in New York, Hall was a regular sub on Broadway's *Lion King*, and has performed with the likes of Betty Carter, Wycliffe Gordon, Sir Roland Hanna, Wynton Marsalis, Michael Phillip Mossman, Steve Wilson, Joe Wilder, Claudio Roditi, Luciana Souza, and Terrell Stafford. Hall is the author of *Jazz Drums Now! 1 & 2* and is the radio host for Jazz Currents on Kalamazoo's WMUK. He is the director of the Keith Hall Summer Drum Intensive and Drum Choir Xperience. His critically-acclaimed group TRI-FI has released four CDs and his recordings, books, and articles have appeared in major jazz and educational publications. Hall continues to present jazz programs in schools, conducts master classes around the world and inspires businesses and students to use elements of jazz music to impact daily life. He is a proud endorser of Remo drumheads, Regal Tip drumsticks, Taye drums and Istanbul Agop cymbals.

TOM KNIFIC has performed on tour and on record with Gene Bertoncini, Randy Brecker, Art Farmer, Dave Brubeck, Fred Hersch, The Merling Trio, OPUS 21, and others. He and Eric Marienthal co-led the "Dream Band" with Toots Thielemans, Kenny Werner, and Harvey Mason in the first live interactive jazz concert multi-cast worldwide over the internet. A renowned educator, his students have toured and recorded with Betty Carter, Vincent Herring, Cedar Walton, and perform in orchestras on three continents. He received the *DownBeat* magazine Achievement in Jazz Education award in 2004. Knific is professor of bass and Director of Jazz Studies at Western Michigan University and leader of the Western Jazz Quartet. The WJQ has appeared on five continents receiving rave reviews for its five CDs of original music. Knific appears on over 30 recordings. His four solo CDs, *The Muse* (2011), *Lines Of Influence* (2009), *Siena* (2004), and *Home Bass* (1998) have received critical acclaim. Knific is a prolific composer in a variety of idioms, and is published by ISB Editions, Dallas, and Editions Delatour, Paris. He is past president of the International Society of Bassists.

ANDREW RATHBUN is at the forefront of a new generation of jazz innovators, whose recordings Nate Chinen (*JazzTimes*, *New York Times*) has called "a successive series of revelations." His 11 CDs as a leader for Challenge, Fresh Sound, and SteepleChase records with stalwarts like Jay Anderson, Bill Stewart, Billy Hart, Gary Versace, George Colligan, Luciana Souza, Ben Monder, Geroge Garzone, Kenny Wheeler, and many others, have always pushed critical boundaries with original projects that range from song-cycles to new readings of Maurice Ravel and Federico Mompou, in addition to his own original compositions. He has composed music for the Metropole Orkest, the Danish Radio Big Band, the Brussels Jazz Orchestra, and music for film and television. He received his Doctorate of Musical Arts from Manhattan School of Music, where he also served on the faculty. He has received grants from the Canada Council, the American Music Center, the Ontario Arts Council, and has been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony, the Aspen Music Center, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Rathbun's latest release, *Shadow Forms II*, will be released in May on SteepleChase records.

The evidence that JEREMY SISKIND is among the top jazz pianists of his generation is quickly becoming overwhelming: at age 27, Siskind is the winner of the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition, a second-place finisher in the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition, a two-time finalist for the American Pianist Association's Cole Porter Fellowship, and a two-time second-place finisher at the Phillips Jazz Competition. Siskind, who was recently named a Professor of Piano at Western Michigan University's School of Music, made a sold-out solo debut at Carnegie Hall in 2012, performing Debussy's *Etudes* in the first half and jazz improvisations in the second half. Siskind's 2012 CD release, *Finger-Songwriter*, has been hailed as "one of the best albums I've heard all year" by *emusic.com*'s Dave Sumner, and "one of the most remarkable recordings I've heard in a very long time" by the *MinnPost*'s Pamela Espeland.

Special thanks to our Festival Adjudicators:

Big Band – Andrew Rathbun, Tim Froncek, Benje Daneman

Combos – Jeremy Siskind, Keith Hall