

# Birmingham restaurants showcase local musicians during Jazzfest

BY KEELY WYOGNIK  
STAFF WRITER

Jazz is on the menu at 12 Birmingham restaurants participating in Jazzfest Thursday, July 25 to Saturday, July 27.

"Jazzfest is a good event, it brings a lot of new faces to Birmingham," said Dennis Brinker, Birmingham Restaurant Collection chairman. "It's a great event, it brings lots of people to town. You hope you can get new faces, so you can make new friends, and get some new customers. People can sample lots of different restaurants, and get a feel for what downtown Birmingham has to offer," said Bill Roberts, who owns 20, Street-side Seafood, and Beverly Hills Grill.

Many restaurants will be offering food and drink specials to celebrate the three day event. Most will not be accepting reservations, patrons will be served first come, first served. The exceptions are Alban's, which is accepting reservations for parties of six or more. Elton Cafe, Ocean Grille, Phoenixia, Old Woodward Grill for parties of 8 or more, and the Townsend Hotel.

Vocalist Sheila Landis, who was scheduled to perform at City Grill, which closed on July 5, found a spot at the last minute at Cook's Garden. She will be performing there with guitarist Rick Matle. They will perform a mix of old jazz standards, pop tunes, blues and songs from their recently released CD "Fine and Mellow."

Norman's Elton Street Station is featuring the Nikki Pearce Duo and Twin Tower.

"Our music is a mixture - we do a lot of jazz and old jazz standards. It's the good old jazz, Ella

**Jazzfest performances at Birmingham restaurants**

- Alban's Bottle and Basket, 150 N. Hunter, (810) 258-5795. Rachel & Kapp, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, July 25-Saturday, July 27.
- Bales Street Cafe, 380 S. Bales, (810) 644-5832. Ed 17.
- David Myers & McKeown, 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday, July 25, Saturday, July 27.
- Cook's Garden, 225 E. Maple, (810) 645-6595. Sheila Landis with guitarist Rick Matle, 8-10 p.m. Thursday & Friday, July 25-26; 7-11 p.m. Saturday, July 27.
- Elle's Cafe, 263 Platts, (810) 647-2520. Michael Brock, 7-11 p.m. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, July 25-27.
- Max & Erma's, 250 E. More, (810) 258-1189. Paul Carey & The Nightcrawlers, 9:30 p.m.-midnight Friday, July 26, Saturday, July 27.
- Midtown Cafe, 139 S. Woodward, (810) 642-1133. Patti Richards & Larry Nozoro Quintet, 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Thursday, July 25, Friday, July 26, Saturday, July 27.
- Bess Bonnier Duo, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday, July 26. Sunny Wilkinson Duo, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Saturday, July 27.
- Norman's Elton Street Station, 245 S. Elton, (810) 647-7774. Nikki Pearce Duo, 7-11 p.m. Thursday, July 25-Saturday, July 27 (Friday and Saturday on patio).
- Twin Tower, 7-11 p.m. Friday, July 26, Saturday, July 27 (inside).
- Ocean Grille, 250 N. Woodward, (810) 648-7007. Pianist Phillip Cephes, 7-10 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 7-11 p.m. Friday, July 26. Phillip Cephes Jazz Trio, 7-11 p.m. Saturday, July 27.
- Old Woodward Grill, 555 S. Woodward, (810) 642-9400. Dean Haddad Group, 7 p.m. to midnight, Thursday, July 25, and 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, July 26.
- Bugs Beddow, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, July 27.
- Peabody's, 154 S. Hunter, (810) 644-5222. Celtic Jazz, 8-11 p.m. Thursday, July 25-Saturday, July 27.
- Palini Creek Jazz Society, 9 p.m.-midnight Friday, July 26, Saturday, July 27.
- Phoenixia, 588 S. Woodward, (810) 644-3122. Heidi Hepler & Michele Ramo, with percussionist Jamie Flusing, 7-11 p.m. Thursday, July 25-Saturday, July 27.
- Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, (810) 642-7900. Pianist Kurt Kuntz, 8 p.m.-midnight, Thursday, July 25-Saturday, July 27.
- 220, 220 E. Merrill, (810) 645-2150. The Paul Vornhagen Group, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Thursday, July 25-Saturday, July 27.

Fitzgerald, Louie Armstrong," said Pearce who wrote and performed an original version of

"Happy Birthday" for the 100th Birthday Celebration of the American Automobile in June at



TOM HOFFMEYER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Talented duo: Husband and wife Michele Ramo and Heidi Hepler will be performing 7:30 p.m. tonight at Shain Park and at Phoenixia during Birmingham Jazzfest.**

the Michigan State Fair, and is working on a new CD scheduled to be released this fall.

The Paul Vornhagen Group will be at 220. Vornhagen, an accomplished saxophonist, flutist and vocalist, played at the first Birmingham Jazzfest, and said he is delighted to be back. Joining him at 220 are Chuck Shermaturo, keyboards, and Kenn Kellert, bass. "We'll play some of my own compositions, Duke Ellington, Charlie 'Bird' Parker, Cole Porter, and Straight Ahead jazz standards," he said.

Midtown Cafe is featuring the Larry Nozoro Quintet with Patti Richards on Thursday, July 25. Bess Bonnier Duo, July 26 and

Sunny Wilkinson Duo on July 27. Nozoro and Richards will also present a concert 3:30-4:15 p.m. Saturday, July 27 in Shain Park.

Known for their unique blend of classical, Brazilian, Flamenco and jazz, husband and wife Michele Ramo and Heidi Hepler of Livonia will be at their regular weekend gig, Phoenixia, performing all three festival days.

You can get a taste of jazzfest at their Brazilian Flamenco Jazz concert 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18 at the Shain Park. In addition to Ramo, a composer and guitarist, and Hepler, vocalist/lyricist, the concert will feature "RamoNova" - Francesco Cavallini, guitar/mandolin, Raiphe

Armstrong, bass, Larry Nozoro, flute/alto sax, Dennis Sheridan, percussion, and Jamie Rusling, percussion. Rusling will join them for their Jazzfest performance.

Hepler and Ramo, who left his native Italy and symphony job has a violinist to come to the United States, met and began working together in 1994. They were married that same year, and have since produced a CD "Kiss My Head" of all original music. They are scheduled for performances in Europe this fall and will be on tour for three months.

## Botsford hosts 2nd Jazz Festival

Historic Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, Farmington Hills, will be filled with jazz noon to 10:30 p.m. Sunday, July 21 during the Second Annual Michigan Jazz Festival.

The event offers 10 1/2 hours of continuous music in the Ballroom, Founders Room, Patio and Coach House at Botsford Inn. and is supported by the American Federation of Musicians, Detroit Local 5 and the Music Performance Trust Fund, Morris Cohen, and the Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association.

Admission is free, food and beverages may be purchased throughout the afternoon and evening. Call (810) 474-2720 during business hours for information, here's the schedule:

**Coach House**  
Noon to 2 p.m. — Brookside Jazz  
4-6 p.m. — Emil Moro Orchestra  
8:30-10:30 p.m. — Johnny Trudell Big Band  
**Patio**  
Noon to 1:15 p.m. — Chris Collins WSU Jazz Faculty  
1:45-3 p.m. — Teddy Harris, Jr. Quintet  
3:30-4:45 p.m. — Trombone Summit  
5:15-6:30 p.m. — Pistol Allen Quintet  
7-8:15 p.m. — Saxophone Summit  
**Founder's room**  
12:30-1:45 p.m. — Buddy Bud-

son Trio with Ursula Walker  
2:15-3:30 p.m. — Gary Schunk Trio  
4-5:15 p.m. — Bess Bonnier Quartet  
5:45-7 p.m. — Alma Smith Quintet  
7:30-8:45 p.m. — Jack Broken-sha Quintet  
9-10:15 p.m. — Lou Smith Quartet  
**Patio**  
12:45-2 p.m. — Tom Saunders & Detroit Jazz All-Stars  
2:30-3:45 p.m. — George Benson Quartet  
4:15-5:30 p.m. — Larry Nozoro Quartet  
6:15-7:30 p.m. — Jim Wyse & Marge's Bar Band

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M-14