

Jazz musician plays for the love of sound

By Mattie Greene
staff writer

Eddie Nuicelli's dream is to headline his own show, featuring music he has written.

A Southfield resident for 20 years, the jazz trumpeter, composer and band director has played with just about all the greats in the music business, with the exception of Frank Sinatra.

Although Nuicelli, 55, loves and appreciates directing the band and playing for famous singers, deep down he wants to do his own thing and be recognized for it.

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Nuicelli has directed bands or played for a lot of big names in the music industry, including Nancy Wilson, the Four Tops, Tony Bennett, Lola Falana, Lena Horne and Wayne Newton.

He probably only missed "ole blue eyes" Sinatra because the singer brings his own bend to the Detroit metropolitan area when he performs.

Nuicelli has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival, Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Presidential Town Center in Southfield and at "Sunday Sunday" at the Southfield Civic Center.

He has an 18-piece band, and he says all of his band members are musicians and extremely serious about music.

The hard facts of life mean they have to work at something besides music, but music is their first love, he said.

Nuicelli's training is in classical music, training he feels is essential

for any musician, no matter what kind of music he ends up playing.

He graduated in 1946 from Cass Technical High School, Detroit, and later attended the University of Detroit. His father was a musician with the De-

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MINDY BAUNDERS/staff photographer

Eddie Nuicelli uses his weeklong break from teaching school to compose a new tune at his piano at home.

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