38th Annual
Western Invitational Jazz Festival

Saturday 10 March 2018
Dorothy U. Dalton Center

KENNY WERNER, Piano, Featured Guest Artist

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Big Bands

8:20 Rockford High School
8:40 Forest Hills Northern High School
9:00 Comstock Park High School
9:20 Byron Center Jazz Band
9:40 Pioneer High School
10:00 Huron High School
10:20 Grand Haven High School
10:40 Grandville High School
11:00 WMU Jazz Lab Band
11:30 PCEP Miles Davis Ensemble
11:50 Lincoln Way West 2

BREAK

1:00 Northview High School
1:20 PCEP John Coltrane Ensemble
1:40 Lincoln Way West 1
2:00 Byron Center Jazz Orchestra
2:20 Mishawaka High School
2:40 Kalamazoo Youth Jazz Orchestra

3:15 LUSHH (award winning WMU small ensemble) [Recital Hall]

4:00 Clinic with guest artist Kenny Werner and the Western Jazz Quintet [Recital Hall]

5:00 Announcement of Outstanding Band and Combo Awards and Individual Citations

BREAK

7:30 Evening Concert featuring the Outstanding Band and Combo from the Festival and Kenny Werner with the WMU Jazz Orchestra

Building emergencies will be indicated by flashing lights and spoken announcement within the seating area. If the notification is for fire, please exit the building immediately. 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 forbidden without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.
RECITAL HALL
3:15 p.m.
LUSHH
Keith Hall, Director
Eddie Codrington, Tenor Saxophone; Andrew Saliba, Guitar; Grayson Nye, Piano;
Matthew Epperson, Bass; Madison George, Drums
Program to be announced.

RECITAL HALL
4:00 p.m.
WESTERN JAZZ QUINTET featuring Kenny Werner, Piano
Andrew Rathbun, Saxophone
Scott Cowan, Trumpet
Tom Knific, Bass
Keith Hall, Drums
Program to be announced.

RECITAL HALL
7:30 p.m.
OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL COMBO
OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL BIG BAND
UNIVERSITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Scott Cowan, Director
with guest artist
Kenny Werner, Piano
Scott Cowan Summer Dragon Fly
Vince Mendoza Homecoming
Kenny Werner All That
Kenny Werner Naked in the Cosmos

Special thanks to our Festival Adjudicators
Andrew Rathbun
Matthew Fries
Keith Hall
Tom Knific
Max Colley II

Festival Directors
Scott Cowan
Andrew Rathbun
FEATUED GUEST ARTIST

Kenny Werner has been a world-class pianist and composer for over forty years. His prolific output of compositions, recordings and publications continue to impact audiences around the world. In 1996 he wrote his landmark book, Effortless Mastery: Liberating The Master Musician Within. Werner has since created videos, lectured world-wide and authored many articles on how musicians, artists or even business people can allow their “master creator” within to lift their performance to it’s highest level, showing us how to be spontaneous, fearless, joyful and disciplined in our work and in our life.

Werner was awarded the 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship Award for his seminal work, No Beginning No End. No Beginning No End. It is a musical journey exploring tragedy and loss, death and transition, and the path from one lifetime to the next. Utilizing over 70 musicians, Werners’s third album for Half Note Records is an expansive composition featuring Joe Lovano, Judy Silvano, Wind Ensemble, Choir and String Quartet.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Nov. 19, 1951 and then growing up in Oceanside, Long Island, Werner began playing and performing at a young age, first recording on television at the age of eleven. Although he studied classical piano as a child, he enjoyed playing anything he heard on the radio. In high school and his first years of college, he attended the Manhattan School of Music as a classical piano major.

His natural instinct for improvisation led Werner to the Berklee School of Music in 1970. There he sought tutelage of the renowned piano teacher Madame Chaloff. Her gracious wisdom and inspiration became a driving force in Werner’s conception: A music conscious of its spiritual intent and essence.

From Boston, Werner traveled to Brazil with the saxophonist Victor Assis Brasil. There he met Victor’s twin brother, Brazilian pianist Joao Assis Brasil. He studied with Joao, who provided another piece of the puzzle for Werner’s conception that would lead to Effortless Mastery, his landmark opus on how to allow the master musician from within to manifest. The book, is now available as an ebook on kindle and in ibooks. For more information about Werner, visit kennywerner.com

WMU INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ FACULTY

The Western Jazz Quintet is a resident faculty ensemble in the School of Music at Western Michigan University. Formed in 1974, the quintet 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 Quintet 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 quintet has also toured Europe four times with pianist Wlodek Pawlik, drum legend Billy Hart and jazz legend Randy Brecker.


In April of 1996, the quintet was invited to tour Thailand in honor of the 50th anniversary of the king’s accession to the throne. The Western Jazz Quintet 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 Quintet has premiered over a dozen new works in New York City since 2004.

Scott Cowan has performed with internationally recognized jazz artists Donny McCaslin, Ingrid Jensen, Billy Hart, Fred Hersch, Richie Cole, Bob Mintzer, Slide Hampton, Alan Dawson, Jim McNeely, George Garzone, James Carter, Kenny Wheeler, Billy Eckstine, Bob McChesney, Jon Faddis, Kenny Burrell, Lou Donaldson, and others. He is the recipient of the Boston Jazz Society Outstanding Jazz Soloist Award. His recent CD Jack’s Place featuring eleven original compositions for quartet, quintet, sextet and octet is found on blujazz records and has been featured on over 50 U.S. radio stations. His first CD Premiere also features original compositions and arrangements and is found on Sea Breeze records. He is an Artist/Educator clinician for the Conn-Selmer instrument company and a published composer/arranger with UNC Jazz Press (http://arts.unco.edu/uncjazz/jazzpress.html). His award-winning jazz compositions and arrangements have been premiered at the Jazz Education Network Conventions (JEN), Lincoln Center-New York City, International Association of Jazz Educators conferences, Boston Globe Jazz Festival, and Detroit International Jazz Festival. He has been a clinician at the Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland, the International Association of Jazz Educators, The Michigan Music Conference, state and district jazz festivals in Illinois, Michigan and Massachusetts as well as many universities and colleges nationwide. His articles have been featured in the International Trumpet Guild Journal, the JAZZed Magazine and Conn-Selmer electronic periodical Keynotes. He is a Fulbright Scholar having received the Distinguished Chair Award
Matthew Fries is an assistant professor of keyboard jazz studies at Western Michigan University. He grew up in a musical home in a Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, learning piano from his father, a piano professor at Susquehanna University. Fries played trumpet and sang in high school but returned to the keyboard after a college course awakened his interest in jazz piano. After earning degrees from Ithaca College (B.M.) and the University of Tennessee (M.M.), Fries lived and worked in New York City for many years, recording and touring with his collaborative trio, TRI-FI, with singer Curtis Stigers as a regular member of his band, and with a diverse lineup of other artists that has included Stacey Kent, Ann Hampton Callaway, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Vincent Herring, Steve Wilson, Dave Samuels, Claudio Roditi, Terell Stafford, and many others.

The winner of the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, Fries’ debut album, Song for Today (TCB Music), was named a critics’ pick by Jazziz Magazine, and his work a sideman has been called “the best jazz accompaniment I’ve seen in a cabaret in years” (The New York Times) and “the crispest rhythm section imaginable” (The London Times).

Drummer Keith Hall has established himself as a passionate educator and joyful performer. He spent 12 years touring world-wide and recording with singer Curtis Stigers and lived in New York City for eight years, where he also played drums on Broadway’s The Lion King. Hall has performed with Billy Drewes, Betty Carter, Wyckiffe Gordon, Sir Roland Hanna, Fred Hersch, Joe Lovano, Wynton Marsalis, Michael Phillip Mossman, Janis Siegel, Luciana Souza, Terell Stafford, Rodney Whitaker, Joe Wilder, and Steve Wilson. He tours and records with his New York City based trio TRI-FI. Hall’s non-profit organization Tuned In presents educational programs to students of all ages. He is the artistic director of the Keith Hall Summer Drum Intensive and is the author of Jazz Drums Now! Volume 1 and 2. Hall is the jazz drum set professor at Western Michigan University and plays drums in the Western Jazz Quartet. Hall is also the radio host of Jazz Currents on WMUK, Kalamazoo’s NPR affiliate and is a two-time winner for Best Music Programming at the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Awards. Modern Drummer Magazine says, “Hall has a nimble, grooving, ‘melodic’ touch, and knows how to tell a story.” Hall is a proud endorser of Yamaha Drums, Zildjian Cymbals, Remo Drumheads and Vic Firth Drumsticks. More information about Keith Hall can be found at KeithHallMusic.com.

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, Philippe Entremont, and many more. 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 world wide 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 at Western Michigan University and leader of the Western Jazz Quartet (WJQ). The WJQ has appeared on five continents receiving rave reviews for its six CDs of original music. Knific appears on over 30 CDs. His four solo CDs, Home Bass (1998), Siena (2004), Lines of Influence (2009), and The Muse (2011) 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.

Saxophonist, composer, bandleader, and Toronto native Andrew Rathbun has achieved a rare depth of lyricism, authoritative swing, and compositional intelligence in nearly 20 years as a recording artist. His work is rooted in modern jazz but also deeply informed by classical composition. His recordings have included adaptations of Ravel, Mompou, Glück, and others. He has written big band commissions for the Danish Radio Jazz Orchestra, the Brussels Jazz Orchestra, the Metropole Orkest, and other ensembles. Rathbun has also performed and composed commercial music for over 10 years. Another of Rathbun’s inspirations is poetry: his recordings Jade and True Stories set to music the verse of Cathy Song and Margaret Atwood, respectively (both albums featured acclaimed Brazilian vocalist Luciana Souza). His 2002 release, Sculptures, featured trumpet legend and Toronto native Kenny Wheeler in a set that “cloak(s) subtle avant-garde proclivities in soft light and open air.” (JazzTimes) Rathbun has also tackled political subjects with his large ensemble work Power Politics Suite and his 2007 quintet session Affairs of State. His other recordings of note are Renderings (duo with pianist George Colligan), Shadow Forms (featuring George Garzone), Where We Are Now (featuring Billy Hart), and The Idea of North and Numbers & Letters (featuring Bill Stewart). His latest recording is Atwood Suites on Origin Records, featuring Luciana Souza, Tim Hagans, and Bill Stewart; the project focuses on setting’s of famed author Margaret Atwood’s poetry for jazz orchestra. Rathbun earned a master’s in performance from Boston’s New England Conservatory, where he studied with George Garzone, Jimmy Giuffre, and George Russell. He became a fixture on the New York jazz scene during his years in Brooklyn, helping to shape the sound of the music in the new millennium as he earned a doctorate in jazz arts from Manhattan School of Music. He is currently professor of saxophone and jazz studies at Western Michigan University.