

Jazz Notes

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AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION



Jazz Gumbo Showcase

Monday, April 16

6 'til 9 p.m. Live Music 6:30–8:30

“Girl Swingers”

FEATURING

Francesca Amari

and the

Mark Kahny Trio

with guest vocalist

Michael (Judy Garland) Holmes



The term “cabaret singer” is not just a fancy name for “saloon singer.” A saloon singer was a backdrop for the bar business – an extra added attraction. A cabaret singer is a versatile vocalist who is the attraction... the reason for going to Club A instead of Club Z.

Francesca has performed her cabaret shows in Chicago, New York and Colorado. She has toured the Midwest with the trio act she created, Boogie Woogie Babies, as well as performing with jazz duos and cabaret shows with the popular West Michigan female impersonator, Michael Holmes. She has also performed in national and regional theatre productions and is part of the distinguished Touring Artists Roster for the Michigan Humanities Council.

Singing everything from jazz standards to

pop to musical theatre to folk, Ms. Amari was a quarterfinalist in the prestigious American Traditions competition which is part of the Savannah Music Festival that honors just 30 performers from a nationwide pool of vocalists. In addition, she is an adjunct teacher of Drama in Education at Grand Valley State University and has taught and directed children’s theatre at WMU, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, among others.

For her first Jazz Gumbo appearance, Ms. Amari will present a program dedicated to the swinging singers of yesteryear, such as Anita O’Day, Betty Hutton and Ella Mae Morse, and more. They swung such tunes as “Cow Cow Boogie,” “Blues in the Night,” and “Oh, Look at me Now.”

With Mike Lutley on sax and Michael VanLente on drums, and a third Michael on some vocal surprises, this promises to be an evening of real treats for those who, like Liza, love a cabaret!

The casual cabaret setting is conducive to jazz listening, and the place is easy to find... four blocks west of U.S. 131 and four blocks north of Bridge Street. Ample parking across the street, two doors south, at Arsulowitz Funeral Home lot.

Dance – dine – and listen to great jazz at the
Kopper Top Guest House
634 Stocking NW (one door south of Fourth Street)
Open Seating – Doors Open at 6 p.m.

\$7 members; \$10 non-members, free if they join WMJS at this event! – Admission includes bowl of Gumbo or Chili plus salad and crackers – Refills \$2.00 – Cash bar