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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **GRandJazzFest gets ready for FREE Aug. 17-18 event at Rosa Parks Circle**

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. – Aug. 14, 2013 – GRandJazzFest presented by DTE Energy Foundation gears up for the second annual FREE two-day jazz festival at Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids this Aug. 17-18.

“We’re ready with a fantastic lineup of great jazz performers and performances,” GRandJazzFest Founder Audrey Sundstrom said. “We are grateful to our presenting sponsor, DTE Energy Foundation, and all of the sponsors and friends of GRandJazzFest, who helped to make this event happen and keep it free for all to attend.”

DTE Energy Foundation’s Roger Royer said, “It’s great to support another weekend of free cultural activities that make downtown Grand Rapids the place to be.”

## **The schedule and performers**

*Note: Each performer’s name below is linked to a bio. (Please contact Molly Klimas if you would like photos of our performers.)*

### **Saturday, August 17, 2013 • Noon - 10 p.m.**

- 12:30 p.m. [Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra with Edye Evans Hyde](#)
- 2:00 p.m. [The Paul Keller AT SUNDOWN Quintet featuring Sarah D’Angelo](#)
- 3:30 p.m. [Sheila Landis & Brazilian Love Affair](#)
- 5:00 p.m. [The Kinsey Report](#)
- 6:30 p.m. [Deon Yates](#)
- 8:00 p.m. [Nick Colionne - HEADLINER](#)

### **Sunday, August 18, 2013 • Noon - 7 p.m.**

- 12:00 p.m. [Jazz Students Jam Session](#)
- 1:30 p.m. [Randy Marsh Organ Trio featuring Chris Moberley and Rick Hicks](#)
- 3:00 p.m. [Mind’s Eye](#)
- 4:30 p.m. [Edye Evans Hyde](#)
- 6:00 p.m. [Phil Denny](#)



## **Chicago guitarist and vocalist Nick Colionne headlines**

Chicago-based guitarist and vocalist Nick Colionne headlines GRandJazzFest.

“We’re delighted to bring internationally known jazz guitarist and vocalist Nick Colionne and his band to Grand Rapids to headline our festival,” Sundstrom said.

In addition to Colionne, artists for 2013 include saxophonist Deon Yates, The Paul Keller AT SUNDOWN Quintet featuring Sarah D’Angelo, Sheila Landis & Brazilian Love Affair, The Kinsey Report, Randy Marsh Organ Trio featuring Chris Moberley and Rick Hicks, and Mind’s Eye. Performers returning from GRandJazzFest 2012 include Lansing-based saxophonist Phil Denny and the homegrown Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra (GRJO). Popular local vocalist Edey Evans Hyde returns to perform with GRJO and also performs with her own band at the festival. Street-funk blues-rock band The Kinsey Report hails from Gary, Ind., and Colionne of course from Chicago. The other bands and performers are all from Michigan.

In keeping with a format modeled after the highly successful River Raisin Jazz Festival in Monroe, Mich., GRandJazzFest 2013 will open with the returning Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra. “We always plan to open with big-band jazz, and here in Grand Rapids, that big band is our own Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra,” Sundstrom said.

The festival occurs during Experience Grand Rapids’ highly successful Restaurant Week. By design, GRandJazzFest organizers want festival-goers to enjoy the downtown Grand Rapids scene by enjoying a dinner or other refreshment in between music sets.

“Part of our mission is to support local businesses – we want people to check out downtown Grand Rapids’ great restaurants, pubs, shops and more. Special shout outs to GRandJazzFest sponsors San Chez, Tre Cugini, The Gilmore Collection and Kitchen 67 for their support of GRandJazzFest,” Sundstrom said.

Festival-goers are encouraged to bring chairs and coolers (non-alcoholic beverages). Ice-cold water and paddle fans will be for sale at the festival’s main tent.

## **Special Jazz Students Jam Session on Sunday, Aug. 18**

Earlier this year, GRandJazzFest announced a special opportunity for jazz-performance students to be considered for the 2013 festival lineup by “auditioning” as part of jam sessions put on by TrioJazz, led by local jazz artist Steve Hilger.

We’re pleased to announce the chosen student jazz performers:

- Madison George, Andrew Groenleer, Dominic Bieringa, Lucas Keur, Travis Good and Steven VanLoozenoord – students from Northview High School – take to the Rosa Parks Circle stage at noon on Sunday, Aug. 18.
- The Olin Clark Sextet, featuring jazz students from Michigan State University, plays at 12:35 p.m. The sextet features Walter A. Cano on trumpet, Anthony C. Burrell on saxophone, Olin Clark on guitar, Kim Vi on keyboards, Aidan Cafferty on bass and Nicholas Bracewell on drums.

“One of GR and Jazz’s goals in year two of the festival is to increase the educational aspect – to broaden awareness of jazz as a great American art form to diverse audiences and to provide a



platform to celebrate up-and-coming jazz talent! We're excited to support and present these emerging artists!" said Hilger, who also served on GRandJazzFest's 2013 artist selection committee and performed at the 2012 GRandJazzFest.

## **Bios provided by the artists**

### **Nick Colionne – Saturday Night Headline Performer**

#### **Guitarist and Vocalist**

Red-hot guitarist and vocalist Nick Colionne of Chicago continues his blazing success, with BET Jazz describing him as an exceptional performer. His latest CD, *Feel the Heat*, marks his debut on the prestigious Trippin n Rhythm label and takes his unique combination of jazz, funk, R&B and soul to new heights.

Long known for his dynamic, musically eclectic "live" performances, *Feel the Heat* demonstrates his dynamic command of the guitar, rich baritone vocals and varied music styles, all of which make this latest CD a reflection of why he is a true force when performing in concert.

His long string of Top 10 hits from his six previous CDs is a testament to his musical talent. Nick was honored with the prestigious 2007 International Instrumental Artist of the Year Award at the Wave Jazz Awards. Other honors include Alumnus of the Year at Malcolm X College in Chicago, Artist of the Year at the 2011 Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival and Performer of the Year for JazzTrax Jazz Festivals in 2010 and 2011.

Nick has toured all over the world but his passion is mentoring children. He has developed a special music curriculum for the Florence B. Price Elementary School for the Performing Arts in Chicago.

In 2009, he joined forces with Epiphone Guitars, *Wine and Jazz Magazine* and Tobin James Winery in a national campaign to benefit breast cancer research. In 2010, he invited his sponsor Stacy Adams to participate in Suited Up For Success, a program with the Urban League of the Carolinas to benefit men re-entering the workforce. Stacy Adams has dedicated a scholarship in Nick's name to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Awards in Milwaukee, Wis.

It's no surprise that Nick Colionne's sustained chart-topping radio history and his incredible live performances, infused with his unique and soulful styling of jazz guitar playing and rich vocals, have made him a force to be reckoned with.

More on Nick at <http://nickcolionne.com>.

### **Deon Yates**

#### **Saxophonist**

With the release of his new hit CD *Spotlight* featuring jazz guitarist Nick Colionne, vocalist Maysa and soul trumpeter Lin Rountree, saxophonist Deon Yates is fast becoming one of the



most sought-after talents in jazz.

He has been recognized as an influential instrumentalist and performer by some of the top music producers in the country. With endorsements from industry leaders Sax Dakota U.S.A., Theo Wanne (Mouthpieces) and AMT Microphones, Deon has proven to be a world-class artist.

Deon grew up on the East Side of Detroit where he was introduced to jazz by teachers Donald Washington and Hosea Taylor. He quickly became an accomplished woodwind player, proficient in both jazz and classical music.

Deon was nominated for an Emmy Award for original music that he produced for a PBS Television program in 2001 and has performed as a special guest at concerts with many jazz notables.

More on Deon at [www.deonyates.com](http://www.deonyates.com).

## **The Paul Keller AT SUNDOWN Quintet featuring Sarah D' Angelo**

### **Jazz Quintet**

The Paul Keller AT SUNDOWN Quintet is a talented group of Michigan-based jazz performers who enchant audiences of all ages with their personalized brand of high-energy, top-shelf jazz and swing. The group's 2012 CD *At Sundown* is the joyous culmination of the past year, which has included rewarding performances at the Detroit Institute Of Arts, The Mackinac Island Grand Hotel Jazz Festival, The Michigan Jazz Festival and Glen Arbor Art Association's Manitou Music Festival.

String bassist, composer, band leader and educator Paul Keller has earned the nickname "House Bassist for the State of Michigan" because of the many miles he logs every year traveling to jazz performances across the state.

Vocalist and clarinetist Sarah D'Angelo has quickly gained recognition and praise as a smart, charming and entertaining jazz performer who connects instantly with her audiences. The quintet also includes pianist Duncan McMillan, saxophonist Ben Jansson and drummer Sean Dobbins.

More on the Paul Keller AT SUNDOWN Quintet at <http://www.pkorecords.com>.

## **Sheila Landis & Brazilian Love Affair**

### **Eclectic Latin Jazz**

The heady brew that is Sheila Landis & Brazilian Love Affair musically embraces the bossa nova, samba, batucada, soca, Spanish flamenco and cha-cha. Add a dose of surf-rock, smooth jazz, Detroit style funk and enjoy the ride!

It all started with the hushed allure of Astrud Gilberto, Brazilian housewife-turned-chanteuse, and her seemingly omnipresent percussive chirp of "tall and tan and young and lovely, the *Girl from Ipanema* ..."



Cocktail jazz for sure, but captivating enough for then 11-year-old “Beatle-maniac” Sheila Landis to take to heart back in 1964. The sinuous melodies of Brazilian composer Antonio Carlos Jobim beckoned her, as did the upbeat ditties of “Brazil 66.”

In the 1970s, Landis melded her own vocal style. In the mid-1990s, Landis and guitarist Rick Matle turned their shared love of subtle syncopation into a concert band, “Sheila Landis & Brazilian Love Affair,” enlisting the sure-footed drumming of Wayne State University Music Professor David Taylor. The group soon grew to six pieces, adding a second percussionist, a bassist and a keyboardist, playing concerts all over Michigan.

Landis is the seven-time winner of the “Outstanding Jazz Vocalist” Award bestowed by the Detroit Music Awards.

More on Sheila and her group at <http://grandjazzfest.org/performers/sheila-landis-brazilian-love-affair/>.

## **The Kinsey Report**

### **Blues, Jazz, Funk Rock Band**

It’s been 15 years since Gary, Indiana’s The Kinsey Report burst upon the scene with their blistering brand of street-smart, funky blues-rock. Over the course of four critically acclaimed albums and endless national touring, the Kinsey brothers – guitarist/vocalist Donald, drummer Ralph and bassist Kenneth – have blazed a modern trail of powerful, original radio-friendly music that grabs both diehard blues fans and rockers who love supercharged guitar and bone-shaking vocals.

The Kinsey Report developed its singular sound from a lifetime of working and sweating together on stage and in the studio. Their father and musical mentor – Mississippi-born Lester “Big Daddy” Kinsey, a bluesman known for his Delta slide guitar and harmonica playing – introduced his sons to gospel and blues.

With great reviews in mainstream press and rock radio airplay, The Kinsey Report quickly grew from one of Chicago’s most popular acts into a national phenomenon.

With their new release, *Smoke And Steel (AL 4860)*, The Kinsey Report lays out their modern blues vision for music lovers everywhere to enjoy.

More on The Kinsey Report at <http://grandjazzfest.org/performers/the-kinsey-report/>.

## **Randy Marsh Organ Trio featuring Chris Moberley and Rick Hicks**

### **Jazz Drummer Organ Trio**

Drummer Randy Marsh grew up with a jazz background. In 1976, he toured Europe with the Mike Grace Quartet, doing a record-breaking 72 performances in 30 days. In 1978, he recorded with legendary “Count Basie” tenor sax man Jimmy “Night Train” Forrest.

After a four-year stint with a popular fusion band known as Turning Point, Randy moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and quickly became a first-call drummer on the music scene. From 1986 to 1988 he toured the United States, Canada and Europe with the Tony Award-winning



theater company, the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

Randy is noted for his ability to adapt to many different styles of music including jazz, fusion, rock, funk, country, blues and Afro-Latin as well as experimental form. In 2013, he was honored as West Michigan Jazz Society's Musician of the Year.

More on Randy at <http://grandjazzfest.org/performers/randy-marsh-organ-trio/>.

## **Mind's Eye**

### **Jazz Quartet**

Grand Rapids-based Mind's Eye plays original music and standards in a modern mainstream jazz style. *Cadence* magazine reviewer Richard B. Kamins compares the band's sound to Miles Davis' mid-60s acoustic group. Mind's Eye includes Rob Smith – trumpet and saxophones; Steve Talaga – piano; Tom Lockwood – acoustic bass; and Keith Hall – drums.

The quartet has played many regional and even international venues, including the Montreux/Detroit Jazz Festival and the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. The group has opened repeatedly for the Grand Rapids Symphony at Cannonsburg.

The members of Mind's Eye have also appeared as guest artists and clinicians at many high school and college jazz events across Michigan and they are on the faculties of some of the most respected Jazz Studies programs in higher education.

Mind's Eye's compact discs *Angst for the Spoiler*, *Seasons*, *Lucky Nine* and their latest, *Children of the Glacier*, are available at Grand Rapids area outlets.

More on Mind's Eye at [www.myspace.com/mindseyejazz](http://www.myspace.com/mindseyejazz).

## **Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra with Edye Evans Hyde**

### **Big Band Jazz Ensemble**

For more than 35 years, the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra has been one of Michigan's premier jazz ensembles, featuring some of the finest musicians in the area playing swinging original compositions and arrangements as well as traditional favorites.

Accompanying GRJO at GRandJazzFest is well-known vocalist Edye Evans Hyde, who also performs on Sunday at our festival.

GRJO was founded in 1977 by the late Bruce Early and has performed with many famous artists such as Clark Terry, Louis Bellson, Phil Woods, Pearl Bailey, Kenny Wheeler, Randy Brecker, Maria Schneider, Allen Vizutti, Phil Wilson and Bobby Shew, and has been enjoyed by thousands of people at concerts, dances and festivals throughout the region.

GRJO performs for shows, concerts and private events and can be heard at Founder's Brewery the first Sunday of every month.

More on GRJO at [www.grjo.com](http://www.grjo.com).



## **Edye Evans Hyde**

### **Vocalist**

2011 West Michigan Jazz Society Musician of the Year Edye Evans Hyde has been singing jazz, blues and pop music for more than 30 years in West Michigan, Los Angeles, Asia and Europe. Over the years, Edye has shared the stage with world-renowned blues singer Linda Hopkins, pop singer Michael Bolton, vocalist Maria Muldaur, actress Connie Stevens, the late Ray Charles and Cuban trumpet player Arturo Sandoval.

Edye's theatrical performances include principle roles in *Dream Girls*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Ragtime* and *Having Our Say*.

She recently released her newest album, *Magic In His Eyes*. You can find the recording on [www.cdbaby.com/cd/edyeevanshyde](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/edyeevanshyde).

More on Edye at <http://edyeevanshyde.com>

## **Phil Denny**

### **Saxophonist**

A buzz has been rippling from coast to coast as Phil Denny's prowess reaches those who follow contemporary jazz. He's described as a passionate and soulful saxophonist who has a way of captivating audiences with his smooth and sexy yet energetic style.

*Crossover*, Phil's debut release in 2012, was described by Critical Jazz as "an album that works on every imaginable level, from sophisticated cover art to a non-pretentious approach to where contemporary music should be heading." The acceptance of the album was immediate, and "Push," the vibrant first single to radio, debuted at No. 29 on the Billboard Smooth Jazz National Airplay chart and later peaked at No. 21 as well as spent more the 20 weeks on the SmoothJazz.com charts.

Currently on the radio is the up-tempo "Traffic Jam," which debuted at No. 30 on the Billboard Smooth Jazz National Airplay chart and has since risen to No. 25 and can now be heard nationally on Sirius XM Watercolors.

Smooth jazz journalist Brent Black describes Phil as having "the control and phrasing of Grover Washington Jr. and the lyrical chops of Stan Getz."

Now, with a unique and identifiable style and personality of his own, Phil has cultivated a loyal and diverse fan base while building an impressive resume. Performance highlights to date include an appearance at the 2012 Dubai International Jazz Festival and the 2013 Arizona Jazz Festival. He heads to Africa later this year on tour.

More on Phil at <http://phildenny.com>.



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**About GRandJazzFest**

GRandJazzFest presented by DTE Energy Foundation is a community event of the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization “GR and Jazz” founded in 2012, with the purpose of promoting and bringing awareness of jazz and related arts to new and diverse audiences through educational programs and community events. GRandJazzFest 2013 is a FREE weekend-long event that runs Saturday, Aug. 17, from noon until 10 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 18, from noon p.m. to 7 p.m., featuring jazz artists who are primarily Michigan-based. GRandJazzFest brings together notable jazz performers as well as highlights up-and-coming artists for diverse audiences. GRandJazzFest is being held at Rosa Parks Circle, a central location in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, where attendees can enjoy music, support local businesses and visit other Grand Rapids attractions. The festival is FREE. More information at [www.grandjazzfest.org](http://www.grandjazzfest.org).

To view the artists’ bios, go to <http://grandjazzfest.org/category/buzz/2013-performers/>

To download photos of the artists, go to <http://smu.gs/14KBw3r>

To go to [grandjazzfest.org](http://grandjazzfest.org) on your smartphone use your QR code reader:

