

DOWNTOWN MONITOR

22nd Annual Michigan Jazz Festival



A Reunited Lunar Octet Returns to the Fest



The All-Female Jazz Group Straight Ahead Appears

J MICHIGAN
Jazz
FESTIVAL

Schoolcraft College is presenting six stages of jazz music at the biggest one day free jazz event in the Midwest at the 22nd Annual Michigan Jazz Festival, Sunday, July 17 from noon

to 9 p.m. Held on the grounds of Schoolcraft College in Livonia, the very best jazz musicians in Metro Detroit and Southeastern Michigan will converge for this legendary one-day event to showcase their wares and prove why they collectively are some of the best performers in the world.

Following the grand legacy of musicians who came from this area, including the likes of Tommy Flanagan, The Jones Brothers, Sir Roland Hanna, Roy Brooks, Ron Carter, Yusef Lateef and Paul Chambers, the current crop of veterans and younger players will keep that lineage strong and true to its roots and

traditions. Conducted annually on the third Sunday in July, the *Michigan Jazz Festival* is poised to present a diversified line-up of local all-star jazz names as strong as any festival in the U.S.A.

The beautiful and modern **Vis Ta Tech Center** houses three of the stages, with advanced graphics, high tech electronic audio and visual enhancements. A solo piano room, big band showcase hall, small ensemble concert theatre, underground stage, outdoor tent and the main cafeteria for student performers are all open throughout the day.

Some of the performers scheduled to appear include the John Trudell Orchestra, the all female band Straight Ahead, pianists Dennis Tini and his wife April Arabian Tini, Bob Seeley, Gary Schunk, Terry Lower and Bill Meyer. Drummers Jerry McKenzie, Sean Dobbins and Tom Brown. Bassist Ray Parker and his father woodwind master Gene Parker featuring drummer George Schuller and pianist Jon Davis (in from New York City). R.J. Spangler and the PD9

Townships Ensemble, the Craig Strain Orchestra, bassist Paul Keller's At Sundown Ensemble, Dave Tatrow's Dixieland Band, the Lyn LaPlante Memorial Septet, the Modern Cap Band, pianist Jeff Haas and his band (he is the son of renowned radio broadcaster Karl Haas). A reunited return to Michigan for the Lunar Octet and rising stars like award winning Adam Kahana, members of the Schoolcraft College Big Band, Eastern Michigan University's Jazz Combo, the MSU Public Community Music School Band from Detroit and the John Peschi/Southeastern Michigan Music Academy Band led by drummer Sean Dobbins via his Ann Arbor Public Schools Summer Jazz Band. Admission to the event is free and free parking is available in the north lot of the college. Handicap accessibility is available.

For a complete line-up of scheduled performers on each individual stage and more information, call (734) 462-4403 or visit michiganjazzfestival.org.

Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Rd. in Livonia.

SHOWINGS

New Works at the Scarab Club

The historic Scarab Club in Midtown Detroit's Cultural District is exhibiting two artists through the month of July.

In the Historic Room, artist Michael Crane will hang his whimsical Pop Art-rooted cats in bold fields of color. As an art historian first and foremost, Crane integrates historical subject matter into some of his work leaving the viewer eager to discover its inner meaning. Other pieces have taken a lighter angle ranging from animal themes, space travel, music and more — “these cats have inspired me throughout my artistic journey,” Crane remarked.



Michael Crane

Over the years, Crane has experimented with various mediums (gouache, oil, acrylic, and spray.) As a self-taught artist, he has benefitted from close friendships with trained artists located in both San Francisco and Detroit. Many have helped him sharpen his technique along with serving as valuable resources when incubating new ideas.

Crane's work was most recently exhibited at the Secunda Museum, Vive le Chat: the Art of Michael Crane in Howell, MI. He also exhibited at “The Loin” and at 50 Mason Social House in San Francisco. And a piece of his work is also featured in the national documentary, *Batkid Begins: The Wish Heard Around the World*.

In the Club's upstairs lounge, Native Detroitier Charles Alexander's seminal works will be on display. Alexander has twice been an exhibiting artist at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and has exhibited at the Birmingham/Bloomfield Art Gallery, Detroit Artists Market, Hatch Gallery, and Affirmations LGBT Art Gallery, where he has been a volunteer curator for 9 years.



Charles Alexander

His art has been featured on several covers of *Metro Times*, *Between The Lines*, and as content for *Detroit Free Press*, *Detroit News*, *Ann Arbor Press*, *A&U* and *Detroit* magazines. This is his fourth Scarab Club exhibition.

Alexander graduated as a commercial art major from Cass Technical High School in 1955. He has been a member of Detroit's LGBT rainbow community since 1956, and the recipient of a Spirit of Detroit Award for his AIDS art donation fundraising.

He also writes a weekly column, *Parting Glances*, for *Between The Lines*. He celebrated his 80th birthday in May, and was reelected for his second term as a Scarab Club Board member in June. He says: “[It is] The product of an in-

ner dimension, with its own dynamics and tensions, my art is both familiar and alien. It keeps me alive.”

The historic Scarab Club is located at 217 Farnsworth at John R, in Midtown Detroit's Cultural District, directly across from the DIA. The exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more information, call (313) 831-1250, or see scarabclub.org.



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The Sporting Life



Mid-Season Exam: Tigers at the Half

George B. Eichorn

A dozen players who impacted the first half start of the Detroit Tigers...for better or for worse.

Justin Upton - He was given a six-year, \$132.75M deal in the off-season and has showed little of the power that Detroit hoped for. The 28-year-old slugger appears frustrated at the plate, striking our way too much (109 times) and leaving loads of runners stranded. His power numbers and .229 batting average need improvement fast.



Michael Fulmer - He's a kid acquired in last year's deal that sent slugger Yoenis Cespedes to the New York Mets. The 23-year-old righty was tentative at first yet in his eight starts for the Tigers since May 21, he's allowed only three runs on 23 hits through 51-plus innings. That's a terrific 0.53 ERA and .133 opponent batting average. Shades of Mark (The Bird) Fidrych's magical 1976 season?

Cameron Maybin - What a plus he has been for Detroit. Since returning from

the disabled list he has blistered the ball (.357 average) and given the team an emotional spark with his enthusiasm in the clubhouse and his speed on the base paths (9 steals).



Francisco Rodriguez - Another plus for the Tigers. "K-Rod" has solidified the Tigers' closer situation coming over from the Milwaukee Brewers in the off-season. After a few hairy April relief appearances, K-Rod has proven that he belongs on the American League All-Star squad as he's tied for first in AL saves with 23 (out of 25 opportunities).



Ian Kinsler - Another All Star in my books as the Ti-

gers second baseman has 16 home runs, 17 doubles, 52 RBI and batting .290 as the club's leadoff hitter. He's called a "Dirt Bag" for the old-fashioned way he plays the game. Hey, I'd take eight players like Kinsler any day on my team!

Mark Lowe - With his high salary this bullpen hurler has been a disaster with his 10.04 ERA and 29 runs in 26 innings pitched. No one expected this first half from Lowe - a veteran relief pitcher coveted by Tigers general manager Al Avila.



Nick Castellanos - Another star of the Tigers infield, he has provided great offensive numbers this season with his .302 average, 18 doubles, 15 home runs and 45 RBI. These are All Star numbers for a guy who has made steady improvements at the plate and with his glove. His intense off-season workout training has proven very helpful.

Anibal Sanchez - A definite minus so far this season at 5-8 with a 6.05 ERA. Twice yanked from the team's starting rotation,

Anibal shuffled off to the bullpen where he experienced moderate success and has notched two relief wins. On July 5th, he was back starting again due to Jordan Zimmermann's injury.

Victor Martinez - A big plus. He's experiencing an All Star season at DH with his .318 average, .529 slugging percentage, 13 doubles, 16 home runs and 50 RBI. V-Mart has recouped well from last season when he never got untracked following his off-season injury.



James McCann - A minus so far, yet let's cut him some slack. He got a late start due to season-opening injury and is showing signs of a rebound at the plate (.209 average). Defensively, he's improving at calling games and still is among the best in the league at throwing out runners attempting to steal. Backup catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia has helped too (8 HR and 24 RBI).

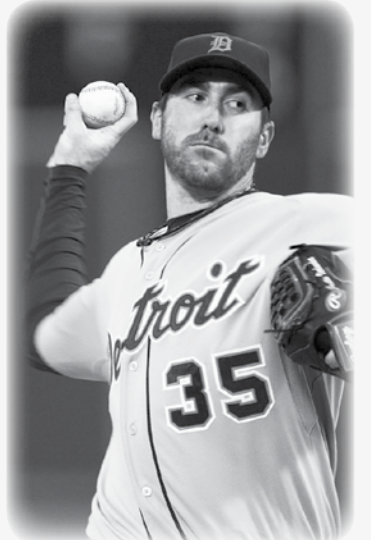


Miguel Cabrera - After a slow start at the plate, Miggy has come around



nicely to post a .300 average with 16 doubles, 18 HR, 51 RBI and a .530 slugging average. His second-half contribution is essential if the Tigers hope to contend in the AL Central or for an AL Wild-Card.

Lastly, a word on my 12th player, **Justin Verlander**.



The steady workhorse in the team's rotation has proven he still has a lot "left in the tank" as he's posted an 8-6 record and rather high 4.11 ERA through 17 starts with a club-high 115 strikeouts. Engaged to marry model Kate Upton, Justin has matured professionally and in his personal life too.

Reach George Eichorn at geichorn@yahoo.com.

SYMPHONIC NEWS



Ruth's Music Notes...

Ruth Crystal-Zaromp

July is my month of rest. It is fitting, among other things, because it is the 7th month of the year. Usually, by this time, the rest is well deserved and I tend to be grateful. But that doesn't mean that our area has to turn into a cultural desert. Some beacons of cultural enlightenment are still present here during this sunny period.

The major programs that are occurring this month involve the **William Davidson DSO Neighborhood Concert Series**. This program is presented twice - the first time on Thursday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Shaarey Zedek (27375 Bell Road) in Southfield. The second time will take place on Sunday afternoon, July 17 at 3 p.m. at the **Seligman Performing Arts Center** (22305 W. 13 Mile Road) in Beverly Hills.

The program is conducted by Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla. She is a young, extremely gifted conductor from Lithuania. The piano soloist is Louis Schwizgebel-Wang, born in Switzerland, who won second place at the Leeds Festival a couple of years ago. He will be performing Beethoven's first piano concerto (one piece in which you might hear a rumba if you listen carefully to the third movement). In addition, there will be selections from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* and a relatively new piece by Raminta Serksnyte called *De Profundis*. Serksnyte was born in Lithuania in 1975 and she is an accomplished pianist and composer. Her music has been performed internationally in Berlin, New York, Toronto, Moscow and at a number of international music festivals. For information, call (313) 576-5111 or check DSO.org.

On this coming Friday and Saturday (July 8-9) at the **Ford House**, there will be



Conductor Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla

programs with fireworks. My dog, unfortunately, does not appreciate this season as he is scared to death of fireworks, but for the two-legged creatures this should prove to be an exciting event. The programs begin at 8 p.m. and the fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Friday's program includes Broadway hits, and Saturday's program features an *American Symphonic Celebration*.

For more information, check thehenryford.org/salute.

As mentioned in a former issue, Alvin Waddles will be performing a classical music program at **Kerrytown Concert House** in Ann Arbor at 8 p.m. on Friday, the 8th of July. While his main venue is jazz, he is a gifted and witty improviser and talented musician in Classical venues as well.

That should be an entertaining (and also "fun") program. Check kerrytownconcerthouse.com for further information.



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DOWNTOWN MONITOR

Downtown Monitor is now in its 53rd year of continuous publication, and is circulated *free* throughout Downtown, and to all points of Greater Detroit.

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CINEMA CULTURE

Faygo Movie Night Returns to Campus Martius

Stellar outdoor movie screenings will once again be part of *Quicken Loans Summer in the Parks* as *Faygo Movie Night in the D* returns to Campus Martius Park every Saturday evening from July 16 through August 27. Screenings of Academy Award-nominated and Academy Award-winning films on the large LED outdoor screen will take place at 8 p.m. and include family favorites, documentaries and action-packed features.

This year's series offers moviegoers a complete evening entertainment experience with new dining choices and all-time favorite snacks available for purchase. The new Fountain Detroit restaurant located in the park offers



Michael B. Jordan & Sly Star in 'Creed'

beach-casual fare and cold craft cocktails. The menu features unique salads, burgers, panini and sausages plus beach-themed frozen drinks and Michigan beers. It wouldn't be *Faygo Movie Night in the D* without Detroit's one true

pop! Guest can enjoy Faygo's "Dee-licious" flavors along with gourmet popcorn from Good People Popcorn. While chairs are provided, everyone is welcome to bring their own blankets and picnics.

The first film featured, on July 16 is *Creed*. Adonis Johnson Creed (Michael B. Jordan), the son of former champion Apollo Creed, attempts to follow in his father's footsteps and become a boxing champion in his own right. Apollo died in the ring at the hands of Russian Ivan Drago, forcing Adonis to grow up without his dad in his life. Adonis travels to Philadelphia to find his late father's nemesis-turned-best friend, Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone), in order to recruit him as a trainer. Rocky soon takes the young Creed under his wing and helps him train for his shot at the title.

The complete schedule listing for *Faygo Movie Night in the D* and all *Quicken Loans Summer in the Parks* activities is available at downtowndetroitparks.com. Campus Martius Park is located at the intersection of Woodward and Michigan Avenues in Downtown Detroit.

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Visit 622 Bars & Restaurants in 3 Months to Win DXF Challenge

Have you ever said, "There's nowhere to go!" Or do you think you've been to every bar or restaurant in Detroit? Join the *Detroit Experience Factory's (DXF) 3rd Annual Bar & Restaurant Challenge* and see what you've been missing!

This July, DXF is bringing back the *Challenge* to inspire you to spend the summer experiencing the food and drinks at some of the 622 bars, restaurants and cafes on *DXF's Bar & Restaurant Checklists*.

"I'm a lifelong Detroiter but there's a lot of places I've never been. This was a great opportunity to explore home," says Tania Mackey, the 2014 Grand Prize Winner. "It's also been great to learn about so many small businesses that you wouldn't really know about unless you take the time to explore. And I take my son almost everywhere with me - it can be really kid friendly." Tania visited 210 bars and restaurants on the checklist during the 90 days of the DXF challenge.

The 2015 Grand Prize Winner, Merissa Kovach, who visited 200 places said, "I enjoyed participating in the DXF Challenge because it allowed me to track what I was already doing....and we met so many people along the way!"

The DXF *Challenge* is pretty simple: the individual who visits the most places between July 1st and September 30th will win the *Ultimate Detroit Experience Package*, valued at over \$1,000. There will also be random winners selected for prizes throughout the challenge so even if you visit one place you can be a winner. Participants will have to post a photo of themselves at the bar or restaurant on Instagram and use the hashtag, #DXFchallenge.

For more details and to register visit detroitexperiencefactory.org/challenge. To help people learn about spots they might not already be familiar with, DXF has tripled their *Summer Tour Schedule* to include Strolling Suppers, Bar Tours and more!

See the full list of tours at detroitexperiencefactory.org/tours.

As an affiliate of the Downtown Detroit Partnership, the **Detroit Experience Factory** uses interactive experiences and innovative resources to help newcomers and locals get more connected to the people, places and projects in Detroit. It operates Detroit's community based **Welcome Center at 123 Monroe** and has taken over 75,000 people on tours since it started in 2006.



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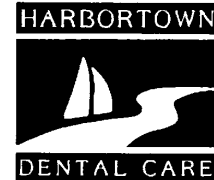


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Big Sexy! Stories

The award winning Secret Society Of Twisted Storytellers presents a curated, live storytelling event featuring Real People. True Stories. Told Live, on Friday, July 15 at 8 p.m. Hosted by creator and producer Satori Shakoor, this month's theme is Big Sexy, featuring Sabrina Nelson, Dameon S. Wilburn, Julian Witherspoon III & More. Twisted Musical and Dance Guests, J. Slaughter and Motor City Dance Factory curated by Gina Ellis Showtime. The show is at 8 p.m., with doors opening at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20, and a cash bar is available.

For more information see thewright.org, or call (313) 494-5800.

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Tarzan Swings and Misses...

By Don Campbell

Tarzan is the latest adaptation of Edgar Rice Burrough's jungle man. Alexander Skarsgard plays Tarzan. We first meet him in London where he is an aristocratic gentleman raised by apes but returned home. He is being recruited by the government to investigate activities in the Belgium Congo. Leading the effort to motivate Tarzan is Civil War Veteran George Washington Williams (Samuel L Jackson) who accompanies our swinging hero. He wants to get to the bottom of King Leopold II's troops occupying Congo. Overseeing operations is Captain Leon Rom (Christoph Waltz) who is a stereotypical bad guy. A nasty fellow that uses a spidery-silk rosary to strangle people. He leads an army of Belgium mercenaries that make the French army look good. Natives with newly acquired weapons are better shots than they are.

Jane is played by the very beautiful (Margot Robbie). She is the missionary daughter



Margot Robbie is Jane

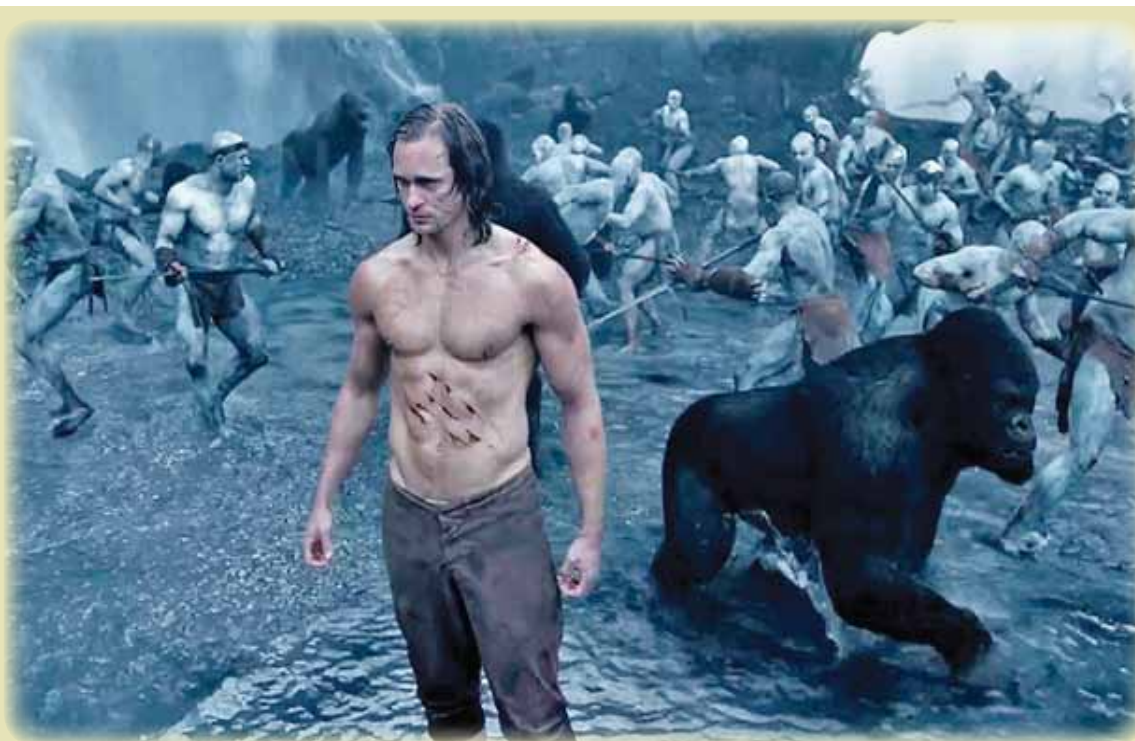
that nursed Tarzan back to health after he was beaten up by a gorilla. They eventually marry then settle in London. She is a strong-willed and feisty character that goes back to Congo with Tarzan but gets captured by Rom. Fortunately Tarzan can control

all manner of animals to mount a rescue attempt of the fair maiden.

Rom also wanted to turn Tarzan over to the vengeful tribal chief Mbongo (Djimon Hounsou). But that didn't work out.

Directed by David Yates of Harry Potter fame. The main narrative is diluted by multiple sub-plots such as Jane's interest in starting a family and comedy between Williams and Tarzan. At one point sharpshooter Williams is more like the Samuel L Jackson character from Hateful Eight.

The scenery is spectacular with actual African mountains and rivers. But the CGI and vine swinging is a bit much. And Skarsgard never missed an opportunity to pull off his shirt to show us his abs. Major studios seem to feel the need for brand maintenance over story prominence. Tarzan suffers from this line of thought and maybe swings too far towards political correctness and a feel good ending.



Alexander Skarsgard is Tarzan—the Ab Man

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