

Northport
Community Arts Center

Presents

**Sweet Willie &
the Gentlemen of Jazz**

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Saturday, June 16, 2007 - 8:00 pm

Sponsored by:
Northport Point Jazz Buffs

Program

to be announced

Intermission Refreshments courtesy of Northport Highlands

The Gentlemen Of Jazz – A couple of years after Sweet Willie moved from New Orleans, LA to Grand Rapids, MI in August of 1996, he formed the group, Sweet Willie and the Gentlemen of Jazz. The group performs a wide variety of jazz styles, from the early New Orleans classical jazz to today's modern jazz.

Sweet Willie Singleton (trumpet) – Sweet Willie is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During an eight-year tour of duty in the Navy, he served as duty bugler at Arlington Cemetery for a year during the Vietnam War and as lead trumpet in the Admiral's Band. Following an honorable discharge, he pursued a degree in music from Southern University in Baton Rouge. During his college career, he received a National Endowment for the Arts Student Travel Grant to study with Clark Terry. After earning his degree, he joined the Duke Ellington Orchestra and played lead trumpet for three years. He also played lead trumpet in numerous other bands including the Count Basie Band and the Al Hirt Band. He has played all the clubs, both large and small, on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, and played with the bands on the Steamboats that travel the Mississippi River. During the 1990's Willie played lead trumpet with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra under Wynton Marsalis. He continues to tour with the Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble and plays with symphony orchestras across the country including the Boston Philharmonic, Princeton, Youngstown, Indianapolis, Grand Rapids, Delaware, Toledo, and Richmond, IN. In addition to jazz, Willie is classically trained on the trumpet and piano.

Paul Lesinski (piano) – Paul studied music at Aquinas College with an emphasis in jazz. During his years there he won several awards for jazz piano including best soloist Montreaux Detroit Jazz Festival, best soloist Elmhurst Jazz Festival, and the Benny Carew Jazz Scholarship. Paul is currently on faculty with Grand Valley State University's music department. He continues to work with the finest jazz and pop artists in

the local region including Edye Evans Hyde, Ed Clifford Music Group, Betty Joplin, Orquesta Ritmo, The Truth and Jazz Orchestra, Hip Pocket, The Paul Lesinski Trio, and leads his own jazz-fusion group, Groove Merchant. Paul also freelances, playing Broadway shows, Motown shows, and other national touring acts. He also produces music from his home recording studio, Lyon's Den Productions, and looks forward to more engineering and producing in the future.

David Hay (bass) – David is a freelance musician of West Michigan. He has been a professional musician since 1976. He attended Interlochen Music Camp as a child and the Academy as a high-school student, graduating in 1976. Mr. Hay also attended Berklee School Of Music and Michigan State University. In his career, David Hay has played with well known jazz artists such as: Ron McCroby, Bobby Shew, John Hicks, Ellis Marsalis, Jason Marsalis, Marcus Roberts, James Carter, Marcus Belgrave, Regina Carter, Ralphie Armstrong, The Mills Brothers & Butch Miles. Mr. Hay has also worked with popular artists such as Robert Goulet, Roger Williams, Johnny Rodriguez, Don Rickles, Jerry Lewis & Bob Newhart. David Hay is a bassist, pianist and drummer. He teaches and performs on these instruments. Currently, Mr. Hay teaches at Grand Rapids Community College and privately.

Mel Dalton – (tenor sax) Mel is well known as the "Silver Fox" and is the recipient of the West Michigan Jazz Society's Jazz Musician of the Year Award. He continues his musical journey with more than 60 years of experience on the tenor sax. Mel was born in Pittsburgh on June 28, 1931, and started the clarinet at age 12. His father played piano and guitar and his sister sang. Mel attended Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh where some of his peers and future jazz stars such as Stanley Turrentine, Ahmad Jamal, Ray Brown, Earl Garner and Art Blakey also got their start. He has been all over the world traveling and living in Korea, New York, St. Croix, and Detroit where he participated and recorded the hit "Do the Hucklebuck." While living in New York, he was involved with the 52nd Street Jazz Scene, and appeared twice on the Ed Sullivan Show with the Lloyd Price Jazz Band featuring "Lawdy Miss Clawdy" and "Personality." Mel currently lives in West Michigan.

Paul Smith (drums) – To be announced.