Swing & Sway An afternoon of jazz

Gail M. Brechting, Conductor

At a Dixieland Jazz Funeral
Bridgewater Breeze
Big Band Classics
Chili Con Carne
Beguine AgainGlenn Osser
Bandancing
II. Tango III. Waltz
II. Tango
II. Tango III. Waltz

Western Jazz Quartet

Trent Kynaston, Saxophone Tom Knific, Bass Tad Weed, Piano Tim Froncek, Drums



The WESTERN JAZZ QUARTET is a resident faculty ensemble in the School of Music at Western Michigan University. Formed in 1974, the quartet 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 and tours with such artists as Art Farmer, Bob Brookmeyer, Red Rodney, Kenny Werner, Mark Murphy, Randy Brecker, Eddie Daniels, Bobby Shew, Dave Liebman, Janis Siegel, and Bobby McFerrin.

The Western Jazz Quartet has performed from Boston to Los Angeles, and tours regularly to Europe, South and Central America. It has been featured at festivals in Canada and the U.S., and at a week of performances at LaVilla in Paris, France. The group was honored with sponsorship by the Arts America Program and often tours as artistic ambassadors for the US Department of State including Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Poland, Italy and Slovenia. The quartet has also toured Europe four times with pianist Wlodek Pawlik and drummer Billy Hart as well as with with Randy Brecker.

The Western Jazz Quartet released The Waning Moon on Universal Records in 1999. The CD features elements of Polish culture fused with the universal language of jazz. The quartet has toured Europe twice promoting this music, which was premiered at the International Association of Jazz Educators conference in Los Angeles. The group has released three additional CDs in the United States: Firebird (1992, SMR Recordings), Blue Harts (1995, SMR Recordings), and Sabine's Dance (2000, Sea Breeze Jazz). Both Firebird and Blue Harts received top reviews in Down Beat magazine, with Firebird being named one of the best of the 1990s. In 1995, the group released a live CD in Europe on the Koch International label with pianist Wlodek Pawlik, Live at the Jazz Club Akwarium, and in 1996, a second European release with Randy Brecker, Turtles, on Polonia Records.

In April of 1996, the quartet was invited to tour Thailand in honor of the 50th anniversary of the king's accession to the throne. The Western Jazz Quartet has recently been appearing throughout the United States as soloists with symphony orchestras performing Patrick Williams' "An American Concerto" and other works.