

## **World Class Jazz in Downtown Wooster**

The caliber of music available at this year's Wooster Arts Jazz Fest is nothing short of amazing. Leading off at 11:00am is the Jack Schantz Quartet. Jack, who grew up in Orrville, is the Music Director and featured trumpet soloist of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. Jack has played with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, the Artie Shaw Band, and the Glenn Miller Ghost Band. One of his greatest thrills was being asked to play trumpet on a Christmas album of legendary pianist Oscar Peterson.

Starting at 12:45 our second group is the River City Jazz Band from Northeast Ohio and led by Bill Parthe. The band has been in existence for 32 years with some changes of personnel. Their specialty is playing vintage Dixieland Jazz such as the music of Jelly Roll Morton and Joe "King" Oliver. They have played at Sea World, Six Flags World of Adventure, Catawba Island Club, Akron's Quaker Square Hilton, and The Avenue at Tower City. At 1:45 they will lead a Jazz Parade through the streets of Downtown Wooster.

At 2:30 the Ken Weaver Quartet will take over. They are based in Columbus, and have been performing together for more than 12 years. Their versatility allows them to play straight ahead jazz, blues, and contemporary jazz. The band features Ken on guitar, Neal Cobb on drums, Dwight Bailey on bass and Otto Davenport on keyboard. They have performed at the Columbus Arts Festival, Dayton Art Museum, the Lima Jazz & Blues Festival and at Northern Ohio University, as well as many other festivals and concerts throughout Ohio.

The final band on the program, beginning at 4:15, is Kassaba, based in Cleveland. "Kassaba introduces a dynamic approach to their performances with piano, bass, saxophones and 25 unusual percussion instruments." This quote from their website, [kassaba.com](http://kassaba.com), gives us a hint of the treat in store for all of us. Three members are alumni of the Cleveland Institute of Music and one is a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston. According to Kassaba "their music reminds listeners of jazz, classical and world music." In late May the band played at an international music festival in Belfort, France. They have also played at the Music in the Park Concert Series in Upper Arlington, the Beachland Ballroom, and Nighttown in Cleveland.

Indeed there will be great sounds at the gazebo on Sunday. Don't miss it.