

# Meet Jive at Five

## **Tom T. Ball-**

Tom grew up listening to the pop sounds of his brother's record collection in the early 60's, but was introduced to the traditional strains of folk and blues music in the mid 70's. By the time 1975 rolled around, he was playing the guitar and washtub bass in the *New Wexford County Rangers*. He has played the upright bass in various groups since then and is known for his consistent and genuine ability, laying a solid foundation for *Jive At Five*. Tom has been active in the Wheatland Music Organization since it's beginnings in the early 1970's, currently serving as Vice President of the Board of Directors. He has hosted the popular "Homespun" music show on WCMU public radio since 1980. As a music retailer in his professional life, he is seen at gigs hawking the band's recordings and contributes to the emcee work as well as some harmony vocals. Tom is a treasure trove of information about all forms of music and is the bands "resident musicologist".

## **Daniel Giacobassi-**

Saxophonist and flutist Daniel Giacobassi started singing in his mother's church choirs as soon as he could walk and talk. He very enthusiastically chose to play flute at the age of 8 and followed his sister and brother into the world of professional music careers. Dan enjoyed the rich musical tradition and training of the Muskegon Public Schools and participated in a Blue Lake Fine Arts European tour. He received a bachelor's degree in music education at WMU in Kalamazoo, MI and taught music for a couple of years. Dan started playing saxophone in his early 20's. He states, "I can never, it seems, say no to music and have thus played in a huge variety of musical groups and situations: Classical, Jazz, Big Band, Celtic, Appalachian, Japanese, and South American folk music, Country, Tex-Mex/Tejano, Rock, Blues, Pop variety, and numerous recording sessions in California and Michigan." Dan also spent a year playing Western music in Japan, while studying Japanese traditional and classical music. He joined *Jive At Five* in 2001 as they were recording "Forbidden Fruit", contributing as an arranger, saxophonist and flutist.

## **Arthur "Gene" Harris-**

Gene Harris has been a featured performer on his saxophone for more than a half century. His experience includes jazz, pop, polka, Latin and country music. Through the years he has been musically associated with the singing group *Crew Cuts*; the comic country duo *Lonzo and Oscar*; George Jones; George Morgan; Stan Kenton; The Holiday on Ice Show and many others. He has performed in the eastern U.S. and Canada from Sault Saint Marie, Ontario to the exclusive "Mountain Lake Resort" in Florida. Gene has been most recently involved with the big band sounds of *The General Assembly*, with the jazz oriented *Bill Donahue Quartet* dance band and the late great jazz bassist Eddie Calhoun. Some his most memorable experiences include playing for Richard Nixon, playing at the premier of "How the West Was Won", appearing as a featured performer at Ferris State University, performing with the *Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra*, and playing concerts with Edgar Struble, music director for Kenny Rogers. Joining *Jive at Five* on stage in May 2000, he brings his wealth of musical experience along with a ready smile and boundless enthusiasm.

## **David Raffenaud-**

David started playing the family upright piano as soon as he could crawl up on the bench with his older siblings. He remembers being five years old, watching through the loading door to the Holland Civic Center, listening to the Lawrence Welk Orchestra, the Dave Brubeck Quartet, the U.S. Marine Band, and the Sunday Hymn-Sing. After tiring of piano lessons at age six, David began to play by ear, learning songs from the radio and records. The sixties and early seventies found David playing piano and organ with a number of rock, blues, and pop bands, including *The Sheffields*, who had several regional hit records. In the mid-seventies he helped form the original music group *Planet 7* with drummer Jack Wilkin, using rock, blues, Dixie-land, jazz, gospel, barber-shop, polka, and second-line styles to frame their music. He also began occasionally playing with guitarist Mark Schrock and contributed swinging piano tracks to two *Cabbage Crik* records. The late seventies and eighties found David on the road with *Iowa Rose*, playing festivals in the Midwest and Canada and recording two albums. In 1992 *Jive At Five* was born, with David's original orchestral piano style as a centerpiece to the music.

## Meet Jive at Five Continued:

### Mark Schrock-

Guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter Mark Schrock was brought up in a musical family of singers, pianists, fiddlers, and other musicians. Born in 1954, he was growing up as the swing and big bands were giving way to Elvis and rock'n'roll. Mark received his first guitar from his grandfather when he was 8, formed his first band at 12, and played his first gig at 13, winning first place in the junior high school talent show. Since then he has been continually involved in musical performance with various groups including several years with the bluegrass/swing band *Cabbage Crik*, and as a member of the popular band *Iowa Rose*. Since the mid-seventies, Mark has been involved in recording and producing six recordings, contributing a number of original songs to them. A founding member of Jive At Five, he provides a blues inflected swinging guitar style to the group sound, citing influences from Charlie Christian to B.B. King, Wes Montgomery to Freddie Green. Mark especially enjoys jamming and songwriting with his sons Andrew and Jasen, who are both carrying on the family musical tradition with their own groups.

### Frank Youngman-

Frank Youngman first saw Louis Armstrong when he was 8 years old and he seemed to know then that he also wanted to play music and entertain people. Starting on piano and trumpet, he played his first professional job at the age of 15 with a Glenn Miller style band, the *Royalaires*, who later became The *Formalaires*. It was during those many years playing the country club circuit, in big bands and Dixieland bands that he learned to dance and understand just how music moved people. The college years brought marching bands, a stint with a Chinese orchestra, and recitals, until he heard a guitar player named Joel Mabus play some music of Mississippi John Hurt. After that there was a new world to discover: banjos and pennywhistles, fiddles, guitars, button accordions, and stepdancing. Soon Frank found himself playing folk music from Michigan to Boston to New York City with *The Pretty Shakey Stringband* and *The Lost World Stringband*. Frank has performed with *Martin, Bogan and Armstrong, The Fiction Brothers* and *Johnny Gimble*. As a singer, guitarist and trumpet player, and founding member of Jive at Five, Frank came full circle back to jazz and swing and performs with a passion for music bringing every sound, style and beat he's heard along the way.

### Dave Zerbe-

Drummer and percussionist extraordinaire Dave Zerbe holds BME and MM from Central Michigan University. He is currently Director of Bands, the Percussion Ensemble, and Percussion Studio at Alma College. A founding member of the renowned Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble, Zerbe has also performed as a percussionist with the Alma Symphony Orchestra, Flint, Midland, Saginaw, West Shore, and Traverse City symphonies and a soloist with the Flint Symphony Orchestra's performance of Carman Moore's Gospel Fuse. He was also featured with Central Michigan University Jazz Lab 1 performing Rob McConnell's "I've Got Rhythm" at the Montreux International Jazz Festival and Buddy Rich's "Channel One Suite" arrangement at the Elmhurst and Aquinas Jazz Festivals. Performing as a freelance musician, he has appeared with Aretha Franklin, Michael Feinstein, Marie Osmond, Sharri Williams, Rich Little, and now is pleased to be in the rhythm section of Jive At Five. An active arranger, he has written for many outstanding high school and college programs across the nation.