



ALEX BELHAJ'S NEW ORLEANS JAZZ QUARTET

WCBN-FM 88.3 is proud to present Alex Belhaj's New Orleans Jazz Quartet. The quartet's name is a dead giveaway; their music is part of the warm Louisiana tradition, albeit in the cold North. Expect a rolling and jubilant outpour of sounds that would be at home anywhere on Rampart St. Toe-tapping and spontaneous outbursts of joy and enthusiasm are encouraged. This performance is part of a series of collaborations with the University of Michigan's Work Gallery. Each performance is an exploration of new and old musical concepts intended to stretch the minds of all participants.

This echoes WCBN's mission to provide educational, adventurous and diverse freeform radio. With the station's celebration of its 40th Anniversary in 2012, a renewed emphasis on the importance of community events has arisen. No sound system or recording will ever match the experience of an audience actively engaged by live performers. Even the crowd itself contributes to the experience, a fact that is too easily forgotten. These events honor Ann Arbor's support for the station and the innovative music it presents. Be sure to look and listen, either on 88.3 FM or wcbn.org, for more events like it. WCBN is as active as ever: seeking out novel partnerships, producing live performances of significant cultural value and remaining the true voice of the students of the University of Michigan.

Special thanks to the University of Michigan School of Art & Design's Work Gallery for providing the space, the Events and Publicity crews for their hard work and Ben English for his wonderful designs.

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ALEX BELHAJ – GUITAR AND VOCALS
RAY HEITGER – CLARINET AND VOCALS
DAVE KOSMYNA – CORNET AND VOCALS
JORDAN SCHUG – UPRIGHT BASS

The purpose of Alex Belhaj's New Orleans Jazz Quartet is to play excellent New Orleans style jazz. We hope to be true to this great American tradition and art form, through our own individual careful study and by performing it every chance we get. We hope to inspire you to get up and dance. At times we hope to inspire you to listen actively. Mostly we'd just like you to have a good time and be kind to one another. Louis Armstrong once said that there were only two kinds of music; "good" and "bad" and that "good" music gets your foot tapping without you even noticing it. We hope to do that to you. This could not be done without the great leadership of our outstanding clarinetist Ray Heitger, a man who has a great knowledge of the music and who has led his own Cakewalkin' Jass Band since 1967. We are also graced by the knowledge and support of Dave Kosmyna, our cornetist who wrote his doctoral thesis on New Orleans style Jazz. Jordan Schug provides a steady pulse and warm tone on upright bass, an excellent and sensitive musician who is very active in the local music community. We are working on a full-length album which I hope to have completed by February of 2012. Stay tuned at

www.alexbelhaj.com