

Wayne Shorter's Dirty Dog Debut!



# ON STAGE

Jazz singer  
**CYRILLE AIMÉE**

Diggin' the  
Dog!

Artists talk about their  
love of playing The Dirty  
Dog Jazz Cafe

# DETROIT'S BEST JAZZ EXPERIENCE



## DIRTY DOG JAZZ CAFE

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When you step into the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe you are entering into a destination for world-class Jazz and cuisine. You will be face to face with some of Jazz's most talented and well-known artists locally, nationally, and around the world. It's a unique, intimate setting that resembles an upscale, classic English pub. Featured musicians include greats like Rayse Biggs, Dave Bennett, Stanley Jordan, Anthony Stanco, Christian Sands, and The Four Freshmen.

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CHRISTIAN SANDS



DAVE BENNETT



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# Gretchen's Place

Making **The Dirty Dog** a world-class jazz shrine



**Gretchen Valade is one of the world's great jazz angels. She founded Mack Avenue Records and made it a major jazz label. When the Detroit Jazz Festival fell on hard times, Valade jumped in with both feet—endowing the fest to ensure it remained free and consistently amazing. And when she had a vacant space in her hometown of Grosse Pointe, of course, The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe was born!**

“I didn’t know what to do with it,” Valade says with a laugh. “I was renting it to a children’s store. Then I rented it to a florist, who was amazing. But I thought, ‘That’s not it.’ Then, I thought, ‘Wait a minute! What about all this jazz I’ve been hollering about all these years.’”

And just that quick, the wheels were put in motion to turn the flower shop into a jazz shrine. From the outset, Valade and her team knew they didn’t want to create just another average club. Valade said the sound had to be perfect, the artists had to love it, and it had to be a place where artists and audiences could connect in a very personal way.

“There are a couple of places downtown where the sound is terrible!” she says. “But here, there is material in the ceiling to absorb sound and material on the wall to absorb it, and upholstered chairs. It’s a small club, and I didn’t want to knock everybody out with the sound.”

When The Dirty Dog opened in 2008,

visitors found themselves stepping back in time. With a cozy English pub decor, and careful attention paid to every detail, The Dirty Dog became known as a spot where something special could happen any night.

Through her ties to Mack Avenue and the Detroit Jazz Fest, legends like Pat Metheny, Stanley Jordan, Ron Carter and Wayne Shorter have played The Dirty Dog—as have amazing local artists, such as Kimmie Horne, Dave Bennett and Alvin Waddles.

And if you want to find the owner, just stop in for the first show any night, third barstool from the left. That’s her spot.

“Because it’s right next to the bartender—just *that* far away,” she laughs, holding her thumb and index finger together in front of her eye.

That’s also how close the audience feels to the music, and why The Dirty Dog has quickly become one of the greatest jazz rooms in the world.



## FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS

What’s in a name? Gretchen Valade loves dogs. She has three...Charlie, Riley and Hannah. (Hannah’s her first rescue dog!) And dogs are a prominent theme in the club...right down to the club’s logo!



## STEP UP TO THE BAR

The beauty of the bar at The Dirty Dog speaks to the craftsmanship that runs through the club. The Dog’s English pub motif sets the mood for a great time. Note the great dog painting behind the bar!



## A CLUB FOR THE ARTISTS

One of the guiding principles of The Dirty Dog is to treat artists right! From the club’s beautiful Green Room (or artist lounge) to the intimacy of the 60-seat room, the audience and artist become one. Here legendary pianist Barry Harris signs The Dog’s classic Steinway piano.



# Diggin'

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# THE DOG

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If you want to go to a place that makes you feel good, go where the musicians feel good. One of the foundations of The Dirty Dog since its inception has been to respect musicians. As a result, musicians give that love right back. Here are just a few of the hundreds of artists who have played the club, discussing why The Dirty Dog might just be the best jazz club in the world!!!



## Dave McMurray

Detroit saxophonist Dave McMurray has played with everyone from Nancy Wilson and Geri Allen to Bob Dylan and The Rolling Stones...and he's a big fan of The Dirty Dog!

"At The Dirty Dog, it's all about the music," he said. "Detroit jazz champion and club proprietor Gretchen Valade makes sure of it. Because she respects the music and the artists, the audience does, too. The atmosphere is so intimate, I feel like I'm in Gretchen's living room. She presents the music she loves with all who share her passion for jazz – whether they're new to the music or longtime fans."



## Grace Kelly

Saxophonist and vocalist Grace Kelly, 25, is one of the rising stars on the jazz scene today. But she knows a great venue when she sees it! This award-winning artist has already played more than 700 concerts in 30 countries around the world.

Before her last performance at The Dirty Dog, Kelly had some very kind words about the venue. "It's a wonderful club and everyone treats us so well," she said. "The audience, as I remember it the last time, was very passionate and kind. You know it's going to be a great night. And they have great food! They really do! And nice warm bread!"



## Rodney Whitaker

The bassist and director of jazz studies at Michigan State University has played clubs everywhere, and he says The Dirty Dog is one of the best.

"The atmosphere is beautiful, with excellent acoustics and welcoming vibes from the audience," he said. "It's great to play in a place where the musicians are so respected. They serve us a delicious meal and give us a dressing room, which is especially nice in your hometown. Artists respect what Gretchen has done for the Jazz community, which is connected to rebuilding Detroit. Everyone knows she's all about the music."



## Freda Payne

"It's a special place for me," said the legendary jazz/R&B singer. "It all started with a bass player from Detroit named Ralphe Armstrong. He said, 'You ought to work this little place in Grosse Pointe. It's a small club. It only seats about 65 or 70 people, and you would love it.'"

"Gretchen would come in and watch my first sets. She's just amazing.

"Detroit is my hometown. So, when I work there, a lot of people come down: old friends, relatives. I get to see people I've known since childhood. It's a homecoming, a reunion, with all the blessings that go with it."

# CYRILLE AIMÉE

French-born jazz vocalist Cyrille Aimée has toured the world, playing the great jazz festivals, clubs and concert halls—from Austria to Indonesia. But one of her favorite stops along the touring circuit is Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe. What makes The Dirty Dog so good?

“To be honest, the filet!” said Aimée without hesitation. “The food is amazing, and that’s really refreshing because when touring in the United States, we are often fed very poorly, and it becomes normal to have bad food.

“At the Dirty Dog we are always well fed, and it makes us play better!”

But the club’s caché goes well beyond that for Aimée, who has made two classic records for Gretchen Valade’s Mack Avenue Records.

“I have played in A LOT of clubs, and the Dirty Dog has an amazing vibe,” she said. “The staff is awesome, and they actually listen to the music. One of the nicest features is that the sound guy records the show and gives you a CD at the end of the night. That’s pretty cool!”



## Cécile McLorin Salvant

The Florida-born vocalist, who developed her jazz chops while studying in France, said the Dirty Dog was like a warm blanket for a young artist just starting out.

“The Dirty Dog was one of my first experiences playing in a club in the United States,” she said. “I had a wonderful time. Although I was very nervous, I felt supported. I always have fond memories of playing there. It’s intimate. The audience is great. And we’re treated really well. It stacks up well! It’s just a really warm environment. Not all clubs have that feel anymore, and I cherish that.”



## Tia Fuller

While saxophonist Tia Fuller has made a name playing with everyone from Esperanza Spalding to Beyoncé, she’s also an acclaimed bandleader and composer who loves the Dirty Dog.

“I think every club is a reflection of its owner, from the spirit of the club to the way that the staff treats each other and guests,” Fuller said. “The Dirty Dog is truly a reflection of Gretchen Valade – a sophisticated, sincere, respectful, warm, humorous, vision-oriented and beautiful woman.”

Fuller added that she also loves “Carl the bartender, the comfy couch in the musicians’ room and the master chef’s ribs!”

# THE GREEN ROOM

The Dirty Dog is an intimate room for listening, but it also has the type of luxurious Green Room usually found only in large concert halls. In the music biz, the “Green Room” is the space where musicians get prepared before a gig and relax afterward. And this one is a slice of paradise!



It features comfortable leather couches and chairs, handsome pictures and an inviting dining area, plus a private bathroom and changing room. Gretchen Valade believes if you treat the musicians as though they are special, they will give fans something special. It seems to be working.



Serious business takes place as playlists and charts are shared, instruments adjusted and new ideas discussed. But the room also fills with laughter and banter. After all, these are generous, humorous, smart professionals. The conversational glue is the common regard for the music and for those who can play at the highest level.



Does Gretchen Valade ever venture back to the Green Room? The musicians would certainly welcome her. She sums up her feelings in a few words: “I have too much respect for the artists to do that.” The musicians, in turn, respect Gretchen and her thoughtfulness.





# A Club Worthy OF JAZZ!

The Dirty Dog has been developed as the best environment possible for jazz artists and jazz lovers to meet!  
Here are just a few reasons why.

## THE LISTENING ROOM



The Dirty Dog is a place where fans go to hear music, not just see it. So don't be surprised if the smiling face of club manager Willie Jones stops by your table to make sure you're enjoying yourself, or to make sure conversation is kept at a level that allows people to truly experience the performance. Willie, like the entire staff, has a dedication to great food and drinks, impeccable service and ensuring that The Dirty Dog is the ultimate jazz listening room!

## CARL'S TAKE 5

When Carl Williams is behind the bar, Dirty Dog customers are smiling. He also has the perfect perch from which to see some of Detroit's best musicians. Here, Williams counts down his take on the top five drummers around Detroit. If you're a drummer and you didn't make the list, Carl can always change his mind with your next set!



### JEFF CANADY

This drummer knows how to set a perfect groove. Carl especially admires Canady's signature triplets and rolls, which are fast and smooth.



### DOUG COBB

"He's cool and clean, one of the cleanest drummers I've ever heard. You'll never hear him click his sticks. He's flawless and relaxed. It comes to him naturally."



### SEAN DOBBINS

"His playing is electric. He really knows how to work up an audience. His solos are filled with rhythmic power and intensity and played with skill and precision."



### GAYELYNN MCKINNEY

She's known for "going off the grid" as Carl says, with her innovative improvisations that use the entire drum kit with very creative rhythmic ideas.



### SKEETO VALDEZ

One of Detroit's "go-to" drummers. Carl is impressed by his versatility and knowledge—from bebop and swing to rock, funk and beyond.



Wayne Shorter

## Mr. Shorter Plays The Dog

Sometimes when things are done really well, we miss the basic truth about The Dirty Dog. At its heart The Dog is simply a really good jazz club. This is a Detroit jazz club, which means that everyone is welcome and everyone is welcoming.

One of these moments was on April 20, when Wayne Shorter was in town in his role as the Detroit Jazz Festival's Artist in Residence for 2017. He was following through on his offer to be part of a master class and lead a performance at this intimate club.

When he entered the club he was greeted with awe and respect. Great artists can be a little intimidating. Any intimidation melted away under Shorter's manner and words, while the awe and respect carried on throughout the evening.

At this moment in his career, Shorter has little to prove. The saxophonist came into the room where the young musicians were preparing to play and sat down in a chair facing them. Without speaking, he waved to them to start playing. While they played, he did what jazz artists do best — he listened. He responded to what he just heard by saying that it is what you personally bring to the gig that is more important than your instrument and all your newest tricks. He told them to live life so that they would have something to say, and know when it is appropriate to say it. They learned that their music would be only as good and as big as their lives.

Later that evening Wayne Shorter played what he preached to a rapt crowd that included these same young musicians. I watched their faces as he played.

I think the students got it.

—John Osler

# JOHN OSLER: RESIDENT ARTIST

When you walk into The Dirty Dog, you can't miss the hundreds of amazing photos and beautiful paintings of jazz musicians adorning the walls. The man behind the camera—and the brush—of most of this collection is the club's resident artist, John Osler. Here, John talks about some of his favorite art in the club!



## Johnnie Bassett

When we lose some musicians, the loss is compounded because there are so many who have been pulled along in their wake. Johnnie was one of those guys. He was a powerful force who told powerful stories with his guitar and voice.



## De De Pierce

New Orleans is as close musically to being Detroit as any city I could find, and it is warmer in the winter. De De returned with me to Detroit, and he is now in the Dirty Dog Board Room, where he never has to go out in the cold.



## Ron Carter

Ron Carter is a graduate of Detroit's Cass Tech High School. I painted him for the Detroit Jazz Festival when he was their Artist in Residence. I asked Mr. Carter about his accomplishments. He replied, "Every morning I get up wondering if I might find a new note."



## Will Austin

Will Austin is on the cover of a book that honors the legacy of Gretchen Valade. The photos were taken in venues that would not exist if not for Gretchen. Will Austin was a mentor to Ralphie Armstrong, who mentored Rodney Whitaker.



## Marion Hayden

I am allowed to hang around the fringes of The Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe and take photos. I try to respect the intimate moments; to catch not just a bass player and her instrument but rather the bass player and her thoughts. Like in this case...joy.



## CHEF'S CORNER

Chef André Neimanis has been preparing amazing dishes at The Dirty Dog since its inception in 2008. His food is beautifully prepared and even better to eat. In this edition of Chef's Corner, André takes us behind the scenes of three of his favorite dishes on the menu....



### Fork and Knife Burger

We start with house-ground, select dry-aged beef, grilled and served open-face on a freshly baked brioche roll from a local French bakery. It's topped with caramelized onion, tomato confit, Taleggio (a mild, double-cream, soft-ripened Italian cheese), baked kale chips and French aioli-type Gribiche sauce. It's served with our famous, freshly cut and double-fried pommes frites. It's a unique gourmet burger experience.



### Scallops

Our classically prepared scallops are a favorite with those who appreciate high-quality seafood. This is one of our most requested items due to its quality, simplicity and flavor. The freshly caught East Coast scallops are sautéed in butter, then oven-caramelized. They come with black pepper Spaetzle, extra-smokey bacon from Benton's in Tennessee, shredded Brussels sprouts and a French, stone-ground mustard, crème sauce.



### Cauliflower Steaks

Our vegan- and vegetarian-friendly, pan-roasted cauliflower "steaks" are a signature dish. These are served with a tasty, warm mix of whole grains such as bulgur, barley, lentils, farro and long-grain black rice combined with roasted tomato, pine nuts, golden raisins and tossed in olive oil. It's accompanied by a fragrant basil pesto sauce and tomato vinaigrette.



# COMING SOON!



**GENE DUNLAP**  
July 12-15



**THE FOUR FRESHMEN**  
July 19-22



**ALVIN WADDLES**  
July 26-29



**TAD WEED TRIO**  
August 2-5



**DETROIT JAZZ FEST ALL-STARS**  
August 9-12



**DIEGO FIGUEIREDO**  
August 25-26



And... Tuesday Nights with the  
**CHARLES BOLES QUARTET!**



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**OPEN TUESDAY THROUGH  
SATURDAY:**

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Early Dinner Special: 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Showtimes: 6 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

## COME ON OUT AND SEE US AT THE DIRTY DOG JAZZ CAFE!

Located just 20 minutes north of the heart of Detroit, The Dirty Dog has become one of the world's best jazz clubs, connecting artists and audiences in a one-of-a-kind jazz setting!



Hear Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe Radio on [pandora.com](http://pandora.com)

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