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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Ludington Area Center for the Arts Looks To “Jazz It Up”**

*Local Mardi Gras themed fundraiser draws the attention of Western Michigan with Michigan State University Jazz Orchestra*

LUDINGTON, MI (Feb. 2)- You don't have to be down south to feel the heat this winter season with the 4<sup>th</sup> annual “Jazz It Up” Mardi Gras fundraiser for the Ludington Area Center for the Arts scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 19 from 7-10 p.m.

World-recognized jazz bass performer and educator Rodney Whitaker will be conducting the swinging Michigan State University Jazz Orchestra, a major draw for this sell-out evening. Earlier that Saturday, Whitaker and his crew will be busy instructing and demonstrating their craft with area young, aspiring musicians.

"We are thrilled that Ludington Public Schools' band director and Ludington Area Arts Council board member, Ted Malt, has arranged to bring the MSU Jazz Orchestra back to the Center to perform," said Terry Murphy, executive director of the Ludington Area Center for the Arts. "Not only does the orchestra bring the house down with its excellent musicianship, but the afternoon music clinics give 70 area students a glimpse of what they can achieve with practice and a passion for music."

“Jazz It Up” is many arts merging into one celebration for a cause. Following the evening's concert, a Mardi Gras party will be held in the gallery where attendees can enjoy Cajun-themed hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, jazz combo and jazz-inspired visual art on display. As with previous years, this event serves as an opportunity to donate funds for the renovation and operation of the area's new Center for the Arts, a facility for the community that is the first of its kind in Ludington.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are limited. They are available online at [ludingtonartscenter.org](http://ludingtonartscenter.org) as well as at the Center office Tuesdays-Saturdays from noon-5:30 p.m. Some may also be available at the door.

### ***About the Ludington Area Center for the Arts***

*The Ludington Area Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the arts in West Michigan. The Center is located at 107 S. Harrison in the historic former home of the United Methodist Church in downtown Ludington. Parking for the Center events is available in the public lot south of the Center at the corner of Harrison and Loomis streets. For more information about this event and the Ludington Area Center for the Arts please visit [www.ludingtonartscenter.org](http://www.ludingtonartscenter.org) or contact Terry Murphy at 231-690-6058 or [terry@ludingtonartscenter.org](mailto:terry@ludingtonartscenter.org).*

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