

# Jazz lover toots others horns

## *New concert series bring live jazz to Roslindale Square*

By Eunice Kim  
STAFF WRITER

As an amateur jazz musician, Bob Tumposky wanted to listen to good jazz at a reasonable price. And as a 16-year Roslindale resident, he wanted to bring more life to the Square.

Now, Tumposky has done both with his brainchild "Jazz in the Square" concerts.

The new jazz series, which began in September, offers residents the opportunity to enjoy jazz right in Roslindale the third Friday of the month. This Friday, Mark Michael's Quartet from Hyde Park will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. at the Roslindale Congregational Church, 25 Cummins Highway.

"I want people to [have] the opportunity to hear good music without having to leave Roslindale. It builds up the sense of culture in the community," Tumposky said.

The concert series, sponsored by the Roslindale Congregational Church and Roslindale Village Main Streets, is open to the public, although tickets cost \$6. Refreshments are served between sets.

"For \$6, almost three hours of live music in your own neighborhood is great. It's good jazz," said Lee Blasi of District 5 City Councilor Rob Consalvo's office. Blasi, of Roslindale, has attended both jazz concerts so far.

"This is just a great way to listen to music, plus it's with your neighbors. It's very social," she said.

The concerts give jazz enthusiasts, who cannot afford other venues or do not like the typical bar scene, a place to go.

So far in the series, the Rich Greenblatt Quintet from Arlington and the East Street Jazz Quartet from Attleboro have played. There will not be a December

concert because of the holidays, but Sharp Nines, a nine-piece band led by Duncan Martin, will perform in January.

"Eventually, we're going to get a band from Roslindale," said Tumposky, who plays the saxophone.

Tumposky said the jazz series will "draw people to the Roslindale Square area in the evening." It will also contribute to the economic vitality of the area, as people can visit bookstores and restaurants prior to the concerts.

"What I like about it [is that] it really brings a cross-section of people," said Roslindale Congregational Church pastor Dave Rozewski. People of all ages, including families with babies, have attended the concerts, he said.

"It's a community feeling kind of thing. All sorts of people come in," he said. "I couldn't be more pleased with the people who come in. They're into it."

For the church, the concert series goes toward its goal of being more open to the community and being a good neighbor. The church has an open building program in which neighborhood groups are invited to use the space.

"It's worked out very well," Rozewski said.

Rozewski initially began talking with Main Streets Executive Director Tom Litke in the spring about the lack of live music in the Square. Eventually, the two decided to offer live entertainment that would be available to a wide variety of people, Rozewski said. Tumposky suggested jazz music and the idea took off.

Tumposky said he would like the jazz series to continue indefinitely. Currently, the plan is to go through May.

"I've really enjoyed the concerts. My sense is that everyone who came really liked them too," he said.

In the future, there may be a few changes in the series, Rozewski said, including possibly starting the concerts around 10 p.m. and raising the fee to \$8 or \$10. The money collected now mostly goes toward paying the band.

In addition to the jazz series, Main Streets and the city's Office of Special Events, Tourism and Film, also offer a summer concert series in Roslindale's Adam Park.

For now, Tumposky said he hopes people take advantage of the upcoming jazz concert.

"I'm sure it's going to be energetic and enjoyable concert. We want people to come. Check out," he said.

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