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Skokie Musician Bringing **JAZZ** to Tommy Nevin's



The quartet **Jazz From Planet Flippo** will perform twice a month at Tommy Nevin's Pub.

Contemporary jazz is coming to Tommy Nevin's Pub in Evanston thanks to Skokie resident Dave Flippo. He will be bringing his quartet, Jazz From Planet Flippo, to the popular restaurant and performance venue twice a month starting Jan. 22. Audiences will hear original pieces by pianist and composer Flippo as well as his arrangement of tunes by such artists as [David Bowie](#), Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, [Joni Mitchell](#), Stevie Wonder and The Beatles. These artists are featured on the group's most recent album, "Life on Mars."

In addition, Jazz From Planet Flippo members will play more modern tunes by such artists as Amy Winehouse and Jason Mraz. "But they're jazz versions of them," Flippo said. "And I'm writing some originals that are exploring new directions. I'm trying to get things that are more cosmic and spiritual, and then some things that are more fun."

Flippo has been playing jazz since he was about 14 years old. "I was classically trained and I did a doctorate in music composition and theory but I always played jazz on the side," he said. "Miles Davis was the main guy that I really liked. At first it sounded like noise to me and then I started appreciating it."

Flippo has led a jazz ensemble since 1992. "I mainly put it together to play my music, because I'm a composer, but we've gotten into some other projects lately," Flippo said. Saxophone player Dan Hesler has been with Flippo from the beginning. His quartet also includes drummer Heath Chappell and Donn De Santo on acoustic and electric bass.

Jazz from Planet Flippo has performed at numerous jazz festivals, including Taste of Chicago, South Shore Jazzfest, Around the Coyote Art Festival and Navy Pier World Jazz Festival. They have also performed at many clubs, including Pete Miller's, Beat Kitchen and Hot House, and frequently perform at colleges and libraries. Special public performances have included Jazzin' at the Shedd, After Hours at the Field Museum, Brookfield Zoo Summer Concert Series and Chicago Cultural Center Concert Series.

Flippo said that what makes his ensemble unique is the diverse influences of his original music. "I'm into world music, I'm into Indian and African, I'm into historical classic music like Bach and Beethoven and Renaissance, and I'm into jazz," he said. The most recent of his group's five albums, "Life on Mars," reflects some of those influences. "I arranged a bunch of rock classics and pop classics from the '60s and '70s," he explained.

Flippo, who earned a bachelor of arts from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Musical Arts in music composition from the [Eastman School of Music](#) and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in music composition from the [University of Michigan](#), has been teaching in this area since 1987. He currently teaches music, jazz and classical piano at Triton College and the College of Lake County, as well as giving private lessons.

Flippo is looking forward to bringing his group to Tommy Nevin's for several reasons. "I have a lot of students in this area," he noted, adding, "Evanston's a cool town. It's a nice club and it has a nice room to play in." More at www.flippomusic.com.

[Myrna Petlicki](#) / Pioneer Press

Jazz from Planet Flippo When: 3-6 p.m. Jan. 22, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26

Where: Tommy Nevin's, 1450 Sherman Ave., Evanston NO COVER - ALL AGES