

Q&A

with Maree Bradshaw

By **JESSE BERTEL**
Across the Street

A new sculpture brings jazz to life outside the Yavapai College (YC) Prescott Art Gallery as student artist Maree Bradshaw's Lamplighters Jazz Band takes up permanent residence. The metal sculpture was installed outside the gallery at 1100 E. Sheldon St. on Thursday, April 30, by Yavapai College Facilities.

Bradshaw, a student in Yavapai College's metal sculpture program under the instruction of Rita Toika, spent nearly a year creating the first three pieces in the series. The Sedona resident drives two hours each way to attend classes, having discovered her passion for welding just four years ago after taking a two-hour class in Phoenix. Before finding metal sculpture, she had no artistic background and worked as a nurse. The project earned three awards from the Yavapai College Fall show in 2025 — Best of 3D Emerging Artist, First Place Sculpture, and People's Choice Award.

The piece depicts a stylized jazz trio in motion, captured mid-performance with instruments including saxophone, trombone and trumpet. Each figure doubles as a solar-charged lamp, lighting the gallery's front yard while celebrating the energy and movement of a jazz jam session.

Bradshaw spoke with Across the Street about the installation. The following interview was edited for length and clarity.

What inspired this piece?

The Lamplighters Jazz Band was inspired by the movement and the personalities of the characters of the lamp posts themselves. I'm really interested in lamp posts and lights from Europe, and they're just art in and of themselves overseas. To bring in some whimsical aspect of it, they're just really cool and expressive and full of life. And everybody likes jazz. It's just so cool. I went with the most popular jazz instruments. I really wanted to give them a jazzy feel, so I started with the saxophone, because that's a must-



Student artist Maree Bradshaw. (Courtesy) have.

How long did it take you to create it?

About three years. It's all just raw steel. There are a few found objects thrown in here and there, but it's all raw steel that was welded and grinded and worked over for almost a year for the first three pieces.

How does it feel to sell an artwork and see it installed in a public space?

I feel like I have imposter syndrome, but Rita keeps telling me you're doing it. This is it. You're an artist. She's like, "Your work has been purchased by a school and to their private collection. This is a big deal." I'm like, "Okay." She's really steered me in the right direction. She pushes. She keeps track of everything. We're supposed to do the artist's statement, and I had it all prepared because she has us ready to be artists, to sell work, to be in shows, and to be ready to install. She really prepares us. I was like, "Oh, I'll never do this. I'll never do this." And sure enough, here we are.

For more information about arts programs at Yavapai College, visit ycarts.org.

Jesse Bertel is a reporter/videographer for the Prescott News Network. Follow him on Facebook @ JesseBertel, email him at jbtertel@prescottaz.com, or call 928-445-3333, ext. 2043.

Wild Rivers Film Tour returns to Prescott for fourth year celebrating Colorado River basin

By **JESSE BERTEL**
Across the Street

Free-flowing rivers face mounting threats from development and climate change, but a grassroots film tour aims to rally communities around protection efforts.

The Wild Rivers Film Tour brings its celebration of wild rivers and call to action for river protection at 7 p.m. Friday, May 29, to the Elks Theatre and Performing Arts Center, 117 E. Gurley St., for its fourth year in Prescott and 11th year nationally.

Prescott's Wild Rivers Film Tour is organized by the Southwest River Protection Program at American Rivers in partnership with Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River Coalition members, including Natural History Institute, The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Verde River, Sierra Club and others.

"It's really grown into what feels like a pretty robust, lively, well-attended annual event," said Rachel Ellis, associate director of American Rivers' Southwest River Protection Program. "We nearly sold out the whole theater last year, and hopefully we will do so again this year."

After four years, the film tour presentation at the Elks demonstrates a measurable impact on the campaign.

"These types of congressional designations are marathons," Ellis said. "We need these moments

as a river community to keep our inspiration and excitement and come together and keep engaged."

This year's lineup focuses on the Colorado River basin, which includes the Upper Verde River.

The Upper Verde extends from east of Paulden to the town of Clarkdale, remaining one of the cleanest, healthiest, economically important and culturally significant free-flowing rivers in Arizona. The film tour serves as a call to action.

"The first action is to become inspired and engaged and for folks to have a sense of the importance of rivers," Ellis said. "The second call to action that is specific to this particular showing is the effort to designate the Upper Verde River as a wild and scenic river."

Wild and Scenic designation represents the country's highest level of river protection while providing flexible community engagement tools. The designation mandates perpetual free-flowing status, water quality protections, and management plans requiring local stakeholder involvement.

Three films showcase river stories and conservation efforts.

"Monumental Moment" tells the story of the multi-decade Indigenous-led effort to secure the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni National Monu-

ment. "What the River Knows" centers specifically on the Glen Canyon area of the Colorado River, highlighting remarkable ecological healing occurring.

"As Lake Powell lowers, the river above the reservoir is actually kind of going through, healing and restoration," Ellis said. "The river in that section is coming back to life."

The third film, "American Southwest," occupies the entire showing after intermission. Produced by Fin and Fur Films in partnership with American Rivers and narrated by Quannah Chasinghorse, the hour-long feature follows wildlife from the Colorado River headwaters all the way to its delta.

"It has remarkable wildlife cinematography," Ellis said. "It intentionally only has footage of wildlife."

Patrons are encouraged to avoid third-party ticket sellers to ensure accurate reservations. For more information, call 928-777-1370 or visit prescottelkstheatre.org. To join the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River campaign, visit wildverderiver.org.

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Briefly

Art Hive celebrates third anniversary with party May 22

The Art Hive is inviting the Prescott community to celebrate its third anniversary with a disco-themed party from 5 p.m. to midnight Friday, May 22, at The Art Hive, 203 N. Cortez St. in Prescott.

"Join us as we celebrate three years of being a part of Prescott's contemporary art scene. It has been a wild ride, and we want to celebrate with the community who made this experiment possible," founder and artist Cloud Oakes said.

The evening features the Tenant Spring Exhibition in the Front Gallery, open studios throughout the Hive, art booths and people's choice awards for best '70s costume and best in Tenant Show.



From 5 to 8 p.m., live music, entertainment and a no-host bar are offered with no entry fee as part of the 4th Friday Artwalk. A '70s Disco DJ bash in Studio 27 kicks off at 8 p.m. and runs through midnight. Entry to the disco party is \$10 for those in costume and \$20 for those

without. Founded in 2023 by Cloud Oakes, The Art Hive brings contemporary art to the Prescott area through monthly exhibitions of local emerging artists and houses more than 36 artist studios for local working artists. The redeveloped 14,000-square-

foot 1900s building in Prescott's NOCO district offers gallery and event space, an ongoing variety of classes and hosts monthly events during the 4th Friday Art Walk. The gallery and studios are open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

For more information, visit arthive.space.

Information provided by The Art Hive.

AZ Phil presents manos Percussion under the pines May 23

Arizona Philharmonic invites Prescott audienc-

es to experience something altogether different this spring: the Quarter Millennium Concert, performed outdoors under the ponderosa pines at the Highlands Center for Natural History's Kiwanis Amphitheater, 1375 S. Walker Road, with performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 23.

Presented in collaboration with the Highlands Center, the concert features *manos* Percussion, a classically trained percussion trio bringing 38 instruments to an open-air stage bordered by forest on three sides. *manos* Percussion is making its third appearance in Prescott under the Arizona Philharmonic banner, and this time performs as part of a statewide Arizona tour.

THE CONCERT

The Quarter Millennium Concert celebrates 250 years of American musical history, spanning ragtime, jazz, classical, ambient, and Latin music by American composers Scott Joplin, Conni Ellisor, George Hamilton Green, Julie Spencer, Henry Flurry, Maria Flurry, Joshua Ferrell, Andy Akiho and

Robert Chappell.

The three musicians — Maria Flurry, Bensen Kwan, and Joshua Ferrell — command a remarkable range of instruments: marimba, vibraphone, steel pan, drum set, water percussion, congas, and unexpected objects from everyday life.

Past audience members have described *manos* performances as "ethereal," "otherworldly," "blew me away," "multi-dimensional," and "traveling the world through music."

"The concert takes you on a journey," said Maria Flurry, *manos* co-founder and Arizona Philharmonic's principal timpanist. "It starts with the joyful energy of ragtime, ends with dance-in-the-aisle steel pan, and at times walks you through a sunset, or an open window, or a monsoon. Arrive with your curiosity, stay for the music, and leave with exuberance."

Tickets are \$35 and available at AZPhil.org/manos or at the door. Ticket information, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities can be found at AZPhil.org or on Facebook.

Information provided by Arizona Philharmonic.

• Symphony

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completely deaf, yet continued composing for nearly the rest of his life. "The Moldau" is the second piece in his cycle "Má vlast," known as "My Fatherland."

Rounding out the program is "Un Matin de Printemps" by Marie Juliette Boulanger, a French composer associated with the Symbolist and Impressionist movements and the first woman to win the Grand Prix de Rome composition competition.

Patrons are encouraged to avoid third-party ticket sellers to ensure accurate reservations. Tickets range from \$45 to \$65 and are available exclusively through the Yavapai Symphony Association. The YSA office, 228 N. Alarcon St., is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Tickets may also be purchased by calling



Conductor Alex Amsel. (Courtesy photo)

928-776-4255 for pickup at will call, or at the Jim and Linda Lee Performing Arts Center on the evening of

the concert. Patrons purchasing tickets at the door are encouraged to arrive early.

Information provided by the Yavapai Symphony Association.

• Parker

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of good at researching in original sources and finding things."

The presentation includes a discussion of the book and cemeteries, followed by questions and a book signing at the museum store. The book is available at local bookstores,

including Peregrine in downtown Prescott. Attendees can buy signed copies at the lecture.

Admission costs \$15 for non-members and \$10 for museum members, payable at the entrance. Attendees must RSVP by emailing Katherine.Bartke@SharlotHallMuseum.org.

For more information, visit sharlothallmuseum.org.

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