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Photo credit: Chuck Anderson

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Theatre Bizarre Orchestra Performs at the Ferndale Library

Summer Concert Series

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ferndale Library

**Tuesday, AUGUST 22**

**6:30 pm**

Free/All Ages

Hosted indoors in the library's program room

222 E. Nine Mile

<https://www.fadl.org/tbo>

### **Theatre Bizarre's "House Band" Performs a Free Show at the Ferndale Library**

*Versatile & Eclectic Jazz Ensemble Performs Inside the Library for the annual Summer Concert Series*

**FERNDALE, MI (August 1, 2023–)** The versatile and eclectic jazz ensemble known as the Theatre Bizarre Orchestra will be at the Ferndale Library on Tuesday, August 22, performing a free concert (starting at 6:30 pm) in the library's program room. This is the third and final installment of the library's annual Summer Concert Series, made possible by the Friends of the Ferndale Library. This aptly theatrical group of longtime musicians has regularly served as the "house band" for the world-famous Theatre Bizarre attraction, an epic immersive theatre experience, and Halloween masquerade typically hosted at the Masonic Temple in late October. However, it was recently announced that Theatre Bizarre would be taking the year off for the 2023 season, making this upcoming library appearance by their "Orchestra" much more exclusive.

The Theatre Bizarre Orchestra has been the house band for Detroit's annual Theatre Bizarre Event since 2015. Rooted in Detroit's burlesque, rock & roll, jazz, and vaudeville culture, the TBO is a band that's cultivated its own signature style of neo-vaudeville. Their music is captivating and mesmerizing, tapping into the energy of classical jazz bandleaders like Duke Ellington and more modern goth auteurs like David J. and Bauhaus. The 12 players don swanky tuxedos, wearing fez hats and half-masks, featuring a variety of instruments like saxophone, clarinet, tuba, trumpet, and even banjo.

The genesis for this project occurred when David J of Bauhaus & Love and Rockets was in attendance at the 2014 Theatre Bizarre Gala event, performing a spontaneous rendition of his band, Bauhaus' classic, 'Bela Lugosi's Dead' with the award-winning nine-piece jazz ensemble, [Planet D Nonet](#). In their unique take on the song, Bela Lugosi meets up with Cab Calloway's Minnie the Moocher for a delirious sojourn down in Chinatown, where they inevitably end up 'kicking the gong around.'

That chance encounter led to the formation of the Theatre Bizarre Orchestra, the house band for the "greatest masquerade on Earth." TBO's current bandleader is Ferndale's own Joshua James, an accomplished band leader/educator, and saxophonist.

The Friends of the Ferndale Library are sponsoring this free, all-ages concert on August 22 pm. The library's summer concert series is a great way for music fans to enjoy a lovely summer evening while discovering some of Michigan's top-notch talents with songs that span a variety of genres and styles. No registration is required.

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