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Press Release

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The Hot Sardines Swing Into The Grand With Their High Energy Jazz

WAUSAU, WI –Get ready to hear some high energy jazz when the Hot Sardines swing into The Grand on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:30 pm. The New York City-based band plays music from the red-hot jazz age of the 1920s, '30s and '40s with such style that the sound bridges generations and is quickly becoming the bee's knees and cat's meow for 21st century audiences.

It started with a Craigslist ad that Evan Palazzo and Elizabeth Bougerol both answered for an open jazz jam session. The group took shape with the addition of a blustery trumpet player, Jason Prover; a cool clarinet and sax musician, Nick Myers; percussionist Alex Raderman; and Evan Crane on the upright bass and sousaphone. Dressed in a three-piece suit, band member "Fast Eddie Francisco" is the group's tap dancer. His clickety-clackety feet add unique percussion to the sound mix. The sound enhances the songs while smartly acknowledging this music was made for dancing.

"We play everything from Dixieland Jazz to Benny Goodman Swing," Palazzo said. "We're very influenced by Louis Armstrong and Fats Waller and even some Ray Charles. We also have a tap dancer, which people mostly don't see, and he's a part of the rhythm section. Elizabeth sings in French and English. We do a few original songs but we really stick to the great songs of the 20th century because there are so many."

The Hot Sardine's sound isn't stale, canned, retro or vintage. Songs, some of them nearly a century old and a vibrant blend of the familiar and obscure, are showcased as if they were freshly written that morning for today's generation, Palazzo explains.

"While we pride ourselves of playing the music correctly from that era, we have attitude that is definitely 2015. We are considering ourselves a modern group not a museum group."

Tickets are on sale now, at The Grand Ticket Office (401 4th Street in Downtown Wausau), via phone at 715-842-0988 and online at www.grandtheater.org. There is still time to subscribe to 2015-16 season, which features 19 outstanding shows. Select four or more shows to become a subscriber, which includes discounts on tickets, free ticket exchanges and numerous other subscriber-only benefits.

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