

Lois Hartzler in Jazz Concert at Creative 360 on August 1

What: *Jazz Songs and Stories* with Lois Hartzler

Where: Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center) at 1517 Bayliss in Midland.

When: Sunday, August 1; 2 pm

Cost: \$8 at the door

For more information: Call (989) 837-1885 or visit www.becreative360.org

Midland – Creative 360 hosts jazz singer Lois Hartzler in concert on Sunday, August 1. Hartzler's battle with a brain tumor during the past 2 years has kept her from performing recently, but her cancer is now in remission and she is celebrating by returning to the stage with this concert.

She will sing, tell stories of jazz greats Carmen McRae, Billie Holliday, and Lena Horne, and salute the songwriters, musicians, jazz radio stations, and jazz writers who keep this music alive, including her former performing partners Jeff Kressler and Bernie Meltsner on piano, Randy Groves on guitar, Ed Fedewa on bass, Larry Ochiltree on drums, Robert Lindahl on trombone, Earl Haynes on harmonica, and John Nichol on Saxophone.

This jazz concert is a part of ArtFest55, Creative 360's summer festival celebrating the creativity of people 55 and older. All ticket proceeds benefit Creative 360.

About the artist

"I could cry salty tears; where have I been all these years?" -- words from George Gershwin's song, "How Long Has This Been Going On?" heard in Lois Hartzler's 2005 recording *NightSound* – are especially meaningful to the jazz artist. The touch of regret for starting so late and the joy of finding jazz, jumping in and going with the music are in the song recorded when she was 65 years of age and also in Hartzler's experience. "When I was 58 years old, I quit a twenty-six-year job, went to see Lena Horne do her one-woman show in New York, and came home and told friends and family, 'I'm going to do music,'" Hartzler says. "For the first couple years I took voice lessons and sang by myself, until at age 60 I met stride piano player Bernie Meltsner, and starting performing." By age 65, she had met more musicians and studied with Sheila Jordan, Jay Clayton, and David Darling, Artistic Director of Music for People. Now 70, Hartzler says, "As a child I heard Hank Williams and gospel music with jazz creeping in around the edges,

in piano lessons and radio listening. I walked barefoot in newly plowed fields behind my dad and the horses, picked strawberries by the crateload, and boiled sap for maple syrup. All of this is mixed up in my music today. Sunny Wilkinson introduced me to jazz singing -- jumping ahead, holding back, connecting, being real. Remembering my first voice lesson with Sunny brings me back to the Gershwin song: "I know how Columbus felt, finding a brand new world. . . .What a dunce I was before! What a break, for heaven's sake! How long has this been going on?"

About Creative 360

Creative 360, formerly known as Creative Spirit Center, is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization now celebrating its 15th anniversary. The Center's mission is help people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, art exhibits, events, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, mental and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Visit www.becreative360.org for information about the offerings at Creative 360, or call (989) 837-1885 to request a mailed copy of the current schedule.

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