

## **Robin Connell & Paul Brewer – Duo/Band**

Drs. Robin Connell and Paul Brewer, musicians and educators (and a married couple), delight in sharing their love of [The Great American Songbook](#) and [Classic Jazz Standards](#) with audiences near and far.

Jazz pianist-singer, **Robin Connell**, the [Artprize 2016 jazz music award recipient](#), and the West Michigan Jazz Society's [2017 Musician of the Year](#), follows in the tradition of singer-pianists Diana Krall, and Blossom Dearie, tickling the ivories with original arrangements of time honored jazz standards. Originally from Detroit, she honed her craft in New York City, at places such as The Waldorf-Astoria, bringing the sophistication of The Great American Songbook to life in her own charming and inimitable way. An accomplished musician, Robin performs regularly as bandleader or side-woman throughout the Midwest and hosts the jazz piano concert series, [Jazz in the Sanctuary at Fountain Street Church](#).

Originally from Oklahoma, and 'first call trombonist,' **Paul Brewer** has appeared in concert with over fifty major artists, such as Mel Torme, Lena Horne, and The Temptations. He performs with, and composes for, the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra and continues to be 'first call trombonist' with touring shows and regional jazz musicians. ['J & K – Trombone Tribute'](#) is his homage to the great jazz trombonists, JJ Johnson and Kai Winding, and includes their well-crafted original arrangements. In addition to his prowess as a trombonist, Paul is also a 'crooner'. With his ballad singing likened to Chet Baker, [Paul switches easily into full-blooded blues](#) ala Joe Williams or fast driving scat singing reminiscent of Mel Torme and Frank Rosolino. When not performing, Paul is the Director of Instrumental Music at Aquinas College (and the [Aquinas Jazz Camp](#)).

Enthusiastic about jazz education, Robin & Paul currently co-direct the [St Cecilia Youth Jazz Ensembles](#), and travel as guest artists and clinician/adjudicators. They met as summer faculty at the Interlochen Center for the Arts and where they taught for twenty summers and, when appropriate, they really enjoy including a student or two in their shows [Connell-Brewer Band at Buttermilk Jambouree](#).

### **Quotes:**

*'Connell is nimble at the piano in her clever arrangements'* – Anna Kisselgoff, **The New York Times**

*'Our audience really enjoyed your music and voice!'* – Michigan Legacy Art Park, **Crystal Mountain**

*'Paul's weighty but smooth trombone, Robin's skillful keyboard, several standards, original compositions, and fascinating stories [all] made for an interesting and entertaining evening!'* – West MI Jazz Society, March 2012 newsletter

*'On Connell's very classy new album, **Travelin'**, two tracks stand out: a re-harmonized but swinging arrangement of 'Summertime' with a free-from Connell intro, and a Mingus-like treatment of 'Sweet Georgia Brown.'* - Jeff Bradley, **The Denver Post**