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Wednesday, March 18, 2015



"Whiplash" band to play in Bethesda

On Sunday, the Bethesda Blues and Jazz Supper Club will present "Whiplash! The Concert Experience."

The event will give music and movie lovers a chance to explore the authentic musical treasure behind the triple Academy Award-winning film.

Henry Jacob (Hank) Levy (1927-2001) was a saxophonist best known as a big band composer for Stan Kenton and the Don Ellis Orchestra.

He was instrumental in developing the Towson University jazz program, which he directed for 21 years. There he led many award-winning student bands. High school and college students and professional musicians around the world still perform his big band compositions.

Filmmaker Damien Chazelle was among the initiates. Chazelle played Levy's music in high school. The tune "Whiplash" was one of his favorites, and he titled his film after the tricky composition.

Hank Levy was known for his use of odd time signatures (which predates the classic Brubeck band piece "Take Five" from the album "Time Out").

Unlike the overbearing character portrayed by J.K. Simmons in "Whiplash," Levy was beloved by colleagues and students. Many continued to practice and play with him after his retirement. Thus, the Hank Levy Legacy Band was born in 1992 and continues to this day.

Tickets are \$10 to \$15. For more information, visit bethesdabluesjazz.com or call 240-330-4500.



Chris Convery
The Hank Levy Legacy Band is set to perform at the Bethesda Blues and Jazz Supper Club on Sunday.

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