

"We really enjoyed operating Cafe Django for the last four years and especially providing a great venue for Bloomington jazz. We feel that we owe much to the local jazz community and will always treasure our friendship with the musicians and our customers," the couple said in an email.

While the new owners of the building plan to offer jazz, including the continuation of the Grant Street Jazz Festival, they're also looking to expand the musical selection. Quaff ON! Bloomington, scheduled to open in February, will also switch focuses from an intimate jazz club to a craft beer destination, with 24 rotating taps, including eight of their own Big Woods brews, and a small plate menu.

"We have a great deal of respect for the tradition of Cafe Django, and we plan to have a lot of live music. Jazz will definitely be a component, but we'll probably open it up to more variety," said Jeff McCabe, a co-owner of Big Woods Brewing.

Stephanie Topoligus, managing and creative director at Topo's 403, is excited to adopt the piano. The restaurant is adjusting its menu to include lighter options for those coming for the music. And while the space won't be entirely dedicated to jazz, with plans for nights of classical and world, Topoligus said the music will be a welcome addition.

"We'd love to become the home of jazz in Bloomington. It really just fits our style and program, really adds to the atmosphere," she said.

And while Bloomington jazz has lost a home in Cafe Django, it, and the piano, has survived in the past. In addition to regular events being planned at Topo's 403, Players Pub and Bear's Place, both longtime supporters of Bloomington jazz, will continue to hold regular jazz nights. Fred Parker, the president of Jazz for Bloomington, said jazz nights at the Crazy Horse are also in the works.

"While it's a loss, Bloomington has gone through these cycles before. The jazz community is too strong to disappear," said Monika Herzig, a pianist and co-founder of Jazz from Bloomington.

Harbison and Walsh agreed. The foundation for jazz is entrenched, largely due to the work of David Parker, David Miller and many others.

"Per capita, Bloomington offers more great musicians and a more enthusiastic audience than any other city. It's off the charts, really. Jazz as a music seems to appeal to Bloomington," Harbison said.

A local tradition and appreciation for the style has grown deep roots. It's this spirit that remains as durable and solid as that black baby grand piano.

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- **ARTICLE:** Warming shelters at Bloomington North, others in the area
- **ARTICLE:** Datebook: Jan. 6-8, 2014
- **IMAGE:** trevor_group
- **IMAGE:** trevor_with_jeff_saturday
- **IMAGE:** nb_photo_birthday_0106



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