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This series is funded, in part, with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners through the Hannibal Cox Jr. Cultural Grants Program.
Jazz at Wolfson Presents

2008 – 2009 Season

About the Series

Jazz at Wolfson Presents is the only continuously running jazz series in Miami-Dade County, offering a free, year-long jazz recital and concert series to residents, students and music lovers of all ages. The series was founded by jazz studies professor Dr. Michael Di Liddo and inspired by MDC’s Lunchtime Lively Arts concert series of the 1970s.

Running from September through April, Jazz at Wolfson Presents has featured live performances from world-renowned jazz artists such as bassist and Jazz Humanitarian Award winner Rufus Reid; saxophonist and educator Jamey Aebersold, an inductee into the International Association for Jazz Education’s Jazz Hall of Fame; four-time Grammy-nominated guitarist Mike Stern; and saxophonist James Moody, a National Endowment for the Arts jazz master.

Additional artists include drummers Duffy Jackson, Adam Nussbaum and Danny Gottlieb; violinist Sara Caswell; saxophonists Eric Alexander, Don Braden and Bobby Watson; trumpeters Ira Sullivan, Scott Wendholt, Barry Ries and Jim Rotondi; pianists Dan Haerle, Mike Gerber and David Hazeltine; and bassists Lynn Seaton and David Friesen. The series features a range of jazz styles, including swing, hard bop, cool, modern, fusion and avant-garde.

Distinguished members of MDC’s jazz music faculty perform with the guest artists. The five-member Jazz Faculty Quintet includes Di Liddo, guitar; Ed Calle, saxophone; Jim Gasior, piano; Rick Doll, bass; and George Mazzeo, drums.

Visiting jazz artists also conduct workshops and master classes for MDC music students, thus voluntarily investing their expertise and inspiration in the present and future cultural life of Miami-Dade County.

This series is produced by the Wolfson Campus Arts and Philosophy Department, which is responsible for all program logistics. It is funded, in part, through the Hannibal Cox Jr. Cultural Grants Program of Miami-Dade County.

Concerts are held in the 500-seat Chapman Conference Center in Building 3 at MDC’s Wolfson Campus, 300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami.
Welcome

Dear Friends,

Jazz is an original American invention, but it is not easy to find original and accessible jazz performances. This situation is unfortunate, because nothing can replace live jazz. By its very nature, each session is a unique, irreplaceable flight of fancy.

Fortunately for Miami, a performance tradition has emerged at Miami Dade College’s downtown campus. Jazz at Wolfson Presents has offered free concerts for years now, and jazz aficionados look forward to its return each September.

This year’s season promises more inspirational riffs and runs. The next generation of legends may be revealed as the College’s own ensembles perform. Visiting virtuosos on instruments, ranging from the guitar to the trombone to the organ, will step to center stage and regale our students and our community at large with their talents. They may make it look easy, but the lesson to students should be clear: It takes years and years of practice to perfect your craft.

I am pleased to invite one and all, young and old, to gather at Wolfson Campus every month to appreciate these performances. Open your ears and your hearts to this melodious gift. You never know exactly where the musicians will take you, but you can be assured that they will elevate your spirit.

Sincerely,

Eduardo J. Padrón
President, Miami Dade College
The list of musicians with whom Andy LaVerne has worked reads like a “Who’s Who” of jazz: Frank Sinatra, Stan Getz, Woody Herman, Dizzy Gillespie, Chick Corea, Lionel Hampton, Michael Brecker, Elvin Jones and numerous others.

A prolific recording artist, his projects as a leader number more than 50; the most recent are Intuition, a duo with saxophonist Jerry Bergonzi (SteepleChase), and Epiphany, a collection of LaVerne’s newest compositions (ClaveBop).

LaVerne is the recipient of five jazz fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and winner of the 2000 John Lennon Songwriting contest for his tune Shania. He has appeared at concerts, festivals, and clubs throughout the world, and has also given clinics and master classes at universities, colleges and conservatories worldwide.

LaVerne is professor of jazz at the Hartt/McLean Institute of Jazz at the University of Hartford and on the faculty of the Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops.

Three groups comprise the jazz ensembles at Wolfson Campus: Horace Silver, Blue Note and the Hard Bop Jazz Ensemble. The Horace Silver group takes its name from the legendary pianist/composer of the 1950s and 60s. The Blue Note group pays tribute to the famed jazz record label of numerous classic and groundbreaking recordings. Both groups help young jazz musicians mature by presenting a wide range of jazz styles.

Established in 1998, the Hard Bop Jazz Ensemble has grown to include some of South Florida’s finest emerging musicians. The Ensemble has received invitations to perform at the Montreux Jazz Festival, the North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands and the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy.

Former member Rocky Yera received a DownBeat magazine award for Best Instrumental Jazz Performance, and current member Kemuel Roig received a DownBeat’s Outstanding Performance for an Original Composition award.
A Fulbright scholar, Gary Campbell is becoming one of this country’s most sought-after jazz educators. He taught for 12 years at the University of Miami, is associate professor of jazz performance/saxophone at Florida International University and has been a performer/clinician at the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops.

Campbell has been awarded numerous National Endowment for the Arts performance grants and has published five highly acclaimed books on jazz improvisation. His compositions have been recorded by John Scofield, Ira Sullivan, Jeff Palmer, Duffy Jackson, Mike Orta and the University of Miami Concert Jazz Band.

His recordings include Intersection (Milestone Records), which provocatively blends Afro-Cuban and Brazilian music with mainstream modern jazz, and Thick & Thin (Double-Time Records), which features guitarist John Abercrombie.

Jonathan Kreisberg made his debut at the age of 16 when he was featured in Guitar Player magazine and accepted to the New World School of the Arts at MDC. Over the years, the guitarist/composer, who went on to study at the University of Miami, has performed with numerous jazz artists, including Joe Locke, Jane Monheit, Dr. Lonnie Smith and Lenny White, and led his own groups of various instrumentations.

In early 2000 Kreisberg composed and performed what the New York Times called the “elegant underscoring” for the off-Broadway show Betwixt. He co-wrote the music and serves as the musical director for Floyd and Clea, which made its New York debut in late 2006.

He has recorded several CDs, including Jonathan Kreisberg Trio (1996); Trioing (2001) with Ari Hoenig and Johannes Weidenmueller; Nine Stories Wide (2004); and New For Now (2005), which documented his groundbreaking organ trio with Gary Versace and Mark Ferber, and received heavy critical acclaim.
Steve Davis is widely regarded as one of today’s leading improvisors on the trombone. He has toured and recorded with Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers, the Jackie McLean Sextet, Chick Corea and Origin, Cecil Paybe, Freddie Hubbard and the New Jazz Composers Octet, Avishai Cohen Sextet and the Michael Weiss Sextet. He’s recorded eight CDs as a leader.

Ever in demand as a sideman, Davis is featured on 47 CDs and has worked with a broad range of jazz icons, including Horace Silver, Cecil Payne and Wynton Marsalis.

He has toured North America, Europe, Japan, South America, the Caribbean and Southern Africa, and has made appearances at the North Sea, Vienne, Nice, Pori, Molde, San Sebastian and Glasgow festivals.

Davis is an assistant professor of jazz at the Hartt/McLean Institute of Jazz at the University of Hartford.

Bobby Floyd piano

Wednesday, Feb. 25
Noon
Spring 2009

The passion with which Bobby Floyd plays piano, organ and keyboard are the result of a natural ability that has been nurtured since he was 2 years old.

Floyd has toured throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan, performing at countless venues with Ray Charles, Jeff Tyzik, Chris Howes and Sarah Morrow. The prestige associated with Floyd’s international appearances can also be witnessed at home.

Throughout the years, Floyd has opened for Spyro Gyra, Smokey Robinson, Stanley Clark and George Duke, and accompanied the likes of David “Fathead” Newman, Bobby Watson, Greg Osby and Billy Hart.

Floyd has released three compilations: Interpretations, Setting the Standards and Floyd’s Finest Gift. His next project, soon to be released, is a live performance recorded in Spain.

Floyd currently performs with Derek DiCenzo (bass/lead guitar) and Reggie Jackson (drums).
Directly focused and sexy with a tinge of soul around the edges, Kathy Kosins torches her way through sessions, infusing original material with the romance of the swing era.

She is the recipient of the 2001 Michigan Council of the Arts/Artserv Michigan Jazz Composers Award, a six-time ASCAP Award-winning songwriter and a jazz educator.

As a lead vocalist, Kosins recorded for both Carrere and Quality record companies then toured with Was/Not Was. By the early '90s, her musical taste evolved from R&B to straight-ahead jazz. Stints with J.C. Heard & His Orchestra and the Nelson Riddle Orchestra led to the 1996 release of All In A Dream’s Work. She’s since released Mood Swings and Vintage.

Made up of some of South Florida’s finest musicians, the MDC Jazz Faculty Quintet features saxophonist Ed Calle, guitarist Mike Di Liddo, pianist Jim Gasior, bassist Rick Doll and drummer George Mazzeo. Since its inception in 2003, the group has performed during several seasons of Jazz at Wolfson Presents. The Faculty Quintet presents original compositions and select compositions from jazz repertoire, including modern, hard bop, modal and Latin jazz styles.
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