Jazz Extravaganza: University Jazz Ensemble with BJ Brown and Willis Kirk

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

JAZZ EXTRAVAGANZA:
Music of Count Basie and Duke Ellington

UNIVERSITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE
MICHAEL DAVISON, DIRECTOR

GUESTS
BJ BROWN, NARRATOR
WILLIS KIRK, PERCUSSION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1997, 8:00 PM
CAMP CONCERT HALL, BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC
GEORGE M. MODLIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Dr. Willis Kirk, started his musical training at P.S. #37 as a fifth grader under Norman Merifield and Russell Brown. He continued playing in the band and orchestra at Crispus Attucks High School. By the age of 14 he was playing professionally in and around Indianapolis. Having grown up with the Montgomery brothers - Wes, Monk, and Buddy - as well as the Hampton family - Luckey, Maceo, Slide, Duke, and Aletra - Willis was challenged in his musical life. He and his friends set standards for others to follow - Freddie Hubbard, Larry Ridley, James Spaulding, and Virgil Jones, all from Indianapolis.

In addition to fronting his own bands, Willis has performed with Mel Torme, Wes Montgomery, Tony Bennett, Jon Hendricks, Jerome Richardson, Joe Pass, June Cristy, Buddy Greco, Eddie Henderson, Ted Dunbar, Carl Perkins, and other noted musicians. Kirk worked and recorded with Earl Hines in Brazil and has recorded with the San Francisco All Star Band.

From 1969 until his retirement in January 1991, Willis held many administrative positions at City College of San Francisco, with a student population of 30,000. He served as President of City College his last two years while remaining musically active. Kirk is known internationally for his treatise on brushes called Brushfire, which is in its second printing and has been translated into Japanese. He currently serves on the Board of the Oakland Jazz Alliance and has been a consultant to the National Endowment for the Arts.

Beverly J. Brown currently serves as Executive Director of the Richmond Jazz Society where she is responsible for overseeing that organization’s educational programs, performances, publications, and membership services, as well as program/technical support and artist referrals for area events and organizations. She is a member of the City of Richmond Landmark Theatre Study Commission.

She is president of her own company, Eulipion Marketing and Management, which has been operating since 1984, providing administrative, media, and referral services for area artists and arts organizations. From 1982 to 1984 she served as administrator and facility manager for Richmond Jazz Society’s education and performance center, which hosted over 150 live performances during that period.

From 1974 to 1982 she was employed as a Health Educator for the Virginia Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Program of the Medical College of Virginia. Her responsibilities included the dissemination of information to the medical community and the general public, as well as the development of educational literature and social activities for sickle cell children and their families. She instituted the first camp experience for sickle cell children in Virginia, “Camp Bright Moments,” which continues today.

Ms. Brown attended Maggie L. Walker High School where she graduated number two in her class. She earned a B.A. degree (1974) from Lafayette College, Easton, PA, and post graduate studies from Virginia Commonwealth University and J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College.

JAZZ EXTRAVAGANZA

is co-sponsored by the Music Department, Student Affairs, Student Activities, and Multi-Cultural Affairs
Music of Count Basie and Duke Ellington

Red Bank
Bob Ojeda

Rockin' in Rhythm
Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, and Harry Carney

Strike Up the Band
George Gershwin, arr. Sammy Nestico

Caravan
Duke Ellington, Juan Tizol, and Irving Mills

Boy Meets Horn
Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, and Rex Stewart

Harlem Airshaft
Duke Ellington

Solitude
Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, and Harry Carney

Splanky
Neal Hefti, arr. Sammy Nestico

Take the “A” Train
Billy Strayhorn and the Delta Rhythm Boys, arr. Frank Foster

Jazz Ensemble Personnel

Clarinet: Steven Ahearn

Saxophones: Mike Baedke, alto 1
Dan Smith, alto 2
Jim Furlow, tenor (split lead)
Jason Weyeneth, tenor
Blake Puhak, baritone

Trumpet: Jeff Elbich, lead
Ryan McCaffrey
Sean Lинфors
Dana Rajczewski

Trombones: Chris White, lead
Matt Worth
Lindsay Sikes
Chris Carver

Guitar: Frank Atkins
Chris Robley

Piano: Jeff Springer
Chris Musialek

Bass: Marley Walsh

Drums: John O’Donnell