Jazz Saxophonist Javon Jackson Headlines the 27th Annual Jazz Festival

The Willamette University Jazz Festival will celebrate its 27th year with a full day Feb. 9, 2008. During the day, the festival will feature the performance of High School jazz bands from throughout the Northwest for adjudication and clinics by top area jazz professionals and educators. In the evening, guest artist Javon Jackson will join the Willamette University Jazz Ensemble and the Judges’ Choice high school band. The Jazz Festival Evening Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Smith Auditorium at Willamette University. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for students and seniors.

A tenor saxophonist influenced by Joe Henderson, Jackson works to keep the legacy of Art Blakey and hard bop alive. He was raised in Denver, and studied at Berklee College of Music (1984–86). Jackson was part of Blakey’s ensemble, Jazz Messengers, until Blakey’s death in 1990. He later worked with the Harper Brothers, Benny Green, Freddie Hubbard and Elvin Jones. Jackson has recorded as a leader for Criss Cross and Blue Note, on releases like 1999’s “Pleasant Valley.”

He is currently a recording artist for Palmetto Records and released his new CD, “NOW,” in September. Featuring Greg Hutchison, drums; Kenny Davis, bass; David Gilmore, guitar; Lisa Fischer, vocals; and Lonnie Smith, Hammond B-3 organ, “NOW” features Greg Hutchinson, drums; Kenny Davis, bass; David Gilmore, guitar; Lisa Fischer, vocals; and Lonnie Smith, Hammond B-3 organ. “NOW” is a fun and melodic mix of challenging and engaging music.

More festival information can be found on the festival website at www.willamette.edu/go/jazzfestival.

Dramatic Vocal Arts to perform Strauss’ Die Fledermaus

Dramatic Vocal Arts presents Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss April 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Smith Auditorium. This three act opera sung in English with orchestral accompaniment will be conducted by Willamette alumni Pierre-Alain Chevalier ’06 and directed by Allison Swensen-Mitchell. The set and lighting design is by Brett Popovich.

The storyline of Die Fledermaus is not to be taken too seriously; it is one big practical joke. It is about payback for a previous practical joke that one friend played on another before the opera even begins. Come see how this plot unfolds and join us for this magnificent comic opera, overflowing with the infectious melodies of Vienna’s Waltz King, Johann Strauss Jr.
The Willamette University Department of Music has high expectations. We want our students to mature into confident, skilled, thoughtful and creative artists, as well as great teachers. I am always inspired by how my colleagues and our students work toward meeting those expectations. I am also proud of the opportunities for growth that we offer in the many dimensions of contemporary musical life. Please enjoy an example of this found below.

The first week of November in the Department of Music:
At the beginning of the week we hosted a stunning concert by the St. Lawrence String Quartet with clarinetist Todd Palmer. The group’s follow up master classes led our instrumental students to a higher level of chamber performance artistry. My colleagues, who have both seen and conducted master classes around the world, remarked that these ranked with the most productive they had ever experienced.

Midweek, composer and electronic music pioneer Gary Lee Nelson was on campus. Beyond a fascinating concert featuring multimedia, intermedia and electronic instrument performances, Nelson lectured in our music technology classes and offered a workshop in MAX/MSP programming to our composition and arts technology and multimedia students.

Finally, our week ended with composer/arranger Alice Parker delivering a lecture on her many decades of work. Parker also coached voice students, leading rehearsals of all three University choirs. This served as a prelude to Willamette Master Chorus performances featuring her contribution to choral literature.

It is this kind of week that reminds me what a privilege it is to be in a place like WU, with the colleagues, students and opportunities for growth that grace us.

Mike Nord
Associate Professor of Music
Chair, Department of Music

Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series Presents Four Spring Concerts

This spring, the Distinguished Artists Series will present, “Beyond Six Strings,” a mini-series celebrating the guitar through the exploration of historical trends in the development of the instrument’s range and capabilities. Whereas the history and evolution of the guitar has been mostly viewed in relation to a six-string instrument, this series of three concerts and lectures will dramatically broaden that perspective.

Grammy-nominee Paul Galbraith will perform on the eight-string Brahms guitar of his own invention on April 4 at 8 p.m. The Brahms guitar boasts two added strings and is held upright like a cello. The program will include original transcriptions of William Byrd, Lennox Berkeley, J. S. Bach, Franz Schubert and W.A. Mozart, works previously considered unplayable on the guitar.

On April 13 at 7 p.m. Emmy-nominee and associate professor at Willamette John Doan will perform original works on the 20-string harp guitar, in addition to forgotten works by the father of the classical guitar, Fernando Sor, on an extremely rare 1829 three-necked harp-polyre.

The final installment of “Beyond Six Strings,” featuring Ronn McFarlane will be held April 18 at 8 p.m. Considered one of the world’s leading performers of the 15-string Renaissance and 28-string Baroque lute, McFarlane will perform works by John Dowland and S. L. Weiss, among others.

Each of the four concerts will take place in Hudson Hall at the times noted above. Tickets may be purchased through the Pentacle Theatre ticket office by calling 503-485-4300.

New Arts, Technology and Multimedia Program Enhances Purpose of the Lab

Things have been humming along (sometimes literally) with the Music Technology Lab and the new Arts, Technology and Multimedia program. As I write, students are scoring their latest collaboration with animators in the Computer Science department. Our new music theory curriculum has fully integrated the lab’s potential and more students and faculty than ever are utilizing it.

This past fall, in a three-day residency sponsored by the Arts, Technology and Multimedia program, electronic music pioneer Gary Lee Nelson shared work and techniques with digital music students in both music major and non-major classes. Nelson also gave a MAX/MSP workshop for music composition majors and arts, technology and multimedia students.

Looking ahead, we will be upgrading our ProTools and sound editing software for the spring semester. We are excited for the spring groundbreaking of Ford Hall, our future home. Ford will offer access to new recording and editing suites, multimedia capable venues, and a new and improved Music Technology Lab for music students and those in the Arts, Technology and Multimedia program.

Access the Troubadour Online
You can now read the Troubadour online at www.willamette.edu/clai/music/pub/pdf/troubadour.pdf.
If you have a comment, suggestion or would like to be removed from our mailing list, contact us at troubadour@willamette.edu.
ACDA NW and Puttin’ on the Ritz are just around the Corner

The Chamber Choir and the Willamette Singers recently returned from their annual recruitment tour that travels through southern Oregon and Northern California. With stops in Corvallis, Eugene, Medford, Redding, Sacramento and San Francisco, the choirs offered 12 concerts in six days and shared performances with several high schools at each stop.

Spring semester starts like the fall semester: with no time to catch a breath. Willamette Singers and Voce Femminile are in final preparation to perform at the American Choral Directors Association Northwest Regional Convention that will be held in Vancouver, B.C., February 20–24. Though this type of invitation is not new to the Willamette Singers vocal jazz ensemble, this is the first time for our outstanding women’s choir directed by Adjunct Professor Christine Welch-Elder to receive such an honor.

Immediately upon return from the convention, the Willamette Singers will produce the 12th Annual Puttin’ on the Ritz, our big band dinner and dance on Feb. 29 and March 1 from 7–11 p.m. The Ritz, a long-time favorite among Salem audiences, is a formal evening that combines an incredible meal from Bon Appetit with dance music from the swing era provided by the Willamette Jazz Ensemble and entertainment by the Willamette Singers. Tickets are $34.50 per person, $138 for a table of four and $260 for a table of eight. Please call 503-370-6214 to reserve tickets for this sell-out event.

As always, we look forward to seeing our loyal Salem audience at each of our performances.

Master Chorus to Perform at Mt. Angel Abbey

Under the direction of Adjunct Professor Paul Klemme, the Willamette Master Chorus will travel to Mount Angel Abbey for a special performance of “Music for an Abbey” May 4 and 18 at 3 p.m. The abbey location provides a spectacular organ, the basis for a special performance of “Music for an Abbey” May 4 and 18 at 3 p.m. The Ritz, a long-time favorite among Salem audiences, is a formal evening that combines an incredible meal from Bon Appetit with dance music from the swing era provided by the Willamette Jazz Ensemble and entertainment by the Willamette Singers. Tickets are $34.50 per person, $138 for a table of four and $260 for a table of eight. Please call 503-370-6214 to reserve tickets for this sell-out event.

As always, we look forward to seeing our loyal Salem audience at each of our performances.

Puttin’ on the Ritz

Friday, Feb. 29, 2008 & Saturday, March 1, 2008
Cat Cavern, University Center, 7 p.m.
$34.50 per person or $260 for a table of eight

Puttin’ on the Ritz, now in its 12th year, has become a sell-out event popular with both the Willamette and Salem community. You will not want to miss this delightful evening, which includes a delicious dinner and dancing to the Willamette University Jazz Ensemble and Willamette Singers vocal jazz choir.

Ticket price includes appetizers, dinner, dessert and all the snazzy jazzy music you need for easy listening or dancing. For ticket information, call 503-370-6214.
Willamette Celebrates New Music with Two Concerts

Violinist Rolf Schulte and pianist Stephen Gosling will kick off the New Music at Willamette season with a concert on Monday, Jan. 28, featuring the music of Elliott Carter along with works for violin by Fred Lerdahl and Donald Martino and piano works by Olivier Messiaen and Conlon Nancarrow. A contemporary music virtuoso, Schulte has been called “one of the most distinguished violinists of our day” by The New Yorker. Gosling, a member of both Ensemble Sospeso and the New York New Music Ensemble, has been hailed as “brilliant,” “electric,” and “luminous and poised” by The New York Times. Schulte will also lead a master class and a composer reading session for Willamette University students Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 11:30 a.m. in Hudson Hall.

For its second concert of the season, New Music at Willamette presents Beta Collide with guest artist Stephen Vitiello on Saturday, April 5. The concert will feature visual and sound installation artist Vitiello, Willamette flute professor Molly Barth and University of Oregon trumpet professor Brian McWhorter. Vitiello is an assistant professor of kinetic imaging at Virginia Commonwealth University as well as archivist for The Kitchen in New York City. Barth and McWhorter are the music directors of Beta Collide, a new music ensemble with a rotating roster of musicians from around the area. The performance will feature a new work by Vitiello.

Both concerts will be at 7 p.m. in Hudson Hall. For more information about the free concerts or the master class with Schulte contact the Department of Music at 503-370-6255.

Bands at Willamette

The Willamette University bands had a successful fall semester with several great performances on campus. The Wind Ensemble collaborated with famed alto saxophone soloist Joseph Wytko and the Willamette University Department of French to celebrate an evening of the music, art and poetry of France. The University Band performed in the 12th Annual Star Trees Family Concert following the lighting.

The bands will continue their rigorous performance schedule in the spring with concerts on March 8 and April 19. Both concerts will include important works from the wind-band repertoire. For more information about these concerts and other band activities, check out the Wind Ensemble’s new MySpace page at www.myspace.com/wuwe.

To order
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Music Department CDs

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