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UT DALLAS

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES presents



RAY SASAKI

and Friends

Friday, April 17, 2015

8:00 p.m.

Jonsson Performance Hall

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Ray Sasaki, trumpet

with

Tony Baker, trombone

Kelly Durbin, piano

Lynn Seaton, bass

Mike Drake, drums

Selections to be announced

RAY SASAKI teaches trumpet and holds the Frank C. Erwin Centennial Professorship in Fine Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. In 2007 Professor Sasaki was inducted into The University of Texas Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Professor Sasaki received degrees from California State University at Fresno and the University of North Texas. He is currently a member of the St. Louis Brass Quintet and the Tone Road Ramblers and has toured widely in the United States, Europe, and Asia. He is also an active recitalist and clinician. Sasaki has commissioned many works for solo trumpet, most notably works for performances with the Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, International Trumpet Guild, and Jazz Members Orchestra of Chicago. His recorded work can be heard on the Arabesque, Crystal, DRI, Deutsche Gramophone, TR 001, and UBRES record companies. In 1996, he received an "Outstanding Faculty Award" from the College of Fine and Applied Arts at UIUC. Sasaki has served two terms as a member of the Board of Directors for the International Trumpet Guild. Sasaki previously served on the faculty of the University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign for 26 years.

Considered one of the finest trombonists of his generation, TONY BAKER is currently a faculty member at the University of North Texas College of Music. A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, he is an alumnus of the University of Minnesota and the University of Central Arkansas. Currently a member of the Richardson Symphony Orchestra (TX), Baker is also a member of the Intergalactic Contemporary Ensemble—a Minneapolis/St. Paul-based group committed to the performance of modern works. He can be heard on the ensemble's album, "I Dig", which features works by composers such as Leonard Bernstein, Les Baxter, and Henry Mancini. Baker also recorded with the Sounds of Blackness on their Grammy-nominated album, "Time for Healing". Baker currently is a member of the University of North Texas Faculty Brass Quintet and the Appalachian Trombone Quartet. As a jazz musician, he has performed with groups such as the Woody Herman Band and the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra. He has also performed on stage with artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Steve Turre, Terry Gibbs, John Fedchock, Chris Vadala, and Jiggs Whigham.

- NO PHOTOGRAPHY OR RECORDING DEVICES are allowed.
- TURN OFF ALL COMMUNICATION DEVICES
- NO FOOD OR DRINK is allowed in the auditorium.

KELLY DURBIN directs the UT Dallas Jazz Ensemble. He remains active as a jazz pianist performing at local and regional festivals and venues, often with international jazz artists. He has worked with the Woody Herman Orchestra, Frank Tiberi, David "Fathead" Newman, James Clay, LeRoy Cooper, Shelley Carroll, Hank Crawford, Jimmy Greene, Chris DeRose, Cornell DuPree, Tom Morrell, Greg Bissonnette, Billy Hart, Ed Soph, Sebastian Whittaker, Fred Hamilton, Chuck Rainey, Lynn Seaton, Jay Clayton and Rosanna Vitro, to name a few. Durbin was a long-time member of the Marchel Ivery Quintet, as well as ensembles led by bassist James Gilyard and saxophonist Wayne DeLano. Prior to arriving at UT Dallas, Kelly Durbin taught piano at Cedar Valley College. During the 1999-2000 school year, he was also a full time Adjunct Professor at the University of North Texas, where he taught advanced jazz theory, aural skills and small group. During his graduate studies at UNT, he was granted the Teaching Fellowship in jazz piano for two years. He studied piano at UNT with Steve Harlos, Dan Haerle and Bob Rogers.

LYNN SEATON is Associate Professor in the Jazz Studies Division of the College of Music at the University of North Texas. Seaton was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 18, 1957. He began studying classical guitar at age seven, switching to string bass at age nine. While studying music at the University of Oklahoma, he began working the clubs around the state. In September of 1980, Lynn relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio to join the Steve Schmidt Trio and the Blue Wisp Big Band. He was awarded a Jazz Studies Fellowship in the summer of 1981 from the National Endowment for the Arts to study with Rufus Reid. He is an active working professional musician in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Seaton has recorded and toured with many jazz greats including Kenny Drew, Jr., John Fedchock, Tim Hagans, Cal Collins, Bobby Shew, George Shearing, Frank Wess and the big bands of Woody Herman and Count Basie. Lynn has participated in over 100 recording sessions, including: the Grammy Award-winning "Diane Schuur and The Count Basie Orchestra" and the Grammy-nominated "Woody Herman 50th Anniversary," and the Grammy-nominated "No Nonsense" with the John Fedchock New York Big Band. His own critically acclaimed recordings "Bassman's Basement" is available on Timeless Records and "Solo Bass Flights" on Omnitone Records. Kendor Press has published his book "Jazz Solos for Bass".

MIKE DRAKE is originally from Durban, South Africa. He moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex to study at the University of North Texas in Denton, where he received his degree in jazz studies. Both locally and nationally, he is very active leading his band, as well as performing as a sideman sharing the stage and/or recording with such acts as Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Jazz Orchestra, Pete Petersen and The Collection Big Band, Cal Lewiston Orchestra, Keely Smith, Fifth Dimension, John Gary, The Platters, The Inkspots, Mamas and Papas, Jerry Jeff Walker, Eartha Kitt, Phil Perry, to name a few. Mike is also active in the metroplex as a drum-set instructor at the University of North Texas, the University of Texas in Arlington, and privately in his studio. He has also performed many drum-set workshops and at jazz camps in the United States, as well as internationally. Mike is also sought after to record on numerous CDs for various artists, as well as radio and television commercials.

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