

616.949.5750

SAYFEE'S

Sat. June 3, 2006



*Presents*

*An Evening to Remember*

*from the song book of  
Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn*

*The Story and the Music*

*Performed by*

*Claude Black*

*Piano*

*Mel Dalton*

*Tenor Sax*

*Willie Singleton*

*Trumpet*

*Elgin Vines*


*Bass*

*Wendell Robinson*

*Drums*

*Glenda McFarlin*

*Vocals*



## *The Musicians*

**Piano** *Claude Black* ~ Claude headlines our concert this evening and has assembled this fine group of musicians. In a lifetime dedicated to jazz, Claude has toured here and abroad, performing with such greats as Al Grey, Buddy Tate, Yusef Lateef, Sonny Sitt, and Eddie Jefferson, as well as Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Joe Henderson, Charlie Parker, Wes Montgomery and countless others. He is scheduled to be featured with the Toledo Jazz Orchestra in its 2006-2007 series and continues to make special appearances with his own band at events such as this and jazz festivals. Both Detroit and Toledo justifiably claim him as their own, but, ultimately, Claude Black is one of the most distinguished citizens in the "World" of Jazz.

**Trumpet** *Willie Singleton* ~ Willie is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he began his music training. In 1963, he began an eight year tour of duty in the U.S. Navy serving as the bugler at Arlington Cemetery for a year during the Vietnam War. As lead trumpet in the Admiral's Band he performed in the funerals of President John F. Kennedy and General Douglas MacArthur. Following his Honorable Discharge, Willie pursued a degree in music from Southern University in Baton Rouge. Soon after receiving his degree he joined the Duke Ellington Orchestra and played lead trumpet for three years. Following the Ellington years he played in numerous big bands including Count Basie, Al Hirt, Clark Terry and the Buddy Boudreaux Big Band and has appeared with Joe Williams, Della Reese, Al Hibbler, Sarah Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald, Billy Eckstein, Nancy Wilson and many others.

**Tenor Sax** *Mel Dalton* ~ Mel was born in Pittsburgh in 1931 and attended Westinghouse High School which was a virtual production mill for future jazz musician greats. Among the many jazz stars produced there were Billy Strayhorn, Art Blakey, Erroll Garner and Ahmad Jamal, as well as Mel. After finishing high school Mel joined the Army in 1951. He is a Korean War Veteran. After coming home he resumed his jazz career and soon found himself in the Lloyd Prince jazz band appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show with Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong. Over the years this talented jazz artist has appeared with many great ones and in 2002 was awarded "Jazz Musician of the Year" by the Western Michigan Jazz Society. Having grown up in the same Pittsburgh neighborhood, attended the same high school and studied under the same music teacher, he is blessed with a knowledge and understanding of Strayhorn's life and work that few share.

**Bass** *Elgin Vines* ~ Elgin majored in Biology while attending Norfolk State University, paying his tuition from gigs along the Virginia Beach "strip." After graduating from college in 1958, he became a registered A.S.C.P. Medical Technologist in addition to being a much sought after professional musician. He is the recipient of the 2005 "Jazz Musician of the Year" award given by the West Michigan Jazz Society and has performed with all of the past recipients.

*Continued on back cover*

Drums *Wendell Robinson* ~ Wendell started playing drums in a second grade marching band. In 1969, Wendell was nominated to participate in the Detroit Metropolitan Arts Project. This organization nurtured young artists and propelled him on to formal music lessons from local jazz musicians as well as exposing him to the live performances of such jazz stars as Freddie Waits, Chick Corea, Elvin Jones, Charles Mingus, Yussef Latief, Barry Harris, Lonnie Hillard and many others. Wendell has also performed with many jazz greats which include Joe Henderson, Teddy Edwards, Barry Harris, Jimmy Witherspoon, Gerry Allen, Bob Hurst, Sonny Stitt, David "Fat Head" Newman and Claude Black.

Vocals *Glenda McFarlin* ~ After watching "Lady Sings the Blues," the movie of Billie Holiday's life, Glenda began studying the great blues and jazz singers. While attending the University of Arkansas, she met Charles Thomas, the piano teacher of James Williams. Charles and Glenda began working together in 1977 in and around Little Rock and Memphis. She met Claude Black and Clifford Murphy while they were on tour in the south. When they invited her to tour with them she accepted, realizing the tremendous opportunity of presenting her work with and learning from these great jazz masters. Others she has performed with include Kenny Walker, Art Porter Jr., Pharoah Sanders, Alvin Batiste and David Newman.