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## 4th Treasures of Jazz: Jazz Divas of Cleveland and the Jazz Heritage Orchestra (2012)

Evelyn Wright

Ki Allen

Jazz Heritage Orchestra, Cleveland State University

Dennis Reynolds

Black Studies Program, Cleveland State University

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**Authors**

Evelyn Wright; Ki Allen; Jazz Heritage Orchestra, Cleveland State University; Dennis Reynolds; Black Studies Program, Cleveland State University; and Michael R. Williams

Cleveland State University Black Studies Program

presents

# *Treasures of Jazz*

with the

## *CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra*

featuring

### **Jazz Divas of Cleveland**



Evelyn Wright



Ki Allen

**Sunday | November 11, 2012 | 5:00pm**

**Main Classroom Auditorium**

**1899 Euclid Avenue**

**Cleveland, Ohio**



# History

Howard A. Mims, Ph.D., founder and founding managing director of the Jazz Heritage Orchestra

The Jazz Heritage Orchestra was founded by the late *Dr. Howard A. Mims*, for director of the Black Studies Program. Dr. Mims established the Jazz Heritage Orchestra in residence in the Black Studies Program at Cleveland State University and served as its first Managing Director, overseeing their first recording project “Steppin’ Out.”

On June 11, 2998, Dr. Mims, as director of Cleveland State University’s Black Studies Program, convened a meeting of professional jazz musicians and jazz enthusiasts, including the late *Neal Creque*, *Dennis Bradley Reynolds*, *Marcus Belgrave*, *Dr. Larry Simpson* and others, to discuss the viability of Cleveland State University’s Black Studies Program sponsoring a professional jazz orchestra within its organizational structure. In a subsequent meeting, this exploratory group expanded and evolved into an advisory board. The name, Jazz Heritage Orchestra (JHO), was decided on for this proposed professional jazz orchestra. It was agreed that a major mission of the JHO would be to preserve and perpetuate the musical heritage of the great African American jazz masters who were the primary creators and innovators of the art form of jazz. A special mission of the JHO would be to target and educate school age African Americans as well as the general public about this music. Later, in the spring of 1998, and using as the model the *Cleveland Chamber Symphony*, a professional orchestra devoted to performing new music, established in residence in the Music Department of Cleveland State University, Dr. Mims established the JHO in residence in the Black Studies Program of Cleveland State University (CSU). With this commitment on his part as a Black Studies Director, the JHO became one of five instruments of the mission of the Black Studies Program at CSU: (1) Academic, (2) African American Cultural Center, (3) Lecture, Arts and Media Series, (4) “Images”, a 30-minute radio show, and (5) the Jazz Heritage Orchestra. Dr. Mims proceeded to write the mission statement of the JHO. As founder JHO and director of the Black Studies Program, he assumed the responsibilities of Managing Director of the JHO and assigned the Black Studies Coordinator of Administrative Services as Assistant Managing Director of the JHO. Dr. Mims invited *Dennis Bradley Reynolds* to serve as Artistic Director of the JHO, a position which he accepted. Thus, was

# History

established the structure for the operation and support of the JHO in the Black Studies Program of CSU. The JHO is unique in being the only professional jazz orchestra in residence in a university Black Studies Program or Department. Its potential for cultural outreach and impact is tremendous within the greater Cleveland community and beyond.

Since its inception, the JHO has performed a series of concerts at CSU, Tri-C Martin Luther King Celebration, the United Black Fund Annual Celebration, Severance Hall's "Day of Music", Playhouse Square's "PALOOZA", and the Tri-C Jazz Fest of 1999. An educational encounter has been funded by United Black Fund for the East Cleveland Public Schools as well as a second workshop/concert funded by the East Cleveland Board of Education. The JHO has performed with such jazz greats as Benny Golston, Clark Terry, Vanessa Rubin and Nancy Wilson.

## Today's Performers

Christopher Anderson

Robert Baker

Eddie Bayard

Sam Blakeslee

Earlie Braggs

Christopher Burge

Christopher Coles

Bobby Ferrazza

Glenn Holmes

David Kay

Shea Pierre

James Pisano

Dennis Reynolds

Eric Richmond

Christopher Scott

James Tinsley

Mike Wade



*Late Dr. Howard A. Mims*



*Mr. Dennis Reynolds*

## Artist's Profile



### Evelyn Wright

Evelyn Wright has been a professional vocalist for over thirty years with experience in Jazz, R&B and POP music. A native of Cleveland, Ohio was voted: Best Female Vocalist in 1985 at WCPN Radio, Winner of Most Promising Female Artist, Favorite Female R&B Artist in 1993 at the Midwest Urban Music Awards; and has toured throughout the United States and Canada performing prestigious hotels, night clubs and concert halls.

She has performed for First Lady Rosalyn Carter, former Mayor Mike White of Cleveland presented her a plaque of recognition for the huge following from performances throughout the city. She was recently awarded the Jazz Legend Award 2008 from The TRI-C Jazzfest. Ms. Wright was Opening Act for Mel Torme, Joan Rivers, Harry Belafonte, Freddie Jackson, Regina Belle, Bobbi Humphrey, Jimmy McGriff, Ashford & Simpson, Bobby Watson, Bob James and David "Fathead" Newman.

She is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, earned an Associate of Arts degree Tri-C Community College, completed one year at Cleveland State University and has received Vocal instruction under Dr. John Howard Tucker for three years.



### Ki Allen

Cleveland native Ki Allen is an accomplished extraordinary vocalist who enjoyed fruitful associations with the late-lamented luminaries, pianists, Neal Creque, Ace Carter and Skeet's Ross and now works with, guitarist, Bob Fraser, bassist, Peter Dominguez, pianists, David Thomas, Jackie Warren, Drummer Ronnie Godale and among others.

Allen is the singer of choice for groups of various sizes, applying her flexible, elegant approach to styles spanning big-band, vocalize, and rhythm 'n' blues.

Ki has developed her unique style on television appearances, on radio, in nightclubs and in concerts and a performance this year with the "Women in Jazz" concert at Tri-C. She performs regularly with The Mojo Big Band and has performed with The Jazz Heritage Big Band and the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. Bob Fraser and Ki released "Calling Card," their debut CD in 2009. Her song list includes: *All About Ronnie*, *Got A Lot of Living to Do*, *Almost Like Being in Love* and *Afro Blue*.

# *4th Annual Treasures of Jazz*

*Program*

*Sunday, November 11, 2012*

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- **Welcome**
- **Acknowledgements**

## *Divas of Jazz*

- **Evelyn Wright**
- **Ki Allen**

## *CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra*

- **Closing Remarks**



# *4th Annual Treasures of Jazz*

## CSU Black Studies Program

Dr. Michael R. Williams, Director

I would like to personally thank you for attending the 4th Annual “Treasures of Jazz” Concert Series, featuring Ki Allen and Evelyn Wright with the Black Studies Program Jazz Heritage Orchestra (JHO). We are excited that Ms. Allen and Ms. Wright decided to accept our invitation to perform with JHO. It is an honor to have two women of their stature to grace the Main Class Room Auditorium stage. It is an equal honor that they view the Cleveland State University Black Studies Program Jazz Heritage Orchestra of the caliber worthy to perform with.

I wish to thank members of the Jazz Heritage Orchestra. Your dedication and loyalty has been a major driving force in keeping the late Dr. Howard A. Mims’ dream alive. He wanted an orchestra that would work to preserve the heritage of jazz. Members of JHO has worked hard to achieve that goal.

I want to thank the CSU Provost Office for their assistance in sponsoring this event. The College’s generous support played a major role in presenting this outstanding program.

I want to thank all the volunteers who lent their time and talent. Your support did not go unnoticed. Without you this event would have been much more difficult to manage. Thank you to Altogether Marketing for the flyer and program design and CSU Duplicating Department for the professional flyers and program booklets.

Finally, I wish to thank each individual who came to the event. I very much appreciate your support. I hope you enjoyed the concert as much as we did in presenting Evelyn Wright and Ki Allen and our own CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra. We invite you to become a patron of the “Treasures of Jazz Series” and Jazz Heritage Orchestra. Your assistance is needed.

I look forward to seeing you next year!

—*Michael Williams*



# *4th Annual Treasures of Jazz*

## *Sponsor Acknowledgements*

Office of the Provost

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

CSU Duplication Department

The Comfort Inn

Altogether Marketing LLC



# *4th Annual Treasures of Jazz*

## CSU Black Studies Program

Dr. Michael Williams, Director

Prester Pickett, MFA, Coordinator

Jason Moore, MA, MRE, Secretary

## **The Rich Legacy of the African Diaspora**

### **Mission Sstatement**

To provide Cleveland State Univeristy and Cleveland communities with opportunities to acquire greater knowledge and appreciation of the history, life, all aspects of the arts, culture and experiences of peoples of African descent.

**The Black Studies Program carries out its mission through the following six instruments:**

### **Academic Programs**

Black Studies Program Major

Minor with 89 Interdisciplinary Courses

Tombouctou Book Club

### **Howard A. Mims African American Cultural Center**

Bridges to Africa Panel Discussions

Curtis Wilson Colloquium Series

Kuumba Arts Exhibits

Umoja Roundtables

### **Black Aspirations Celebration**

Weeklong Event of Cultural Arts and Contemporary Issues

### **Images Public Affairs Radio Forum**

WZAK 93.1 FM - Sunday 10:00 a.m.

WCSB 89.3 AM - Wednesday 12:00 noon

### **Jazz Heritage Orchestra (JHO)**

Professional Orchestra In-residence

Available for Concerts, Master Classes

Educational Seminars and Clinics

Howard A. Mims Lecture, Arts & Media Series (LAMS)

Outstanding Speakers, Performing Artists, Graphics Artists, Video and Film

To become a Patron or Sponsor of the Black Studies Program please contact 216.687.3655 or [blackstudies@csuohio.edu](mailto:blackstudies@csuohio.edu)