

Old Dominion University's
F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series



Dick Oatts

with

John Toomey, piano

Jimmy Masters, bass

Brian Jones, drums

April 24, 2017, 8 p.m.

Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall
F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts



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Program

Selections will be announced from the stage.



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An endowment established at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, made possible by a generous gift from F. Ludwig Diehn, funds this program.

Biographies

Born and raised in the state of Iowa, **Dick Oatts** was brought up in a musical family. He was introduced to the saxophone by his father, Jack Oatts, a respected jazz educator and saxophonist. After high school, Dick attended Drake University and in 1972 began his professional career in Minneapolis–Saint Paul.

It was 1977 when Oatts decided to move to New York City. He then became a member of the Thad Jones/ Mel Lewis Orchestra. Since then he has recorded and toured with small groups such as Red Rodney, Eddie Gomez, Vic Juric, Bob Brookmeyer, Mel Lewis, Dom Salvador, Jerry Bergonzi, Flim & the BB's, Fred Hersch, Dave Berkman, Soren Moller, Terell Stafford, Jon Faddis, Lalo Schiffrin and Ray Mantilla.

His big band and larger group experiences include performances with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Mel Lewis, Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, Lester Bowie, Joe Lovano, Sam Jones–Tom Harrell Band, Paquito D'Rivera, Jim McNeely, Tito Puente, Kenny Wheeler and Gunther Schuller. Oatts has also been featured with the Stockholm Jazz Orchestra, Danish Radio Big Band, Norboton Jazz Orchestra, Metropole Orchestra, and the UMO Big Band in Helsinki. He has accompanied such vocalists as Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Neene Freelon, Mel Torme and Milton Nascimento. He has recorded solos for pop artists Luther Vandross, James Taylor and Everything But the Girl.

Biographies

Oatts is now a Steeplechase recording artist and has six CDs released as a leader. He also has a CD out on the RED label with bassist Dave Santoro, entitled Meru. Dick has 3 CDs as a leader on the DMP label with pianist and co-leader Garry Dial.

For 30 years, Oatts has appeared at college jazz festivals as a soloist and clinician throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, South America, and the Middle East. Oatts is a professor of jazz studies at the Boyer School of Music at Temple University and has been an artist-in-residence at the Amsterdam Conservatory since 1997.

John Toomey is currently a University Professor of music at Old Dominion University. A recipient of both the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award and the Distance Learning Professor of the Year Award, Toomey teaches myriad classes in jazz studies and music technology, and he is music director for the Attucks Jazz Series. Prior to joining the faculty at Old Dominion University, he was music director and keyboardist for jazz trumpet legend Maynard Ferguson, with whom he recorded two CDs. Toomey is still an active performer, touring the world with such artists as Mark Murphy and Rene Marie, and has performed in Africa, Portugal, France, Japan, Switzerland and the Dominican Republic. He has also composed several soundtracks for features and

documentaries for the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and NBC. Professor Toomey holds a master of music degree from the Eastman School of Music.

Jimmy Masters has served as first-call bassist in Hampton Roads for the better part of the last 25 years. His past endeavors include time spent teaching at the Governor's Magnet School for the Arts, Hampton University, the College of William & Mary and Tidewater Community College. He has performed with numerous jazz greats from vocalists such as Jon Hendricks, Sheila Jordan, Chris Connor and Kurt Elling; to pianists James Williams, Mulgrew Miller, Kenny Drew Jr. and Fred Hersch; saxophonists Gary Thomas, Steve Wilson, Rich Perry, Ken Peplowski and Glenn Wilson; vibraphonists Joe Locke and Chuck Redd; and brass players such as Tim Hagans, Clark Terry, Terell Stafford, Ingrid Jensen, John D'earth and John Fedchock. He has produced several well-received recordings for the VSOJAZ label and for National Public Radio and PBS. While continuing to serve as an active member of the Hampton Roads jazz community, his musical exploits have expanded to include contemporary acoustic music, bluegrass and traditional country music. He has toured Europe and performed in legendary clubs such as the Washington, D.C., Blues Alley and the One Step Down, and Ryles Jazz Club in Boston.

Biographies

Brian Jones is a member of the music faculties at the University of Richmond and the College of William & Mary, as well as a PhD candidate in the American Studies Program at the College of William & Mary. His research interests include the life and work of drummer/composer Paul Motian, Sun Ra and Afrofuturism, and jazz during the civil rights era. As a freelance drummer, Jones has worked with a wide array of artists including Mark Turner, John Abercrombie, Randy Brecker, Jason Mraz, Liz Phair, Steven Bernstein, and Jandek. In 1999, Jones started Slang Sanctuary Records as a limited edition record label focusing on creative music.



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Dick Oatts with the John Toomey Trio

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