

2013—2014 season

Sept. 9, 2013

Andrew Pelletier, horn

Sept. 23, 2013

**Stefon Harris and the Blackout Band,
composer, vibraphonist, marimbist**

Oct. 29, 2013

Boston Camerata, early music

Feb. 17, 2014

**Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet with Andrey Kasparov and
Oksana Lutsyshyn, woodwind quintet with piano**

March 24, 2014

Lambert Orkis

(In conjunction with the Annual

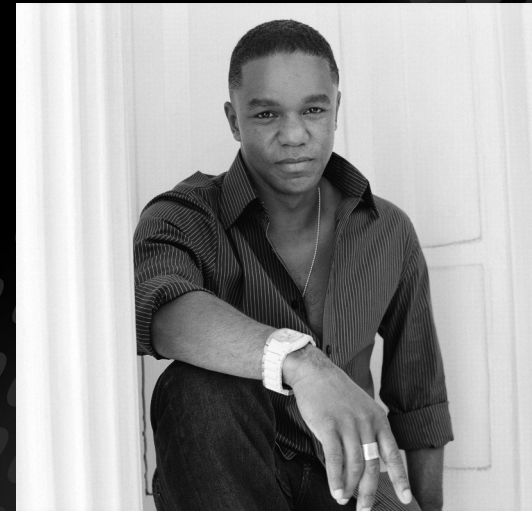
Harold Protsman Classical Period Piano Competition)

April 14, 2014

Nicki Parrott, with the John Toomey Trio

(In conjunction with a five day residency, April 10 – 14)

Diehn Concert Series



Stefon Harris and Blackout

September 23, 2013

8:00 p.m.

**Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall,
F. Ludwig Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center**

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



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**OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY**
I D E A FUSION

Program

Stefon Harris and Blackout

Marc Cary
Ben Williams
Casey Benjamin
Terreon Gully

Stefon Harris will announce the program from the stage

Stefon Harris and Blackout appear by arrangement
with Unlimited Myles,
6 Imaginary Place, Aberdeen, NJ 07747

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Biographies

Terreon Gully

A native of East St. Louis, Terreon Gully is one of the most sought-after drummers in New York. A 1996 graduate of the University of Houston, where he received a B.A. in music performance, Gully spent time in Atlanta working with various jazz and hip-hop projects, eventually moving to New York. Gully's artistic uniqueness lies in his distinctive sound and creativity. A sensitive, colorful and innovative drummer, Gully mixes different textures and tones on the drums and cymbals to produce breathtaking colors and images. A versatile musician, Gully approaches each genre in its authentic context, yet complements it by incorporating various styles in an ingenious manner to create an interesting and innovative sound. He performs in a variety of genres and musical settings from jazz legends to modern masters, to the hottest hip-hop icons. In addition to working with the Christian McBride Band, Stefon Harris, David Sanborn, Marc Cary, Geoffrey Keezer and Yerba Buena, he performs with such artists as Burning Spear, Lauryn Hill and Roy Ayers. Gully has toured and recorded with the Benny Green Trio, Charlie Hunter, Real Live Band, Dianne Reeves, Abbey Lincoln, Russell Gunn, Lizz Wright, Jacky Terrasson and Common, as well as a host of other artists. In addition to live performances, Gully is known for his exceptional work in the studio, recording for albums, films and commercials. He currently lives in both New York and Atlanta.



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Buster Williams, John Hicks, Anthony Wonsey, MeShell Ndegeocello, Gene Lake, Wycliffe Gordon, and Delfeayo Marsalis, to name a few. He has also performed with opening acts for artists such as John Legend, Kirk Franklin and Eric Robertson.

Casey Benjamin

A first-generation New Yorker, born of Caribbean and Panamanian parents, Benjamin started playing the saxophone at the age of 8 and began performing professionally at the age of 12. After attending the famous LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, Benjamin worked with jazz greats Grover Washington Jr., Wynton Marsalis, Chick Corea, Arturo Sandoval, Roy Ayers, and many others. Casey has also worked with D.J. Logic and leads his own band, Heavy, a nouveau soul duo that blends jazz, soul and roots music. The hip-hop icon Q-Tip raves, "So many forms of hip-hop, jazz hip-hop, and pop hip-hop have been created, but the incarnation of Heavy is one of the most organic and unpretentious yet." Benjamin has received numerous honors such as the C.D. 101.9 Jazz Group/Artist of the Year, the Saturn scholarship, Bertlesman's "World of Expression" Songwriting Competition, and first place Presidential Scholar in the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts. He has performed at many New York jazz clubs as well as at the Village Vanguard, The Apollo, Lincoln Center and Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. His most memorable performance was in 1996 for President Clinton's 50th birthday celebration at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. He performed at New York's Birdland with Joe Chambers; the Spoleto Jazz Festival in Spoleto, Italy, with the late Betty Carter; Blue Note N.Y.C. with Pucci Amanda Jhones; and toured with the Buster Williams Quintet.

Biographies

Stefon Harris and Blackout

Four-time Grammy-nominee vibraphonist/composer Stefon Harris has brought together a stellar group of young, hard-driving musicians to form Blackout, considered one of the most compelling and entertaining bands in jazz. Praised by The Washington Post for "pursuing contemporary jazz on its own terms," Blackout's debut Top Ten CD "Evolution" (2005, Blue Note Records) featured an exciting blend of modern acoustic sounds and was named one of the year's Top 50 CDs by Jazz Times. After years of touring, Blackout has emerged as a cohesive musical collective which continually surprises audiences with its arsenal of melodic improvisation. The band includes Marc Cary on keyboards, Ben Williams on bass, Terreon Gully on drums and Casey Benjamin on alto sax. They have performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Kennedy Center, The Egg (Albany), Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Herbst Theater (San Francisco), among many others. The group's follow-up CD, "Urbanus," appeared in 2009 (Concord Records) and highlights the kinetic interplay that has become the band's signature.

Stefon Harris

"He swings; and when he plays, he makes you feel good," says The New York Times. Harris has been honored as Best Vibist by Jazz Iz, Jazz Times, Downbeat and is a six-time Best Mallet winner by the Jazz Journalists Association. Heralded as "one of the most important young artists in jazz" (Los Angeles Times), and a recipient of Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award, Harris earned a B.M. in classical music and a M.M. in jazz performance from Manhattan School of Music. He has released six CDs for Blue Note Records including the Duke Ellington-inspired 2006 "African Tarantella ... Dances With Duke" and the Grammy-nominated "The Grand Unification Theory" (2003), "Black

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Action Figure" (1999), and "A Cloud of Red Dust" (1998). Harris tours worldwide with his band Blackout and the San Francisco Jazz Collective, teaches at New York University and has been artist in residence at Fontana Chamber Arts (Kalamazoo, Mich.) the Lied Center (Lincoln, Neb.), and San Francisco Performances. Harris has served on the executive board of directors for Chamber Music America and was the first musician elected to the WBGO-FM board of directors.

Marc Cary

Raised in Washington, D.C., Marc Cary has become known as one of the most original jazz pianists in New York. A man of eclectic tastes, Cary has a strong post-bop foundation but has also explored Afro-Cuban rhythms, electronic groove music and other directions with his various ensembles. As a youth he was a member of the Hi Integrity Band and Show, one of the many go-go bands that defined the D.C. musical scene. As a student at the famed Duke Ellington School of Art, Cary played with the Dizzy Gillespie Youth Ensemble at Wolf Trap. His family carries a musical tradition: his great-grandmother played piano at local movie houses (her partner was Eubie Blake); his mother is a visual artist and his father played trumpet. Cary received a formal education from Duke Ellington School of Art. Upon arriving in New York, Cary was taken under the wing of Mickey Bass and Beaver Harris. His first big-time gigs came in the early '90s with Arthur Taylor, Betty Carter and Roy Hargrove. In 1994, he became Abbey Lincoln's pianist and arranger. Cary's own records distinguish his unique modern sound, beginning with 1994's "Cary On." Two releases for Arabesque followed, "Listen" in 1996 and "The Antidote" in 1998. His seminal masterwork, "Rhodes Ahead, Vol. 1," released in 2000, is considered by many to be a

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classic, followed by "Captured Live in Brazil," a live album by Cary's world music group Indigenous People (both on the Jazzateria label). Cary's acoustic trio released "Trillium" (2000) and in 2006, he released "Focus" and "Abstrakt," both on Motema Records. Cary has played and recorded with an impressive roster of musicians: MeShell Ndegeocello, Dizzy Gillespie, Betty Carter, Arthur Taylor, Abbey Lincoln, Erykah Badu, Jackie McLean, Clifford Jordan, Carmen McCrae, Milt Jackson, Curtis Fuller, Eddie Henderson, Arthur Taylor, Frank Foster, Wynton Marsalis, Max Roach, Shirley Horn and Ani DiFranco, among a host of other talents.

Ben Williams

Benjamin James Williams is a native of Washington, D.C. He also performs on electric bass and piano. His musical influence is rooted in various genres of music including jazz, hip-hop, R&B, gospel and classical. Williams is a recent graduate of the Michigan State University School of Music where he majored in music education with an emphasis in jazz, studying with Rodney Whitaker and Jack Budrow. He plans to pursue a master's degree in jazz studies at the Juilliard School. Williams has won several competitions and scholarship awards. He is a two-time winner of the Fish Middleton Jazz Scholarship Competition at the East Coast Jazz Festival, a two-time winner of the D.C. Public School Piano Competition, and a 2002 recipient of the Duke Ellington Society Annual Scholarship Award. Williams also won first place in the 2005 International Society of Bassists competition in the category of jazz. Ben has performed both nationally and internationally with such artists as Wynton Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Mulgrew Miller, Cyrus Chestnut, Ron Blake, Stefon Harris, Karriem Riggins, Hamiet Bluiett, James Williams, Bobby Watson, Winard Harper,