

ONSTAGE

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AT PENN STATE



DIZZY GILLESPIE™ ALL-STAR BIG BAND

Featuring

**James Moody, Jimmy Heath, Roy Hargrove,
Cyrus Chestnut, Steve Davis, Roberta Gambarini,
Antonio Hart, John Lee, and Terell Stafford**

underwritten by
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CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
AT PENN STATE

presents

DIZZY GILLESPIE™
ALL-STAR BIG BAND

Featuring

James Moody, tenor saxophone and flute

Jimmy Heath, tenor saxophone

Roy Hargrove, trumpet

Cyrus Chestnut, piano **Antonio Hart**, alto saxophone

Steve Davis, trombone **John Lee**, bass

Roberta Gambarini, vocals **Terrell Stafford**, trumpet

Frank Basile, baritone saxophone **Mark Gross**, alto saxophone

Michael Dease, trombone **Jason Jackson**, trombone

Gregory Gisbert, trumpet **Willie Jones III**, percussion

Frank Greene, trumpet **Douglas Purviance**, bass trombone

Diego Urcola, trumpet

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The program will be announced from the stage.

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, 2009
Eisenhower Auditorium

The concert includes one intermission.

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The music of Charlie Parker and me laid a foundation for all the music that is being played now. ... Our music is going to be the classical music of the future.

—Dizzy Gillespie

DIZZY GILLESPIE

Born October 21, 1917, in Cheraw, South Carolina.

Died January 6, 1993, in Englewood, New Jersey.

With his great ballooning cheeks and trademark trumpet's bell upturned at a forty-five-degree angle, Dizzy Gillespie easily had the most recognizable face in jazz.

He was also easily one of the most influential figures in that most American of musical forms, having first revolutionized jazz in the 1940s by being one of the acknowledged inventors of bebop; and then again in the decades that followed when he championed the rich rhythms of Afro-Cuban, Caribbean, and Brazilian music that, to a large extent, still dominate jazz to this day.

Born John Birks Gillespie, Dizzy moved to Philadelphia with his family at age 18 and joined Frankie Fairfax's band before moving on to New York City and Teddy Hill's big band in 1937. Later he played with all the greats—Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Earl Hines, and Billie Holiday.

He met saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker in 1940 and soon was jamming with Parker, Thelonious Monk, and others. It was in this hothouse atmosphere of creativity

that Gillespie and his cohorts astonished the world with their aggressive ornamentations, complex harmonic alterations, and rhythmic exploration that would soon be labeled bebop.

"What they did was like nitroglycerine, electricity," Quincy Jones says. "They broke all the rules ..."

Not all audiences and critics fell immediately in love with these new, often strange sounds. But Gillespie, with his hair-raising technical virtuosity, harmonic adventurousness, and most of all, ingratiating showmanship, was a natural public relations man for this music. He was, in fact, the first jazz artist to be sent abroad under the auspices of the United States government, spreading American goodwill and good music around the world.

His legacy is probably best summed up by Gillespie himself in a statement that would sound a bit arrogant if it weren't so probable: "The music of Charlie Parker and me laid a foundation for all the music that is being played now. ... Our music is going to be the classical music of the future."

And just how did Gillespie end up with that bizarre trademark trumpet? The bent-bell trumpet got its start in 1953 when someone fell on his trumpet stand backstage. Gillespie liked the sound of the altered instrument so much that his trumpets were specially made from then on.

FEATURED MUSICIANS

JAMES MOODY (tenor saxophone and flute) spent more time with Dizzy Gillespie than any other musician. Born in Savannah, Georgia, and raised in Newark, New Jersey, Moody first appeared with Gillespie's big band in 1947 and continued to perform with the trumpeter and bandleader until 1992. "Playing with James Moody," Gillespie once said, "is like playing with a continuation of myself." Aside from being one of the premier saxophonists in jazz, Moody is a legendary flutist. He is renowned for his masterpiece "Moody's Mood for Love," an improvisation on the chord changes of "I'm in the Mood for Love." In 1985, he earned a Grammy nomination for his performance on Manhattan Transfer's *Vocalese* album. In 1998, Moody was honored as a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master. A *Chicago Tribune* critic once wrote, "This listener has been tempted to divide jazz instrumentalists into two categories: James Moody and everyone else."



JIMMY HEATH (tenor saxophone), who was raised in Philadelphia, has long been recognized as a brilliant instrumentalist and a magnificent composer and arranger. He has performed with nearly all the jazz greats of the last sixty years—from Howard McGhee, Dizzy Gillespie, and Miles Davis



to Wynton Marsalis. One of Heath's earliest big bands in Philadelphia included John Coltrane. He has performed on more than 100 albums, including seven with The Heath Brothers and twelve as a leader. Heath has also written more than 100 compositions, many of which have become jazz standards recorded by artists such as Art Farmer, Cannonball Adderley, Clark Terry, Chet Baker, Miles Davis, James Moody, Milt Jackson, Ahmad Jamal, Ray Charles, Dizzy Gillespie, J. J. Johnson, and Dexter Gordon. Heath spent eleven years as a professor of music at Queens College's Aaron Copland School of Music. He maintains an extensive performance schedule and continues to conduct workshops and clinics throughout North America and Europe. Heath earned the distinction of National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master in 2003. Gillespie once said of the saxophonist, "All I can say is, if you know Jimmy Heath, you know bop."

ROY HARGROVE (trumpet), a native of Dallas, was discovered as a jazz talent when Wynton Marsalis visited his high school. Hargrove spent one year studying at Boston's Berklee School of Music, but he could be found more often at New York City jam sessions, so he transferred to The New School in Manhattan. In 1990, he released his first solo album, *Diamond in the Rough*, on the Novus/RCA label. Four albums followed on that label. He then signed a

recording contract with Verve Records, which gave him the opportunity to record *With the Tenors of Our Time* with saxophone greats Joe Henderson, Stanley Turrentine, Johnny Griffin, Joshua Redman, and Branford Marsalis. In 1993, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra commissioned him to compose *The Love Suite: In Mahogany*. Hargrove won a Grammy Award in 1998 for the album *Habana* with his Afro-Cuban band Crisol. He has recorded with a range of musicians, including Sonny Rollins, Michael Brecker, Jackie McLean, Slide Hampton, Natalie Cole, Diana Krall, Abbey Lincoln, Diana Ross, Steve Tyrell, Kenny Rankin, John Mayer, Rhian Benson, Carmen McRae, Shirley Horn, Jimmy Smith, Danny Gatton, Method Man, Common, Erykah Badu, D'Angelo, and Gilles Peterson. Hargrove leads the progressive group The RH Factor, which combines elements of jazz, funk, hip-hop, soul, and gospel.

CYRUS CHESTNUT (piano) was born and raised in Baltimore. As a boy, he played piano and organ at church, which helped him gain invaluable ear training. He attended the prep division of Baltimore's Peabody Conservatory and studied at Boston's Berklee School of Music, where he earned a degree in jazz composition and arranging. Chestnut has performed and recorded with many of today's leading jazz musicians, including Wynton Marsalis, Jon Hendricks, Vincent Herring, Roy Hargrove, Christian McBride, Terence Blanchard, Donald Harrison, and Courtney Pine. Chestnut's three years in the band of vocalist Betty Carter were among his most challenging musically. He embarked on a solo career with his Atlantic debut *Revelations* in 1994. He followed that successful album with *Earth Stories*, *The Dark Before the Dawn*, and *Blessed Quietness*, a collection of hymns, spirituals, and carols highlighting the influence of religious music on his playing. Chestnut was the pianist for three tours of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. He



continues to tour the world with his trio and perform with the Dizzy Gillespie™ All-Star Big Band. His most recent CD, the solo piano work *Spirit*, came out this year on the new Jazz Legacy Productions label.

STEVE DAVIS (trombone) is widely regarded as one of today's leading improvisers on the trombone. His lyrical, hard-swinging style first gained him broad recognition during the 1990s while working with the bands of Art Blakey, Jackie McLean, and Chick Corea—plus the cooperative sextet One for All. He continues to perform with One for All, which has released twelve CDs since 1997. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, and raised in Binghamton, New York, Davis earned a degree at the University of Hartford's Hartt School in Connecticut. In 2008, Davis released *Outlook* with his new quintet. His newest CD, out this year, features Hank Jones, Roy Hargrove, John Lee, and others. Continually in demand as a sideman, Davis has been featured on more than 100 recordings. In recent years Davis has worked regularly with the Larry Willis Quintet, Freddie Hubbard and the New Jazz Composers Octet, the Dizzy Gillespie™ All-Star Big Band, the Jimmy Heath Big Band, Cecil Payne, Horace Silver, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Since 1991, he has been on the faculty of the Hartt School's Jackie McLean Institute.

ROBERTA GAMBARINI (vocals) is celebrated throughout the world by fans, critics, and great jazz musicians. The native of Turin, Italy, became a fast-rising star—and a Grammy Award nominee—with the 2006 release of her debut CD *Easy to Love*. The debut recording secured her a spot on the international touring circuit, where she performs at the most prestigious venues and festivals. In 2008, Gambarini made her major label debut with *You Are There*, a duet album with legendary pianist Hank Jones. The pianist, who accompanied great twentieth-century vocalists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, Carmen McRae, Peggy Lee, and Frank Sinatra, has called Gambarini the best singer to emerge in more than sixty years. A *Boston Globe* critic writes that Gambarini is the “true successor to Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Carmen McRae.” Gambarini’s third

album, *So in Love*, came out in August. The CD reaffirms her status as one of the most important jazz vocalists working today. Gambarini, who moved to the United States in 1998, has toured and performed with Ron Carter, Herbie Hancock, Slide Hampton, Roy Hargrove, Jimmy Heath, Christian McBride, James Moody, Mark O’Connor, and Toots Thielemans.

ANTONIO HART (alto saxophone) grew up in Baltimore, where he began studying at the Baltimore School for the Performing Arts when he was in his early teens. His intensive study of jazz didn’t begin, though, until he enrolled at Boston’s Berklee College of Music, where he worked with Bill Pierce, Andy McGhee, and Joe Viola. In his sophomore year he became a music education major. At Berklee, Hart met Roy Hargrove, with whom he toured the

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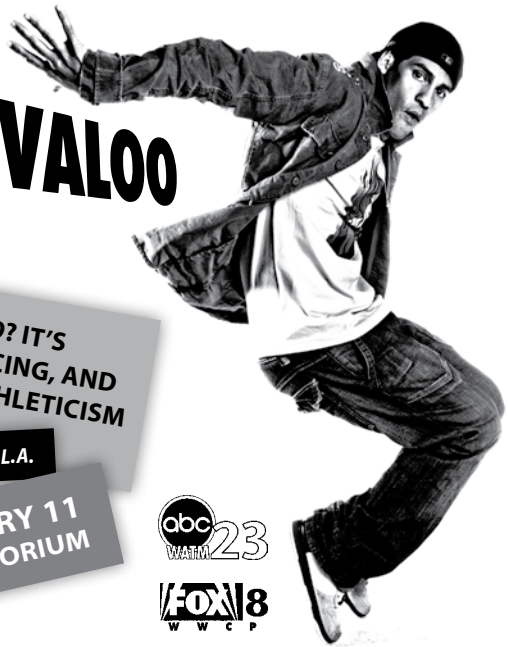
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world for three years. He also performed on Hargrove's first three albums. While working on a master's degree at Queens College, Hart studied with Jimmy Heath and Donald Byrd. Hart's 1997 release, "Here I Stand," earned a Grammy nomination for best jazz instrumental solo. Since then, Hart has recorded seven CDs as a leader and been a guest performer on more than eighty releases. Today, Hart is a professor at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. He also tours with the Dave Holland and Dizzy Gillespie™ All-Star big bands.

Musician, composer, educator, and producer **JOHN LEE** (bassist and executive director) was born in Boston. His earliest musical impressions were formed in church—his father was a Methodist minister—and through listening to his father's extensive jazz record collection. After graduating from high school in Philadelphia, Lee enrolled at the Philadelphia Musical Academy (now the University of the Arts). During that time, he began appearing in New York City in the bands of Carlos Garnett, Joe Henderson, and Pharoah Sanders. In 1972, Lee was hired as the bassist for the Max Roach Quartet. Later that year, he moved to Europe. While in Europe for two years, he performed and recorded with a variety of musicians. In 1975, Lee joined Larry Coryell's Eleventh House and formed his own band with drummer Gerry Brown. He and Brown recorded two albums each for Blue Note and Columbia. He also produced records for Atlantic, Capitol, Mercury, and Muse. Lee left Eleventh House in 1977 to concentrate on the John Lee/Gerry Brown Band and a trio he and Brown had formed with guitarist Philip Catherine. In 1982, Lee joined the McCoy Tyner Quintet, where he worked until joining the Dizzy Gillespie Group in 1984. Lee was a member of Gillespie's various bands until 1992. After Gillespie died in 1993, the trumpeter's family asked Lee to create an ongoing tribute

to the jazz legend and thus the concept for the Dizzy Gillespie™ Alumni All-Stars was born. Lee is executive director of the Dizzy Gillespie™ All-Stars and All-Star Big Band. In addition to performing with those groups, he leads his own quartet and quintet. He founded Alleycat Studio, a division of Alleycat Productions, and engineers many of the projects produced by the company. He has worked with clients including Roberta Gambarini, Roy Hargrove, and Hank Jones. In 2008, with partner Lisa Broderick, he formed the record label Jazz Legacy Productions. The JLP label's first releases are by The Heath Brothers, Cyrus Chestnut, Steve Davis, and Sharel Cassity.

TERELL STAFFORD (trumpet), whose playing combines lyricism and a deep love of melody with a spirited and adventurous edge, was born in Miami and raised in Chicago and Silver Spring, Maryland. Piano legend McCoy Tyner has called Stafford "one of the greatest players of our time, a fabulous trumpet player." Stafford performed for five years in Bobby Watson's group Horizon, which in turn led to his joining McCoy Tyner's Latin All-Star Band. Since the mid-1990s, Stafford has played with groups such as Benny Golson's Sextet, McCoy Tyner's Sextet, the Kenny Barron Sextet, the Jimmy Heath Big Band, and the Jon Faddis Orchestra. He is a member of the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, which earned the 2009 Grammy Award for best large ensemble recording, as well as the Clayton Brothers and Frank Wess quintets. Stafford has also been an integral part of bands fronted by Cedar Walton, Sadao Watanabe, Herbie Mann, and Matt Wilson. The trumpeter, who has recorded five albums as a leader and more than eighty as a sideman, is a professor of music and director of jazz studies at Philadelphia's Temple University. Stafford earned a bachelor of science in music education at the University of Maryland and a master of music at Rutgers University.