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Monterey Jazz Festival 50th Anniversary Tour Comes To San Luis Obispo

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Monterey Jazz Festival’s 50th Anniversary Band will perform at the Christopher Cohan Center on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 8 p.m.

Cal Poly Arts presents the acclaimed MJF 50th Anniversary Band, led by pianist and Musical Director BENNY GREEN, trumpeter TERENCE BLANCHARD, saxophonist JAMES MOODY, bassist DERRICK HODGE and drummer KENDRICK SCOTT. Vocalist NNENNA FREELON will also be a featured member of the group.

All of the members are influential and popular artists in the world of jazz and are leaders of their own bands.

“The showcase promises a wide array of jazz styles, with something for everyone live on stage,” reports Peter Wilt, Cal Poly Arts Interim Director.

The band’s tour was conceived by the Monterey Jazz Festival General Manager Tim Jackson in celebration of the Festival’s 50th Anniversary in 2007-2008. The band performed at MJF/50 on September 23, 2007 to enormous success.

The tour represents “the past, present and future of jazz,” according to Jackson. “We wanted to take this special group on the road to show the country what MJF is about – they represent the spirit and educational enthusiasm of the Festival and they span many years of jazz history.”

The Monterey Jazz Festival 50th Anniversary Tour will appear at major performing arts organizations in many regions of the county, through March 2008. Each of the shows will feature a selection of jazz standards and favorites from all eras of jazz and includes songs from the Tin-Pan Alley, bebop, and modern eras.

Each member of the 50th Anniversary Band has a special relationship with the Monterey Jazz Festival and has a commitment to the Festival and to the cultivation of jazz audiences worldwide.

Saxophonist Moody made his first appearance at MJF in the early 1960s with Dizzy Gillespie; Green first appeared at MJF as a participant in the Festival’s educational programs as a teenager in the 1970s, and Blanchard was MJF’s Artist-In-Residence in 2007.

Freelon has been performing at MJF since the mid-1990s; Scott was a three-time member of the Berklee-Monterey Quartet from 1999-2002, and Hodge has been a member of Blanchard’s bands that have performed at Monterey.

Combined, these members have performed twenty-eight times at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

For more information about the Monterey Jazz Festival’s 50th Anniversary Tour, please visit...
www.montereyjazzfestival.org/MJF50-band/.

General public tickets for the Cal Poly Arts performance range from $36 to $48, with student discounts available on all seats, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.


Sponsored by Dr. Elaine Yin, KSBY TV, KCBX 90.1 FM, SLOHS Jazz Band, and the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center in honor of its Legacy members.

For more information on all Cal Poly Arts events, including audio and video samples, please visit www.calpolyarts.org.

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