
THE GRETCHEN R. IBEN ARTS SERIES



25 August 2019

Westminster Church of Peoria

(Presbyterian Church, USA)

1420 West Moss Avenue

Peoria 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org

Jazz

for a Summer afternoon

25 August 2019

Four O'clock

The Gretchen R. Iben Arts Series
presents

David Hoffman
And the Westminster Jazz Ensemble

in a program of Jazz Standards

Jazz is a unique art form. Much of it depends on the creativity of each player in the ensemble. At the same time it depends on each of those players having a more than adequate understanding of both rhythm and harmony, which are the disciplines of Jazz.

Jazz comes in all forms and formats. From the blues to bebop and everything in between, the tremendous variety of the form is almost endless. This afternoon, we consider jazz for what would be a 'chamber ensemble' were it 'classical' music. So this afternoon we have our Jazz leader, David Hoffman and two of our regulars at Jazz Vespers ... Jason Brannon and Andy Crawford. Joining with them in the jam are Larry Harms on reeds and Kevin Hart on piano and vibraphone. These five instruments give all kinds of creative possibilities to the music at hand.

Rather than print a more formal program, the musicians will announce their own program as they go along. In this leaflet ... a bit about each of them and their illustrious careers in their chosen field.

about the musicians ...

David Hoffman, has distinguished himself as a trumpeter, pianist, composer and conductor as he presents his unique and imaginative music. A native of Springfield, Illinois, David has traveled the world performing as part of the Ray Charles Orchestra for over 13 years. He currently performs with alumni of the Ray Charles Orchestra, featuring Maceo Parker, as a tribute to the late Great Ray Charles. He advocates strongly for the Arts and Music being essential in the lives of children. David serves on the board and is an active member for the American Civil Liberties Union. He is the music director and conductor of the Hartland Jazz Orchestra. David provides private lessons throughout Knox County, Peoria and Bloomington. David Hoffman and Friends perform on Friday Nights at Two 25 (Mark Twain Hotel). David leads Jazz Vespers, in which, he coordinates local musicians within the program, composes original Jazz Worship songs and adapts known hymns into Jazz.

Andy Crawford, bass, is adjunct Instructor of Music at Knox College where he directs jazz combos, runs the jazz bass and guitar studios and is the managing director of the Knox Jazz Year. Andy is a first call double bassist and guitarist in Central Illinois and Eastern Iowa, playing with many groups in a variety of styles. Crawford was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala from 2004-2006, and also is one of the organizers of San Pancho Music Festival, Nayarit, Mexico from 2003 to the present. Andy spends Sunday afternoons at Westminster playing in the Jazz Vespers whenever they are scheduled.

Jason Brannon, percussion, is a member of the Derel Monteith Trio; Nathan Taylor and the Wreckers; and the Heartland Jazz Orchestra (directed by David Hoffman), and has performed with Chuchito Valdes, David Hoffman, Brianna Thomas, and Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians. A graduate of the distinguished Berkeley School of Music in Boston, he is the drum instructor at Knox College in Galesburg and Black Hawk College in Iowa.

Larry Harms, reeds, is a professor at Illinois Central College where he directs the Jazz band, teaches music literature and offers private lessons. Larry directs the Central Illinois Jazz Train Orchestra and is a proud member of the Central Illinois Jazz Society. Locally he performs with Nathan Taylor and can be found often

performing with many of musicians here in Illinois. During the time he was at the University of Tennessee, his mentor Jerry Coker inspired and motivated his passion for music and Jazz. John Coltrane and Stanley Turrentine were two of the greats that filled his soul with music. Larry often joins the gang at Jazz Vespers.

Kevin Hart, jazz vibraphonist, pianist and drummer is from Central Illinois. His stylistically eclectic, 'The Road to Everywhere', was chosen as a 2005 recommended release by Laura Kennedy from WGLT who says, "Kevin Hart is a masterful musician – a generous artist with style, class and a forever sense of fun." His originals sparkle with innovation and cosmopolitan charm and as Axel F demonstrates, his choice of cover material reveals imagination and vision. Early on, Kevin played his father's drums to jazz records, studied piano as required by his mother, imitated Lionel Hampton on an older sister's vibraphone, and began drumming with local pros at 15. In college, Kevin received a Downbeat student award, was an outstanding performer at jazz festivals including Notre Dame, received an honorable mention in a Modern Drummer Neil Peart drum giveaway, and performed with jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, Ed Thigpen, Bob Berg, Bobby Shew, Rufus Reid, and Louis Bellson. Kevin teaches at Illinois State University, Parkland College, and performs with Kevin Hart & the Vibe Tribe and the Kevin Hart Trio. This is not Kevin's first appearance at Westminster Church, nor will it be his last!

SUPPORTERS OF THE SERIES. Being a pre-season event, there are no supporters to list for this year ... however, brochures are on the way and a chance to become a supporter of the Iben Arts Series will be available to all. For now, there will be a plate at the door as you exit. If you are so moved, contribute a few dollars to the ongoing program of great art at Westminster. Any gifts of \$25 and over will be recognized in programs throughout the 2019-2020 season. Checks should be made to "Westminster Presbyterian Church" and noted "Iben Series". Thanks for your continued support!

JAZZ VESPERS have become a tradition at Westminster. This season we will present this joyous service on the second Sunday of each month at four o'clock. David Hoffman will continue to co-ordinate the service and bring along Central Illinois' finest jazz musicians. Add to that an inspirational message from Pastor Denise and times of silence and sound ... and you have Jazz Vespers. Come, worship, enjoy! This service begins this year on Sunday, September 8 at four o'clock.