

**THE FOUNDATION** PRESENTS  
**For Music Education**



The Foundation for Music Education is announcing the 7th annual summer “Stars Under The Stars,” featuring the Brad Leali Quartet with Brad Leali on Saxophone, Claus Raible on piano, Giorgos Antiniou on bass, Alvester Garnett on drums, and joined by vocalist Martha Burks. The event will be on Friday, August 12, 2011 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM at the Louise Underwood Center. “Stars Under the Stars” is an evening concert benefitting music scholarships that will include an hour of socializing with sensational food and drink from “Stella’s.” The event benefits music education scholarships. Our traditional guest host and emcee will be local TV and Radio personality Jeff Klotzman. The “Stars” this year are brilliant world-class jazz artists from the United States, Greece, and Germany! For information about tickets and/or making donations for “Stars Under the Stars,” please call 806-687-0861, 806-300-2474, and [www.foundationformusiceducation.org](http://www.foundationformusiceducation.org).

Information -

The Quartet is captivating through the spontaneity and homogeneousness of the performance as well as with the communicative, non-verbal interaction of the four musicians. The band book consists, besides grand jazz classics, mainly of original compositions by the members.

**BRAD LEALI** Saxophone  
<http://www.bradleali.com/>

**CLAUS RAIBLE** Piano, compositions and arrangements  
<http://www.clausraible.com/Projects.htm>

**GIORGIOS ANTONIOU** Bass  
<http://www.norwichjazzparty.com/Musician.asp?ID=22>

**ALVESTER GARNETT** Drums  
<http://www.alvestergarnett.com/>

**MARTHA BURKS** Vocalist

<http://www.marthaburks.com/>

### **Some comments about the quartet in the press:**

“This quartet enchanted the audience from the first, almost explosion like saxophone note and put them under their spell ... The four earned an exorbitant applause after their version of Dizzy Gillespie’s „Be Bop“. In spite of a neck breaking tempo Raible and Leali showed a perfectly synchronized combination. ...” (Johanna von Schutter, "Münchener Merkur")

“This concert became a brilliant occurrence. ...Phenomenal, how the four musicians got their improvisation phrases in precisely and in such extremely rapid time order ...” (Claus Regnault, "Süddeutsche Zeitung")

“Has it ever happened before, that a hard bopping quartet is doing a 20 minutes lasting slow blues as an encore at Basel’s [“Bird’s Eye”](#): in close contact with an enthusiastic audience? The writer can’t recall having seen anything similar for the last six or eight years. ... Here the ability of going out and giving the maximum is supplemented with an other one: listening to each other and getting inspired...” (Jürg Weibel, “Basler Zeitung”, Switzerland)

"Time and again it was the Thelonious Monk admirer Claus Raible, who let his provoked right hand course over the 88 keys during his breath-taking piano solos; he did that in a vertiginous manner ..." (Vera Stiller, "Süddeutsche Zeitung")

## **BRAD LEALI - SAXOPHONE**

Brad Leali, a native of Denver, Colorado, joined the University of North Texas faculty in August 2008 as Professor of Jazz Saxophone. In addition to studio teaching, he teaches jazz performance fundamentals and directs the Three O’Clock Lab Band. A native of Denver, Colorado, Leali received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from North Texas in 1989 where he played with the One O’Clock Lab Band. After earning his Master’s degree from Rutgers University in 2005, he was appointed head of the jazz program at Texas Tech University, where several scholarships have been established in his name, including the Brad Leali Endowed Jazz Scholarship. From 1989-1994, Leali was lead alto saxophonist for the Harry Connick, Jr., Orchestra, serving as its musical director from 1990-1994. In 1995, he joined the Count Basie Orchestra under the leadership of Grover Mitchell. During his years as one of the top jazz musicians in New York City, Leali was a staple in legendary jazz venues like the Village Vanguard, Blue Note, Jazz Standard, Iridium, and Birdland. He has also performed in Lincoln Center in the orchestras of jazz legends Nancy Wilson and Benny Golson. Leali’s numerous television appearances include local news programs, the Today show (Peter Cincotti), Jay Leno, Arsenio Hall, BET, and the Harry Connick, Jr., Christmas Special. He performs yearly as part of the Kennedy Center Honors program. Most recently, Leali performed at President Obama’s inaugural celebration “We Are One,” backing up artists such as Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, John Legend, Mary J. Blige, and Herbie Hancock. Other artists with whom he has played include Freddie Hubbard, Clark Terry, Joe Williams, Jimmy Cobb, Frank Foster, Jon Hendricks, Roy Hargrove, The Mingus Big Band, Jack McDuff, George Duke, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Jimmy Smith, Robert Downey, Jr., Fantasia, Billy Joel, Kid Rock, Yolanda Adams, and Brian McKnight. Leali’s first solo recording was Priority Soul! in 1998 on the New Jazz Renaissance Recordings label. In 1999, the Count Basie Orchestra won a Grammy award for Count Plays Duke with Leali receiving his own nomination for his solo work on the classic Billy Strayhorn composition, "The Star-Crossed Lovers." Leali departed from the Basie orchestra in 2000 to focus on his career as a soloist.

“Saxophonist Brad Leali was among the most soulful and exciting I’ve heard recently.” - New York Times

“Alto saxophonist Brad Leali has a bright amiable way of playing!” - New York Times –

“His solos are sparkling and Cannonball Adderley influenced.” - Evening Standard (London, England).

## CLAUS RAIBLE – PIANO

It was during his primary school days that Claus was introduced to Jazz through radio programs and he was particularly fascinated by such masters as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Jimmie Lunceford etc. At the age of eleven he began playing trumpet and three years later the piano became his second and eventually main instrument. While still in high school Claus had his first precious experiences and public appearances with jazz ensembles lead by high school teacher Juerg Heydner. He also started forming several bands and began performing around the Munich area. Upon graduating from high school Claus entered the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. During the time studying in Austria with Prof. Dr. Harry Neuwirth, Claus was already touring different countries with stellar performers such as Art Farmer, Andy Bey and Mark Murphy and appeared on several radio and television shows. He received his diploma in 1992 with Honors. Claus spent the following three years in New York City where he formed the Claus Raible Sextet as well as working as a sideman and performing in many New York jazz clubs. It was in New York that he met, and later took master classes from pianist Dr. Barry Harris who has been a great influence on his writing and arranging. In 1998 Claus returned to Munich, Germany and began splitting his time between New York and Europe. Since then he has organized at least two tours per year in Europe that include various international lineups, such as the Claus Raible Trio, Quintet, Sextet etc. Claus, among other things, is currently working on a series of projects; "Presenting the Music of...", dedicated to great Jazz composers and stylists such as Thelonious Monk, Elmo Hope and Tadd Dameron. The setups vary from Quartet to Nonet. Claus is currently teaching at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich, Germany. Live performances with such greats as: Andy Bey, Jimmy Cobb, Ira Coleman, Keith Copeland, Howard Curtis, Ben Dixon, Manny Duran, Isla Eckinger, Jon Faddis, Art Farmer, Derrick Gardner, Vincent Gardner, Herb Geller, Dusko Goykovich, Mark Gross, Stjepko Gut, Daryl Hall, Vincent Herring, Dennis Irvin, Gene Jackson, Jack Jeffers, Sean Jones, Brad Leali, Jimmy Lovelace, John Marshall, Don Menza, Bob Mover, Mark Murphy, Grzegorz Nagorski, Lewis Nash, John Ore, Bosko Petrovic, Valery Ponomarev, Al Porcino, Ferdinand Povel, Allan Praskin, Alvin Queen, Ack van Rooyen, Douglas Sides, Andy Scherrer, Roman Schwaller, Ed Thigpen, Luigi Trussardi, Britt Woodman, James Zollar and many others. Claus has appeared in festivals such as: Montreaux Jazz Festival (1989), Jazz Fest Wien (1991), Kulturfest Dubrovnik, (1995, 1996), Jazzdays Ebersberg (1998, 2001, 2004), Aspen Jazz, Aspen, Colorado, USA (1999), Jazztage Hilden (2003), Ollon du Jazz (2003), Internationale Jazzwoche Burghausen, (2003), Midem, Cannes (2004), Generations, Frauenfeld (2004), Belgrade Jazz Festival (2005), Nis Jazz Festival (2005), Novi Sad Jazz Festival (2005, 2007), Piano Off Stage, Lucerne (2007 and many others.

## GIORGOS ANTONIOU – BASS

Born in Athens (Greece), Giorgos has resided in Switzerland since 1994. He studied at the Swiss Jazz School in Bern and with the double bass professor B.Szedlak. As member of the SJS Big Band had the opportunity to play at major jazz festivals (Montreaux, Bern), be part of the US tour which included appearances in IAJE convention (NYC), St.Peters church, Birdland, Blues Alley (Washington DC), and play with Clark Terry, Johnny Griffin, John Lewis and Bob Mintzer. As a freelance bassist in Switzerland he worked with Joe Haider, Isla Eckinger, Roman Schwaller, George Robert, Sandy Patton, and many others. International appearances in Italy, France, Austria, Luxemburg, Holland, Turkey, playing in different festivals like Burghausen, Nurnberg, Nice, Colmar and Ascona. On such occasions he supported artists like Cedar Walton, Phil Woods, Johnny Griffin, Benny Golson, Albert "Tootie" Heath, Alvin Queen, Billy Hart, Doug Raney, Bobby Durham, Dado Moroni, Jesse Davis, Roy Hargrove, Terell Stafford, Plas Johnson, Scott Hamilton, Benny Green, Kirk Lightsey, Brad Leali, Roberta Gambarini, and many others. He continues to perform and record with a wide range of jazz artists.

## ALVESTER GARNETT – DRUMS

Drummer Alvester Garnett was born in Richmond, Virginia at the hospital of The Medical College of Virginia in 1970. Alvin and Mabel Garnett adopted him at the age of 6 months. Early on, his most memorable musical experiences occurred while listening to the elder members sing at Mt. Tabor and Zion

Grove Baptist Churches. His father served as Chairman of the Deacon Board at Mount Tabor. At Zion Grove Baptist Church, his mother sings on the church choir, his Grandfather was the Pastor and two Uncles were choir directors and pianists. His first formal studies in the performing arts came at the age of four with tap dance lessons and from age 5 to 9 with the study of piano. Throughout middle school and into high school his most prominent musical studies came through his participation in various chamber choirs, madrigals and a show choir. He figured out the basic coordination of playing the drums from watching a music video of the pop band "The Police", in which the drummer Stewart Copeland played a simple beat. After this, his mother heeded his requests to study percussion. At age 14, Mr. Garnett began the formal study of percussion. Mr. Garnett's first exposure to the true discipline of playing Jazz came at the age of 16. While still a junior in High School and participating in an All-County High School Jazz Band, Ellis Marsalis, introduced him to the names of Master Jazz Drummers. Mr. Marsalis advised him to obtain the recordings of Max Roach in particular and many others including "Papa" Jo Jones, "Philly" Joe Jones, Elvin Jones, Billy Higgins, James Black, and Ed Blackwell. *"I don't know where I would be had I not met Ellis. After that first rehearsal with Ellis I was literally in tears. I think my band director at the time thought he was too rough, but I think that one encounter helped me to make up my mind whether I was going to be serious about music or not. It disillusioned my perception of drumming and prepared me for the time honored tradition of studying those before me as a means of growth. Of course I'm still doing that now."* during the following summer, Mr. Garnett again studied with Mr. Marsalis. This instance would be in a Summer Program for gifted musicians at Virginia Commonwealth University. This program entailed regular listening sessions and ensemble studies under the direction of Ellis Marsalis. The summer after graduating High School he attended Gunther Schuller's music training program at The Festival at Sandpoint in Sandpoint, Idaho. Sis Tobler, the philanthropist and gemologist, sponsored his tuition, for Mr. Schuller's program. It was here that he first met and studied with master drummer Max Roach, leading trumpeter and educator, Wynton Marsalis, and Jazz historian Martin Williams. Mr. Garnett would return to this same program two years later to study with the legendary drummer Victor Lewis. After enrolling at Virginia Commonwealth University, he studied, once more, with Ellis Marsalis. This time it would be for one year in a master class setting. Here he also studied Arranging, Jazz History and Big Band performance with jazz program head Doug Richards. In 1992 during college under the advice of trumpet master Clark Terry, he entered and won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Drum Competition. It was at this competition that Betty Carter first heard Mr. Garnett. This meeting would later serve him well. Mr. Garnett earned his Bachelor of Arts in Instrumental Performance/ Jazz Studies in 1993 from Virginia Commonwealth University. Three months after graduation, Mr. Garnett received a call coincidentally on the same day from both Betty Carter and Abbey Lincoln to come to New York for auditions. After moving to New York, he worked with Betty Carter's trio in the Fall of 1993 and Winter of 1994 while at the same time becoming a member of Abbey Lincoln's quartet for over 2 years. He was also a member of Cyrus Chestnut's trio for over two years from 1996 until May of 1998. In November 1997 Mr. Garnett rejoined Abbey Lincoln's Quartet at a legendary concert held at Columbia University. Beginning in the Spring of 1998 Mr. Garnett began touring extensively with both Regina Carter and James Carter. Mr. Garnett has appeared on Great Performances on PBS in a tribute to Kurt Weill along with Betty Carter, a live record with Teddy Edwards, the CD's *Earth Stories* with Cyrus Chestnut and *Who Used To Dance* with Abbey Lincoln. He also played on James Carter's *In Carterian Fashion*. Other recorded performances include Stefon Harris' *A Cloud of Red Dust* on Blue Note records and Abbey Lincoln's latest recording, *Wholly Earth*. He has also performed at many notable Jazz Festivals. Some of them are the JVC Jazz Festivals of NY and Paris, The Newport Jazz Festival, The North Sea Jazz Festival, The Vienne Jazz Festival, The Montreux Jazz Festival, The DuMaurier Jazz Festival, The Nice Jazz Festival, The San Francisco Jazz Festival, The Monterey Jazz Festival, and The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. The summer and fall of 1999 will see him touring extensively with violin virtuoso Regina Carter. Mr. Garnett has also worked in the bands of many other great artists. The list includes, Roy Hargrove's Quintet, Benny Golson, Al Grey, Stefon Harris, Wynton Marsalis and Lincoln Center's Jazz For Young People Concerts, James Carter's Quartet and Quintet, Lou Donaldson's Quartet along with Dr. Lonnie Smith, Jackie Terrason's Trio, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Rodney Jones, Kevin Mahogany, Clark Terry, Eric Reed, Wycliffe Gordon, Sherman Irby, Pharaoh Sanders, Jimmy Witherspoon, Milt Hinton, Marcus Printup, Greg Osby, John Hicks, Wes Anderson, Teddy Edwards, Ellis Marsalis, Ron Affif, Jeff Clayton, Ronald Westray, Fabio Morgera, Werner "Vana" Gierig, Dr. Michael White and the Richmond Symphony. Currently Mr. Garnett resides in Brooklyn, New York where he continues to grow musically and performs throughout the country and internationally.

## MARTHA BURKS – VOCALIST

Martha Burks has been in the entertainment business for over 20 years. She has been described as a poised vocalist and performer with a wide range of vocal versatility, class and charm. Martha, like most musicians, began her career in her hometown in Arkansas serving in the church. Martha along with her late brother, trumpet player Harry Burks, would often perform for neighbors and relatives. Little did they know of the fruit their efforts would bear. Martha has sung everything from gospel to pop to jazz and back again! She captivates her audience with a sparkling personality to match her indisputable vocal skills. She can scat with the best of them invoking imagery of Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Billie Holiday, Carmen McCrae. Not to mention the Anita Bakers and Diane Reeves of the world as well. True to form she is always Martha, a truly sophisticated lady. During the eighties Martha was introduced to Bill Craig, an avid jazz lover. He took a chance on her and made an investment into her future. He introduced her to jazz drummer, the late Paul Guerrero during her first recording in Little Rock with the legendary jazz pianist and vocalist Jay McShann. This as some of you would say, "was the beginning" and it's still going strong.