JAZZ ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Smithsonian Jazz Café Names Chuck Redd Artist-In-Residence

The Smithsonian Institution is pleased to announce the appointment of vibraphonist, drummer and jazz educator Chuck Redd as the first Smithsonian Jazz Café Artist-in-Residence. For the first Artist-in-Residence program on Sept. 3, Redd and his quartet will present a tribute to vibraphone greats Lionel Hampton and Milt Jackson. The Smithsonian Jazz Café is located in the National Museum of Natural History.

Prior to the performance, Redd will present a lecture on the music of these vibraphone legends in the Baird Auditorium, adjacent to the Jazz Café. A Q-and-A period will follow the presentation. The lecture will begin at 5 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The one-year residency program, which will begin in September, was made possible by a grant from the Smithsonian Women’s Committee and is designed to strengthen awareness and understanding of jazz music and history for persons of all ages. As Artist-in-Residence, Redd will perform and host one thematic concert each month in the Jazz Café and will coordinate pre-concert educational programs related to the evening’s performance. In addition, guest artists from around the globe will join Redd in these special presentations.

“We are proud to have an artist of Chuck Redd’s stature as the first Smithsonian Jazz Café Artist-in-Residence,” said Randall Kremer, spokesman for the National Museum of Natural History. “His eminence as a musician and jazz educator exemplify the qualities this program honors. Everyone at the Smithsonian Jazz Café is looking forward to a year of fantastic music and informative lectures from Chuck Redd.”

A native and resident of Washington, D.C., Redd launched his international career in 1980 when he joined the legendary Charlie Byrd Trio, a position he held until Byrd’s untimely
death in 1999. He has toured and performed with jazz luminaries Dizzy Gillespie, Mel Tormé, Dr. Billy Taylor and Barney Kessel. Redd has on-going partnerships with many contemporary jazz masters including Frank Vignola, Gene Bertoncini and Loston Harris.

His tours include travels to Europe, Japan, and Africa with the Dizzy Gillespie quintet for Namibian Independence Day. Redd is featured on more than 40 recordings, including two recent Swing Kings releases, which feature Bucky and John Pizzarelli, Jr. Redd has two recordings to his credit. His latest, All This and Heaven Too on the Arbors label, features jazz greats Ken Peplowski, George Mraz, and Gene Bertoncini. His next recording for Arbors, a tribute to the late “Great Guitarist” Barney Kessel, will be released in early 2005. In addition to his own quartet, Redd leads “Chuck Redd’s Echoes of Rio,” a larger ensemble that features the music of Brazil.

A member of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra since 1992, an adjunct faculty member of Montgomery College’s Music Department and a frequent clinician, Redd’s career has been closely associated with jazz music education. The father of a young guitarist, Redd is especially interested in youth education. He has presented imaginative interactive programs and workshops to young people around the country -- most recently at the Children’s Museum in Portland, Ore.

The Smithsonian Jazz Café has been bringing live jazz in a club setting to Smithsonian visitors since April 2001. Every Friday evening, the Atrium Café of the National Museum of Natural History transforms into an elegant, but family-friendly, supper club that features top jazz performers from the Washington, D.C. area and beyond. Internationally acclaimed artists who have graced the Jazz Café stage include Houston Person, Jimmy Bruno, Ray Vega and Dave Samuels.

The Smithsonian Jazz Café is located in the National Museum of Natural History at 10th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W. The museum is open for special summer hours from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. every day from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Regular hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission to the Jazz Café is $5; children younger than 12 are admitted free. The Jazz Café opens at 5:30 p.m. every Friday. The music program is from 6 – 10 p.m. Cash bar and à la carte dining are available.

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Note to Editors: Images are available upon request.