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**WEXNER CENTER PRESENTS COLUMBUS DEBUT OF JAZZ LEGENDS  
CHARLES LLOYD QUINTET FEATURING GERI ALLEN AND JOHN  
ABERCROMBIE**

**“Charles Lloyd is a rare original.”—*L.A. Times***

Led by one of the most original composers in jazz, **The Charles Lloyd Quintet** will make its local debut on **Saturday, November 15 at 8 pm** in **Weigel Auditorium** in a show presented by the Wexner Center. Saxophonist-flutist Lloyd has enlisted an all-star lineup including acclaimed pianist Geri Allen and influential guitarist John Abercrombie. The evening will showcase the restlessly creative and rhapsodic intensity of his latest, masterful record on the ECM label, *Lift Every Voice*, which the *L.A. Weekly* called “the finest release of his career.” The quintet also boasts a solid rhythm section featuring Robert Hurst on bass and drummer Eric Harland.

**CHARLES LLOYD**

For over four decades Charles Lloyd has been one of the leading lights in jazz. From sharing the stage as a teenager with blues legends Howlin’ Wolf and B.B. King to being at ground zero for a nascent L.A. jazz scene that included masters like Ornette Coleman and Eric Dolphy, Lloyd has consistently been one of the most notable performers in American jazz.

In the mid-’60s, after stints with the Cannonball Adderly Sextet and Chico Hamilton Quintet, Lloyd started his own band, the Charles Lloyd Quartet. After a star-making performance at 1966’s Monterey Jazz Festival, the Quartet became one of the most popular groups in jazz, with gigs throughout Europe and a performance at the Fillmore West in San Francisco. Following the success of records like *Forest Flower: Live in Monterey* and *The Flowering*, Lloyd’s music career became sidetracked as he embraced Buddhism and became a teacher of transcendental meditation.

After releasing a handful of albums in the '70s, Lloyd was persuaded to return to his jazz roots in the late '80s, eventually experiencing a career renaissance in the '90s. Serving as a leader for records for Columbia and Blue Note, Lloyd soon found a home at ECM Records where he began releasing some of his most acclaimed work, culminating in this year's *Lift Every Voice*, inspired by September 11. Drawing from public domain spirituals, original compositions, pop and R & B tunes, and his own meditations, *Lift Every Voice* is an epic contemplation of life, death, and love and serves as a reminder that Lloyd is, as the *New York Times* called him, "a modern master."

### **JOHN ABERCROMBIE**

As one of the most versatile and influential guitarists of his generation, John Abercrombie possesses a unique voice as a jazz guitarist, combining evolving technologies with a tradition well represented by jazz standards. A graduate of Boston's Berklee College of Music, he has played with everyone from Gil Evans to Jan Hammer.

Abercrombie was a member of Dreams, served as one of the most in-demand session men in New York in the '70s, and became a regular with Chico Hamilton's group. As a guitarist in Bill Cobham's band, Abercrombie began to earn notice from the general public. For the last few years Abercrombie has been featured on several of Charles Lloyd's records, including *Voice in the Night*, *Water is Wide*, and *Lift Every Voice*.

Abercrombie continues to issue records, including this year's acclaimed *Three Guitars*, a collaboration between such virtuosos as Larry Coryell and Badi Assad.

### **GERI ALLEN**

Pianist Gerri Allen has been heralded as "one of the most original and in-demand musicians of her generation" by *Jazz Times* magazine and "the most versatile jazz musician to emerge in the past decade" by *Atlantic Monthly*. Allen is a true standout among her contemporaries. In 1996 she graced the big screen, playing Mary Lou Williams in Robert Altman's *Kansas City*. A former member of the Black Rock Coalition, she was the first woman to receive Denmark's prestigious JAZZPAR Prize, and she participated in Ornette Coleman's long-anticipated *Sound Museum*.

Allen first performed with Charles Lloyd in 1996 as part of a benefit concert for drummer Billy Higgins. In the years since she has occasionally reteamed with Lloyd for special events. After 9/11 he asked her to join him for *Lift Every Voice*.

*The Gathering* is Allen's most recent release and debut on Verve Records.

**CALENDAR INFORMATION: Charles Lloyd Quintet**

**Description:** The Wexner Center presents the local debut of acclaimed jazz ensemble the Charles Lloyd Quintet.

**Date and time:** Saturday, November 15 / 8 pm

**Location:** Weigel Auditorium, 1866 College Rd.

**Tickets:** \$22 for the general public, \$18 for members, \$15 for OSU students, \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students.

**Ticket outlet:** Wexner Center Ticket Office (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

**Public information:** 614 292-3535 and [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org).

*Digital images for press are available upon request; call Erik Pepple at 614 688-3261.*

**EVENT SUPPORT**

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2003-04 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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