

**For Immediate Release**

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## **THE HERBIE NICHOLS PROJECT HITS THE WEXNER CENTER**

### **STELLAR TRIBUTE TO LEGENDARY JAZZ COMPOSER AND PIANIST**

**“Wonderful evidence of these players’ creativity as well as Nichols’ genius.”—*JazzTimes*, on The Herbie Nichols Project**

The timeless music of unsung legend, jazz composer, and pianist Herbie Nichols will be celebrated by a top-flight band **Friday, November 16 at 8 pm** in a show presented by the Wexner Center in Weigel Hall. **The Herbie Nichols Project**, organized by The Jazz Composers Collective, is led by pianist Frank Kimbrough and bassist Ben Allison, and features Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, Michael Blake on saxes, Ron Horton on trumpet, and Matt Wilson on drums. Collectively they demonstrate, in *Downbeat’s* words, “a group empathy rare in this age of superstar collaborations.”

### **HERBIE NICHOLS**

A contemporary of Thelonious Monk and Bud Powell, pianist Nichols (1919–1963) is perhaps best known as the composer of the Billie Holiday classic “Lady Sings the Blues.” Although his career was cut short by leukemia at the age of 44, he left a rich legacy of great tunes on a handful of albums as well as unrecorded scores. Nichols’s music reveals his love of New Orleans jazz, West Indian folk melodies, bebop’s rhythmic excitement, and the harmonic depth of Béla Bartók. He is now receiving long-overdue recognition, thanks to CD reissues and this terrific ensemble dedicated to breathing new life into his catalogue of songs.

### **THE BAND**

Formed by The Jazz Composers Collective—a non-profit organization in New York City—The Herbie Nichols Project is devoted to performing and researching the work of jazz musician Herbie Nichols. The band, which debuted in 1994, plays music from the Blue Note and Bethlehem recordings of Nichols’s piano trio, transcribed by pianist and Collective co-founder Frank Kimbrough. The Project has since toured internationally,

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with its third and latest CD, *Strange City*, released on Palmetto Records. For more information on The Herbie Nichols Project, visit [www.jazzcollective.com](http://www.jazzcollective.com).

### **EVENT SUPPORT**

Lead season support for the Wexner Center's 2001–02 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and **the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**

Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund** of the **Wexner Center Foundation**. Promotional support provided by **WCBE, 90.5 FM** and **WBNS 10TV**.

### **JAZZ AT THE WEXNER CENTER**

The Wexner Center presents the best internationally touring jazz bands at a variety of venues—the intimate cabaret-style Performance Space, the 720-seat Weigel Hall, the 2,477-seat Mershon Auditorium, and even Schottenstein Arena for the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra's swing dance party. The center has presented the local or regional premieres of many jazz groups, including the Dave Holland Quintet, Bill Frisell Band, Cassandra Wilson, Brad Mehldau Trio, Terence Blanchard Sextet, Steve Turre and Chucho Valdés.

### **CALENDAR INFORMATION: The Herbie Nichols Project**

**Description:** The Herbie Nichols Project pays tribute to jazz composer and pianist Herbie Nichols's timeless music.

**Date and time:** Friday, November 16 at 8 pm.

**Location:** Weigel Hall, 1866 College Road North, adjacent to the Wexner Center, on the campus of The Ohio State University.

**Tickets:** \$18 general public, \$16 Wexner Center members and OSU students. \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students.

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

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

**Images of Herbie Nichols available upon request.**

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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