

For Immediate Release

February 8, 2002

Media Contact: Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or simonian.4@osu.edu

SATURDAY NIGHT FISH FRY CELEBRATES SOUL JAZZ SOUND

COLUMBUS JAZZ ORGANIST HANK MARR PART OF NATIONAL TOURING BAND STOPPING AT THE WEXNER CENTER

In a jazz season highlight, the Wexner Center in association with the King Arts Complex presents **Saturday Night Fish Fry**, a top-flight jazz band performing the feel-good soul jazz music of the 1960s, Saturday, **February 23 at 8 pm**. This nationally touring show was assembled to celebrate soul jazz, which was often marked by the distinctive presence of the mighty Hammond B-3 organ; the group wisely tapped Columbus's own Hank Marr as the ideal candidate to handle the Hammond's keys for these spirited jam sessions. Houston Person's honkin' sax will front the combo, with guitar great Russell Malone and Grady Tate on drums rounding out the dynamite band. They'll serve it up good, hot, and greasy when they get cooking at this Saturday Night Fish Fry, presented in Weigel Hall, adjacent to the Wexner Center.

THE BAND

A Columbus stalwart jazz pianist and B-3 organist, **Hank Marr** was an associate professor of music in the jazz studies program at Ohio State for 12 years. With such albums as *It's 'bout Time*, *Groovin' It*, and *Basie-cally Speaking* (all on the King Records label), Marr is a Columbus treasure and considered one of the country's best B-3 players. His celebrated *Live at the 502 Club (The Greasy Spoon)*, recorded in the '60s, garnered critical and public acclaim. Marr performs, arranges, and records with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, and is in constant demand as a solo pianist and organist. Marr was recommended to the producer of Saturday Night Fish Fry as an ideal candidate for this special project by Charles Helm, Director of Performing Arts at the Wexner Center.

Houston Person, internationally acclaimed tenor saxophonist, has played with Eddie Harris, Cedar Walton, Leo Wright, Don Ellis, Don Menza, and Johnny "Hammond"

news release

Smith. Person has recorded more than 75 albums. His 1990 recording with Ron Carter, *Something in Common*, won the independent Jazz Record of the Year Award. Person was the recipient of the prestigious Eubie Blake Jazz Award in 1982, and his 1998 and 1999 recordings for HighNote Records, *My Romance* and *Soft Lights*, both reached the #1 position on the Gavin Jazz Chart. The recording *My Buddy: Etta Jones Sings the Songs of Buddy Johnson*, produced by Person and featuring his tenor sax artistry, was nominated for a 1999 Grammy Award in the category of Best Jazz Vocal. Person can currently be heard on his newest HighNote recording, *In a Sentimental Mood*.

For the last decade, guitarist **Russell Malone** has been delivering strong, straight-ahead recordings steeped in jazz tradition. Malone first came to prominence in the late '80s touring with B-3 organist Jimmy Smith, then joined Harry Connick Jr.'s orchestra for a five-year collaboration (1990–94). Malone was then signed to Columbia, where he recorded his self-titled debut album in 1992 and *Black Butterfly* the following year. He has also toured with vocalist Diana Krall. His most recent release is *Look Who's Here*.

For the past three decades, **Grady Tate's** crisp, riveting percussion patterns have appeared on countless recordings. He has performed for six years as drummer for Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*, and has been the musical director and drummer for such Broadway shows as *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music* and *Black and Blue*. His roster of collaborators includes Quincy Jones, Jimmy Smith, Lionel Hampton, Stan Getz, and Andre Previn. He has also sung with the likes of Pearl Bailey and Sarah Vaughn. Grady is a professor of music at Howard University in Washington D.C., teaching music and vocal improvisation.

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, and the 2,477-seat Mershon Auditorium. Over the years, 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.

EVENT SUPPORT

This concert is presented by the **Wexner Center for the Arts** in association with **King Arts Complex**.

Lead support for the 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 is provided by **WCBE, 90.5 FM** and **WBNS 10TV**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Saturday Night Fish Fry

Description: Nationally touring jazz ensemble celebrates the classic soul jazz sound. Features Columbus's Hank Marr.

Dates and times: Saturday, February 23 at 8 pm.

Location: Weigel Hall, 1866 College Road, adjacent to the Wexner Center.

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

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.

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.

###30###