



Motown Meets Jazz

Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission.



Saturday, November 7 @ 8 PM

Prince Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

"Papa Was A Rolling Stone" (the Temptations), "Heat Wave" (Martha and The Vandellas), "Where Did Our Love Go" (the Supremes), and "Oooh, Baby, Baby" (Smokey Robinson and The Miracles). We all remember these and other popular Motown tunes that changed the musical landscape of R&B and American popular music. The Motown sound is known for its dynamic instrumentation, memorable beats, exciting melodies and captivating lyrics. This sound reverberated through varying growth periods and Motown became the backdrop of many life events for America's younger generations in the 1960s and 1970s.

Another example of homegrown American music is jazz! Jazz continues to evolve and grow in so many directions, and reflects the social and cultural issues that continue to challenge us to think on our feet. Jazz celebrates creativity and is a music for those who can feel the depths of the soul, their own and others. Jazz is a force for change and it heralds action. Charlie Parker said it best when he composed the popular jazz anthem "Now's The Time": "Now is the time, the time to put these two musical styles together and let each one give and receive to the other."

LifeLine Music presents the union of these two musical genres by keeping the signature Motown musical "hooks" as a significant part of the presentation, while infusing the jazz style of solos and improvisation. The program features The Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble, and singers under the direction of Warren Oree, who also serves as arranger and bassist. This is not a cover band trying to play the music exactly the same as the recordings. The program shows the harmony that exists between two styles of music that are considered distinctly different. It is important to note that many of the musicians who worked for Motown, such as The Funk Brothers, were jazz musicians who were recruited by Berry Gordy, Jr., the founder of Motown, to add the necessary musical flavor to the lyrics and voices that were coming out of the recording studio, Hitsville. Together these two styles create a sound that propels and moves the listener to a place where memories stimulate and refresh.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Warren Oree began playing the upright bass in 1973 at age 25. In 1975, he joined the group Weusi Mutribu and in 1979, he started the group that he leads today, The Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble. In addition to performing with Arpeggio, Oree has toured and/or recorded with Jamaladeen Tacuma and Basso Nouveaux and Khan Jamal and Hamiette Bluiette. He has also performed with Donald Byrd, Wynton Marsalis, Odean Pope and drummer Norman Connors. He has toured Europe, South America, the Caribbean and throughout the United States.

Not only does he perform on stage, but Oree is also busy behind the scenes composing and producing. He is co-founder and Artistic Director of LifeLine Music Coalition and co-producer of the Philadelphia Jazz and Poetry Festival and the West Oak Lane Jazz and Arts Festival.

In addition to composing for his band, Oree has been commissioned by several noteworthy organizations to create original works for their projects, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, T-Mobile and WYBE TV Channel 35.