



April 20, 2009

Laura Hartmann
LVanHart Artist Productions
45 Birch Street, #12-H
Kingston, NY 12401

Dear Laura,

I just wanted to write a brief note of thanks to you and Steve Wilson -- and also to Bruce Barth, Adam Cruz and Michael Bowie -- for the extraordinary week you spent with us here at the Clarice Smith Center this past March. We host many wonderful artists each season, but I can say without hesitation that this residency was one of the most successful and enjoyable on many levels.

From the moment Steve arrived and first met with our UM strings students, to the final hugs he and the band received from Hyattsville Middle School students following their concert, each member of the quartet was fully engaged and so generous of their time and talent. I was particularly struck by their ability to work both with university-level students in rehearsals and coachings, and with the 7th and 8th graders in a special jazz clinic. The session you and Steve did on the business of music was very well received, and offered great insights to a range of UM students considering careers in the arts. And, of course, the concert was terrific as well! We were proud to have the premiere of "In Our Time" on that program, and I know the audience was thrilled with the performance. Attached are a few comments from the residency that I wanted to share.

Many thanks again, Laura, to you, Steve and the band. We enjoyed working with you very much, and look forward to more opportunities in the future!

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Waalkes".

Ruth Waalkes
Director of Artistic Initiatives

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**Steve Wilson Quartet
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
Residency , March 9 through March 12, 2009**

Residency Summary:

The Clarice Smith Center hosted the Steve Wilson Quartet (Steve Wilson, Bruce Barth, Adam Cruz and Michael Bowie) for four full days in March 2009. While here, the musicians connected in a variety of meaningful ways, both on and off campus. This residency was a unique blend of coaching and workshops, combined with two concert opportunities - one the UM Jazz Ensemble conducted by Chris Vadala, with guest appearance by Steve Wilson performing one of his one works arranged for the big band; and the Steve Wilson Quartet performance the next evening, which also featured a UM student string quartet performing with Steve for three special string arrangements. Activities included:

- Steve Wilson coached and rehearsed a student string quartet (Nathan Bontrager, cello; Allyson Clark, violin; Julia Frantz, violin; Christina Wan ,viola) in preparation for their performance as part of his quartet's concert
- Percussionist Adam Cruz conducted a master class with students in the UM Percussion Ensemble
- Steve Wilson coached and rehearsed with the UM Jazz Ensemble in preparation for his special guest appearance with the Ensemble's concert that week
- Two other quartet members, Bruce Barth (piano) and Michael Bowie (bass) each conducted a coaching session with the two UM student jazz combos
- Steve Wilson and his manager, Laura Hartmann, presented a special and insightful dialogue with students from the Maryland Music Business Society, a student run organization, on "The Business of Music"
- All four members of the quartet traveled to Hyattsville Middle School for an extremely successful clinic with the school's jazz band, working with approximately 32 students. Tickets were made available to the school students and their families to attend the Steve Wilson Quartet concert - and the school did use 40 free tickets offered by the Clarice Smith Center.

Responses:

Thank you again for the amazing experience you provided for the students and staff yesterday. Steve Wilson and his band are fabulous musicians and were extremely helpful with my kids. -- Carlos Castrillon, Director, Hyattsville Middle School Bands

Comments from the post-performance e-survey of audience members:

Music was soothing and totally helped me to relax. I particularly enjoyed the explanations provided by the lead of the quartet on the origins of a particular piece. The UM string players were excellent and I was very pleased to have high schools students in attendance- outreach to our local youth community is very important.

Excellent concert- Steve Wilson and the band were graceful and elegant. One of the best concerts I have attended at UM!

Phenomenal musical talent from all 4 musicians.

It was just simply amazing. Would recommend to everyone I know.

I liked that Steve Wilson and his musicians spent some time on an artistic residence mentoring students and inviting them to be a part of their concert.

I loved hearing the student string players- it's wonderful that Steve is so open and willing to share his expertise.

And on Facebook after strike for the concert, the head of our production crew for the show posted on Facebook that he: "*wishes every presented artist could be as great as Saxophonist Steve Wilson and his Quartet.*" -- Facebook, March 12 at 12:14pm