

The Washington Post, NPR, D.C. MetroMix and Others Praise Steve Wilson

"A Dynamic Improviser" "A Musician's Musician"

"One of the Finest Saxophone Players Today"

NPR JazzSet Airs This Week; Upcoming Activities Include Village Vanguard, Blue Note Anniversary Tour, Residency and Spring Headlining Concerts

As **Steve Wilson's** busy year begins, journalists have already praised him as "**a dynamic improviser,**" "**a musician's musician,**" "**one of the finest saxophone players today,**" and more. Later this week, Wilson's recent performance at The Kennedy Center will begin airing on **NPR's JazzSet with Dee Dee Bridgewater,** and **The Washington Post Express** recently described his recordings as "**captivating.**"

Wilson, one of the most well liked, in-demand and respected figures in jazz, looks forward to major appearances this Spring. His multiple roles as a band leader, sideman, educator, jazz historian and more, will be highlighted at these events:

- Week of April 2nd - **NPR Jazz Set** with Dee Dee Bridgewater
- April 14th - 19th - at **Birdland** in New York, with The Blue Note 7
- April 21st - 26th - at the **Village Vanguard** in New York, with "**The Downtown Quartet,**" featuring Wilson, **Michael Wolff, Chip Jackson** and **Victor Lewis.**
- April 27th - 29th - **SUNY New Paltz Residency, Steve Wilson with Strings Attached** featuring David O'Rourke and Ira Coleman, with music from "Bird with Strings," Jonathan Ragonese and Wilson originals (string arrangements by O'Rourke,) performed with SUNY New Paltz students and faculty.
- May 2nd - Guest artist with **John Toomy's Trio** at the **Virginia Arts Festival** in Norfolk, VA.

Wilson recently made a series of successful appearances in the Washington, D.C./VA/MD market, and a sampling of coverage follows, below.

Finances, and All That Jazz: Steve Wilson

IT'S NO SECRET that the jazz business is in critical condition. Last year signaled the end of the Herald International Association of Jazz Educators Conference, while this year, thanks in huge part to the economic meltdown, record distribution continues to dwindle.

So, what does a successful jazz saxophonist such as Steve Wilson tell a music student with big hopes of becoming a jazz star? "Think of yourself more than as a jazz musician," he says. "The exceptions to the rule are very few in terms of those who are able to go exclusively into jazz and become financially successful."

Wilson, a dynamic improviser, who's played with jazz luminaries including Chick Corea, Dave Holland and Joe Henderson — and has recorded a string of captivating solo discs — conducted workshops on music business, improvisation, jazz history and ethnomusicology, earlier this week at the **University of Maryland's Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center**.

"From the business aspect, one has to be versatile and skilled not just as an improviser but as a musician who can perform in a variety of settings," he says.

Wilson's residency won't focus entirely on survival in a gloomy business. Tonight, he'll present a still-untitled piece he's writing for his quartet. Its inspiration comes from the recent inauguration of **President Obama**. "It's not so much about an endorsement of President Obama," Wilson explains, "but more about my hope that we are entering a new era of enlightenment. Hopefully, we're getting over the age of individualism and we can think of ourselves as more of a society."

http://www.expressnightout.com/content/2009/03/finances_and_all_that_jazz_steve_wilson.php



DC METROMIX 3/09

A musician's musician, saxophonist Steve Wilson brings his distinctive sound to the Center as part of a week-long residency with the UM School of Music jazz studies department. This concert, with the Steve Wilson Quartet,

will showcase his knack for solid composition and unflagging, airtight improvisation, and he will premiere a new work commissioned by the Center. There will be an informal Meet and Greet with the artists in the Grand Pavilion immediately following the performance.

<http://dc.metromix.com/music/concert/steve-wilson-quartet/935457/content>

C-Ville Jazz

Charlottesville, Va 3/09

Steve Wilson is a performance not to miss. *Steve Wilson is in demand as one of the finest saxophone players today. The Steve Wilson Quartet is celebrated as one of the foremost ensembles in jazz. Including pianist Bruce Barth, bassist Ed Howard and drummer Adam Cruz, this band of contemporaries delivers inspiring melodies in shifting styles and varied textures, with swing, cohesion, and soulful empathy that come from over ten years of working together.*

On the horizon:

Here are additional details regarding Wilson's April 27 - 29, 2009 activities - Wilson will be in residence at the State University of New York at New Paltz where he will be collaborating with arranger and guitarist David O'Rourke and world-renowned bassist Ira Coleman. Wilson and company will bring their music and teaching skills to lead a three-day residency, and final performance that will incorporate both faculty and students from the university. The performance will feature the original arrangements (adapted by O'Rourke) of "April In Paris" and "East of the Sun" from 'Bird With Strings,' "You and I Must Part" by Jonathan Ragonese, one of Wilson's graduate students at Manhattan School of Music, and Wilson's original tune, "Grace" arranged for jazz ensemble and strings by O'Rourke. The string quartet will feature SUNY New Paltz faculty Carole Cowan and Susan Seligman. From the jazz department, faculty members Mark Dzuiba, Vinny Martucci and Jeff Siegel and students Michael Hollis and Steve Olenski will be Wilson's very special guests.

Two appearances are confirmed at one of America's most prestigious chamber music festivals for the summer of '09. On July 22, Wilson will play a jazz concert with his quartet at the **Vermont Music Festival**, and on July 25 he will make his orchestral debut with the Villa Lobos' *Fantasia for Soprano Saxophone and Chamber Orchestra*, with the Vermont Mozart Festival Orchestra, and conducted by **Gil Shohat**.

Steve Wilson works with Grammy award winning arranger and conductor **Robert Sadin** on a very special project: **"Charlie Parker – Looking Forward and Backward"**: Performing with classical musicians was always one of Parker's great dreams and ultimate satisfactions. This program explores the artistic alchemy of intersecting these great traditions. The repertoire includes classic songs from the Bird with Strings album, plus new arrangements of music of Ellington, Monk, and Mingus and as a special feature, Barber's Adagio for Strings. This project will begin in 2010, the 60th anniversary of the original recording. More details will be coming soon.

Wilson's performance at the Kennedy Center, to be heard on NPR JazzSet this week (beginning April 2nd), was previewed in the **DCist**:

http://dcist.com/2008/10/16/preview_steve_wilson_the_kc_jazz_cl.php

In a live review in the 9/09 issue of **ALL ABOUT JAZZ – NY**, Wilson's recent performance at the Rubin Museum in New York was described as follows: "***Wilson wove his sound through the music in a manner that was spellbinding in its nuance and attentiveness to dynamics.***" http://www.allaboutjazz.com/newyork/aaj_ny_200809.pdf

Recently nominated as Alto Player of the Year by the **Jazz Journalists Association**, and profiled in **ALL ABOUT JAZZ**, Wilson is known for his modest, warm personality...and for his in-depth knowledge of all-things-jazz. Read the major 'career' feature on Steve Wilson, from ALL ABOUT JAZZ, here: <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=29437>

At the newly-launched <http://www.stevewilsonmusic.com/>, visitors will be able to sample new tunes and see performance footage. The site, part of the Jazz Corner family, also includes a streaming audio player, details of Wilson's numerous band configurations, and more.

For more information about Steve Wilson, or to set up an interview, please contact SethCohenPR@earthlink.net or 212-873-1011.