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Contact: Jane Cox  
Governors State University  
[jcox1@govst.edu](mailto:jcox1@govst.edu)  
708.207.1361

**For Immediate Release**

**ORBERT DAVIS' CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC PAYS TRIBUTE TO FREDDIE HUBBARD WITH FORWARD MOMENTUM CONCERT NOVEMBER 20**

**Graduates from Governors State University and Chicago Jazz Philharmonic's Jazz Academy featured alongside Jazz Legends for this cross-generational, Third Stream musical production**

University Park IL (November 8, 2021) - Chicago Jazz Philharmonic (CJP), under the direction of artistic director and co-founder Orbert Davis, brings "Forward Momentum" to Governors State University (GSU) Center for Performing Arts (the Center) for one night only: **Saturday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m.** This cross-generational concert will showcase notable, up-and-coming musicians alongside Orbert Davis and Chicago jazz legends.

Trumpeters Victor Garcia and Pharez Witted join Davis in paying tribute to Freddie Hubbard's innovative jazz-fusion style. Saxophonists Mwata Bowden (GSU alumnus, MA '79) and Ari Brown will play alongside emerging saxophonists Justin Smith (GSU alumnus, BA '18) and Kevin King (CJP Jazz Academy alumnus). Other highlights include award-winning vocalist Maggie Brown and her sister, Africa, paying tribute to their legendary father, Oscar Brown Jr.

Orbert Davis shares, "I am so proud of our continued partnership with the Center for Performing Arts and Governors State University. These collaborations are part of our long-term goal to more deeply establish Third Stream Jazz within higher education, and to expand creative practice among musicians in continual and exciting ways."

Coined in 1967 by Gunther Schuller, "Third Stream" is a musical genre that merges jazz and classical traditions. Chicago Jazz Philharmonic presents Third Stream to bridge communities, educate the next generation of musicians, encourage cross-cultural dialogue, and expand creative practice.

This is the Center's fifth collaboration with Orbert Davis' Chicago Jazz Philharmonic. Their first collaboration began in 2013 with 'DuSable to Obama: Chicago's Black Metropolis', followed in 2014 with 'Mardi Gras Carnival' featuring the world premiere of Orbert Davis' original piece 'Survival of the Saints', 'The Monk Meets the First Lady' in 2017, and a virtual concert 'Messages of Hope' in June 2021.

**Forward Momentum** is generously supported by the Illinois Arts Council Touring Fund with media sponsor WDCB 90.9FM: Chicago's Home for Jazz and Blues.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [CenterTickets.net](https://CenterTickets.net)

### **Connect With Us**

Like us on **Facebook** @centeratgsu for updates on events, offers, and more. Share your experience at the Center on **Instagram** @gsu\_center #govstatearts.

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE AND TICKET INFORMATION**

*Forward Momentum*

Saturday, November 20, 2021, 7:30PM

Governors State University, Center for Performing Arts

1 University Parkway

University Park, IL 60484

*\*\*Tickets \$25-\$49. For more Info: CenterTickets.net*

### **KNOW BEFORE YOUR GO – COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

Your health and safety are our priority.

Audience members are required to show proof of vaccination or proof of negative COVID-19 test (within the 72-hour period prior to the performance) until further notice. Proof can be an electronic copy, photo copy, or official CDC vaccination record card with photo ID at time of entry into the venue with a valid ticket.

Face masks are required on campus, even if vaccinated. Reduced capacity and socially distanced seating may be in place based on Governors State University and State mandates. Hand sanitizer will be made readily available throughout the venue, and patrons are strongly encouraged to make use of them. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and do not attend an event.

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

#### **CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC**

Founded in 2004 by Orbert Davis and Mark Ingram as America's definitive "Third Stream" orchestra, Chicago Jazz Philharmonic provides rich, accessible, multi-cultural music experiences that bridge gaps in jazz and classical genres. The CJP performs works from the standard jazz big band to the classical symphony, while creating a "new aesthetic" in cross-

genre collaborations. The organization also provides music education through Jazz Alive, a weekly music and band education program for Chicago Public School students, and the Summer Jazz Academy, a two-week immersion program in music theory and practice. Chicago Jazz Philharmonic performances entertain and inspire, and the community-based education programs improve lives from school age through adulthood.

### **Orbert Davis**

Emmy-Award winning trumpeter, composer and educator Orbert Davis is co-founder, conductor and artistic director of Chicago Jazz Philharmonic (CJP), a 55+ piece symphonic jazz orchestra dedicated to bringing together audiences of diverse backgrounds through multi-genre projects.

[www.orbertdavis.com](http://www.orbertdavis.com).

**Mwata Bowden** plays the family of clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, as well as the flute and the didgeridoo. He has performed at jazz and blues festivals throughout Chicago and around the world, including the 2004 Banlieues Bleues Jazz Festival, 2003 Chicago Jazz Festival, the 2001 North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, and in Italy the same year with Edward Wilkerson's Eight Bold Souls. Bowden has received the Outstanding Artist Service Award for dedication to children through music, recognition in Downbeats magazine's annual Critic's Poll from 1990 to 2003, and the 1994 Arts Midwest Jazz Masters Award. Bowden also leads the jazz groups Sound Spectrum and Tri-tone, and his Black Classical Music Ensemble, and has served as Chairman of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, (AACM) one of the oldest Black musicians' collectives in the United States.

### **Ari Brown**

Ari Brown (February 1, 1944) is an American jazz saxophonist (tenor saxophone) and pianist. He plays avant-garde jazz, hard bop and post bop. Brown grew up in Chicago and attended Wilson College, where he met musicians such as Jack DeJohnette, Henry Threadgill, Roscoe Mitchell and Joseph Jarman. He played piano in R&B and soul groups, but in 1965 he switched to the saxophone. He joined the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) in 1971 and played in The Awakening in the early 1970s. In 1974 he lost a few teeth in a car accident and was forced to play the piano again until he could play the saxophone again. He later played saxophone with McCoy Tyner, Don Patterson and Sonny Stitt in the 1970s. In the 1980s he worked with Lester Bowie, Von Freeman, Bobby Watson and Anthony Braxton. In 1989 he joined Kahil El'Zabar's trio. In 1995 he released his first own album, and has since release three additional albums.

### **Maggie and Africa Brown**

Singer, songwriter, actress, producer, and director Maggie Brown is said to be "one of the most fiercely committed artists in Chicago" by *Chicago Tribune's* Howard Reich. She is the daughter of the late Oscar Brown, Jr., a composer, social activist, and giant of the jazz music scene. Maggie has recorded with Abbey Lincoln, Jonathan Butler, Ramsey Lewis, Stevie Wonder, and her father. For over 20 years, she has toured her one-woman show, "LEGACY: Our Wealth of Music," which follows the history and evolution of African American music and covers a wide

range of musical forms. Maggie's sister Africa is a singer, dancer, and African drummer, and is the youngest of the Brown siblings. By the end of 2015, the two had officially started their company, *2Brown Sisters*. In addition to performing together live in concert, and staging tributes to OBJ keeping his name and music alive, they are committed to organizing and preserving their fathers' body of work and proliferating the material for further discovery.

**Justin Smith** is a dynamic Saxophonist, Mentor, Motivational speaker, and Music director. He is a Governors State University alum (BA '18) and has performed on numerous stages. In addition to performing for many parties, banquets, festivals, award shows, and galas, Justin has shared the stage with Jasmine Guy, Arrested Development, Kirk Franklin, and Orbert Davis. Justin was a key organizer in the Illinois budget stalemate. He used music to help spread the critical message that Illinois needs a transformational budget. His music was featured on Capitalfax.com, and he later appeared on Chicago tonight to further spread the message and took on a host of advocacy trips to be a voice for the students of Illinois. Justin's goal is to foster a movement that brings unity and spreads a positive message in music and in life, that inspires leadership, empowerment, growth, and changing youth for the betterment of the community.

### **Victor Garcia**

Born and raised in Chicago, Victor was introduced to music via the piano at age 4. At age 8, Victor began learning the guitar and singing with his father and brother in a Latin American-style Trio. Victor began teaching himself to play the trumpet in high school, being influenced by recordings of jazz musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie, Clifford Brown, Charlie Parker, and Freddie Hubbard. Since then, his trumpet talent has heralded international acclaim. The lineup of greats he's performed with speaks for itself: Aretha Franklin, Arturo Sandoval, Spoon, Monty Alexander, Wynton Marsalis, Victor Manuelle, Nicholas Payton, La India, the Temptations, Steve Turre, BeBe Winans, Tito Puente, Jr., Paquito d'Rivera, Randy Brecker, Branford Marsalis, and Dr. John. Victor has recorded on dozens of albums, three of them Grammy-nominated.

### **Pharez Whitted**

Pharez Whitted is a performer, educator, composer, producer, clinician and was nominated for Independent Jazz Artist of the year in 2011. Pharez was named Chicagoan of the Year in Jazz for 2016 and inducted into the Shortridge High School Hall of Fame 2017. He is the coordinator of the Chicago division of the JALC Jazz in Schools program. He has taught at prestigious colleges and universities such as Wabash College, The Ohio State University and most recently Chicago State University. He is currently the Director of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras (CYSO) Jazz Orchestra. Whitted has performed with such notable musicians such as Branford Marsalis, George Duke, Elvin Jones, Kirk Whalum, John Mellencamp, Nancy Wilson, Meshell Ndegeocello, Chaka Khan and Slide Hampton.

### **Kevin King**

Kevin King is a Woodwindist, Educator, and Composer From Chicago, Illinois. King honed his skills on the Chicago music scene under the tutelage of mentors like Willie Pickens, Bobby Broom, and Orbert Davis. King has played all over the country with countless artists including Marquis Hill, Willie Pickens, Art Ensemble of Chicago, Buddy Guy, Reginald Chapman, Adam

Neely, Larry Gray, Corey Wilkes, Renee Baker, Steve Gorn, Junius Paul, Bobby Broom, etc. King is the leader of two bands. The Data Waves is a funk/pop fusion band based in Chicago(the most recent album release is album revolution). As well as a newly formed band named Touch The Sky that is a melting pot of every style he has assimilated including but not limited to Jazz, Funk, Reggae, Metal, Gospel, Alternative, Punk, Prog, Classical, Indian Classical, and many more. Touch The Sky plans to release their debut record in late 2021 or early 2022. King is an active educator and has had a constant private studio as well as given masterclasses in Improvisation, woodwind mastery, stage fright, composition, and many other facets of music.

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