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An Afternoon of Jazz

In Honor of Don & Heide Wolff, Founders of the Wolff Jazz Institute
Harris-Stowe State University Salutes Jazz Then & Now
Homecoming 2008

HSSU: Building Beyond Our Hopes & Dreams

Sunday, October 5, 2008

Jazz Show 1 p.m.-3 p.m. (HGA Main Auditorium)

featuring live performances by:

Anita Rosamond

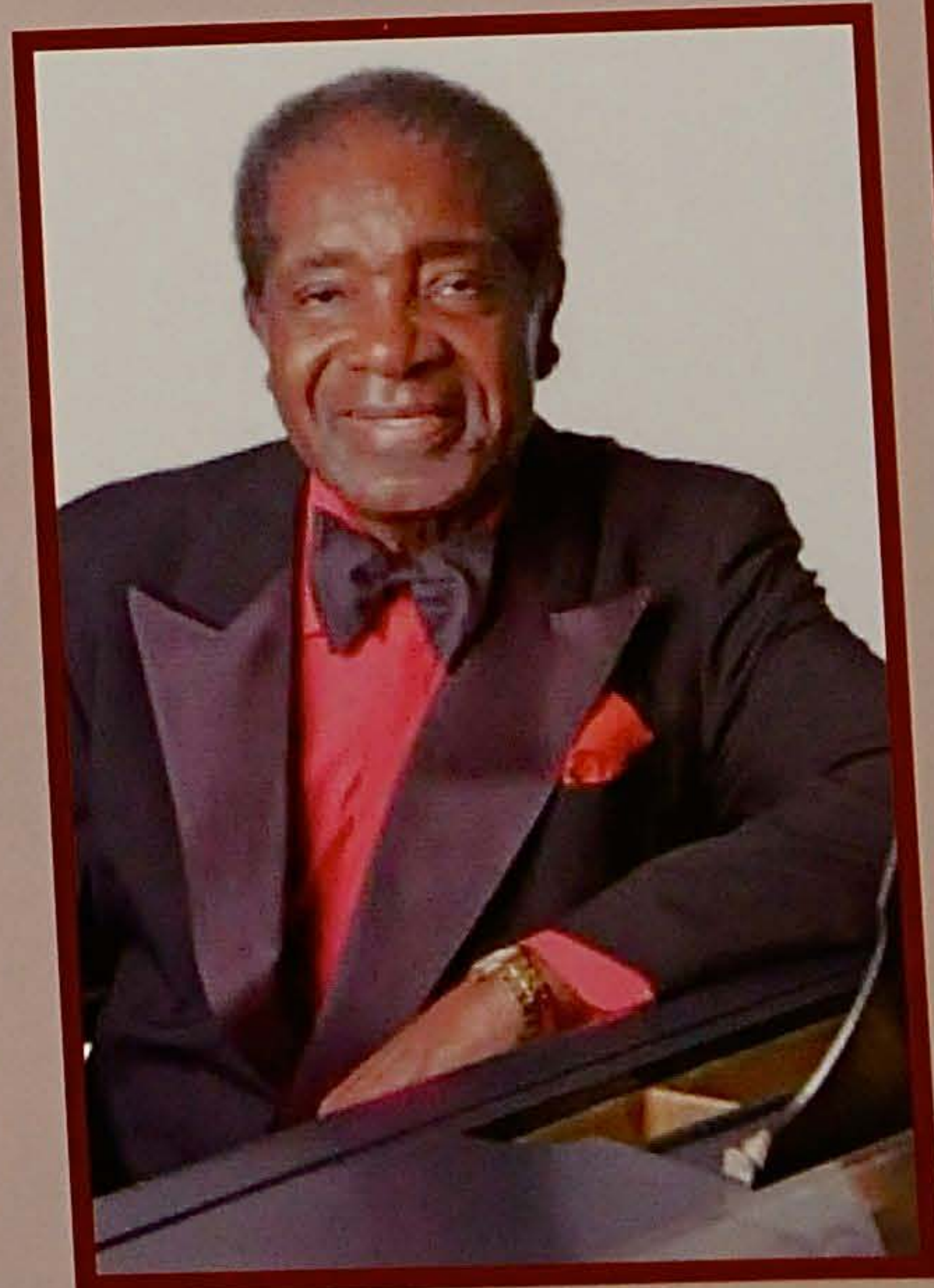
Vocalist, pianist, songwriter Anita Rosamond has earned a reputation as one of the most exciting performers on the Midwest music scene. Anita has won critical acclaim for performances at venues such as the Pageant, Finale, the Sheldon Concert Hall and Jazz at the Bistro. She has been featured at events like the St. Louis Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Old Webster Jazz and Blues Festival, the Saint Louis Art Fair and the KMOX Jazz and Wine Festival. Her vocal talent and wide-ranging repertoire are showcased on her acclaimed recordings: "Timeless," a winning blend of jazz standards, soulful R&B and well-crafted originals; "This is Christmas," an impressive mix of holiday classics and "Liftin' Me Higher - LIVE!" - a tribute to classic songs recorded by legendary female vocalists of the 1960s and 1970s.

From intimate settings to ballrooms, concert halls and outdoor festivals, Anita never fails to deliver just the right touch, whether singing in the spotlight center stage in front of her talented band or performing solo, while accompanying her heartfelt vocals with her distinctive keyboard style.



Gene Lynn

Saint Louis' legendary singer Gene Lynn has entertained audiences for years with his smooth voice and impeccable style. He is best known for his coverage of the great American songbook and also the jazz and music standards popularized by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Nat King Cole. Lynn is equally at home with rhythm and blues classics from such greats as Joe Williams and Barry White. Make no mistake, though, Lynn's style is all his own, and he leaves his own personal mark on every performance.



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Mae Wheeler

Mae Wheeler is a Memphis native, daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, mentor, promoter, dreamer and singer. She has been a fixture in the St. Louis jazz scene for many years now, and some call her a legend.

She has performed at nearly all the jazz venues in the St. Louis area, as well as many jazz locations throughout the Midwest. She has appeared with Pearl Bailey, Count Basie, Sonny Stitt, Mitch Miller and Arthur Brysock. After performing for more than 40 years, she says, "I've seen some things and I've been through some things and I have survived it all."

Nicknamed "Lady Jazz," Wheeler says her greatest desires are "to be the best song stylist and entertainer that I can be, to share my God-given talent with all who will partake, to help anyone that I can and to pass on the legacy of music entertainment as an art form to future generations."

She has carried out the admirable task of establishing a scholarship to support "C" average high school students financially so they can further their creative education. Wheeler has also established a nonprofit booking and talent agency known as PMAA Inc., which stands for Professional and Amateur Artists Recognized, and the company serves the under-represented talent in the St. Louis area.

Anita Jackson

Anita Jackson is a native St. Louisian who returned home in 1999 after having lived in New York City for 12 years. She graduated from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy-New York and has performed extensively both nationally and internationally in musical theater productions, concert tours and workshops. Jackson has recorded with artists such as Bette Midler on her Grammy award-winning song "From a Distance" and with Cissy Houston and the New Hope Radio Choir. She again collaborated with Cissy Houston in her 1995 Grammy award-winning album "Face To Face" and her 1997 album "He Leadeth Me." Jackson has performed with Cissy and Whitney Houston in a tribute to Whitney Houston and Gene Autry, sponsored by the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children. As a background vocalist, Jackson has performed for Patti Austin in "I Can Move This Mountain," with Mariah Carey in "Anytime You Need a Friend" (video), with Kedar Entertainment/Universal (Motown) Records recording artist Chico DeBarge and Joe on their national tours "My Name Is Joe" and "Long Time No See," and Universal Records recording artist Rachid with his debut album "Prototype." She has performed as a background vocalist for Shirley Caesar, Tramaine Hawkins and Cissy Houston in Vy Higginsen's "This Is My Song" at Madison Square Garden in New York and has performed and recorded with Albertina Walker and Dorothy Norwood on various projects.

Since returning home, Jackson has performed with The Black Repertory under the phenomenal direction of Ron Himes in "Gospel at Colonus," as Caroline in "Caroline or Change" and as Armelia in "Ain't Misbehavin'." She has appeared as the featured vocalist in The Jazz Edge Big Band and other jazz and gospel organizations in and around St. Louis. Jackson gives thanks for the family of Christ and praises God for His matchless goodness and mercy. She dedicates her performances to Christian Reighna-Lee for helping her fulfill her purpose. Jackson values Ella Fitzgerald's quote, "The only thing better than singing is more singing."



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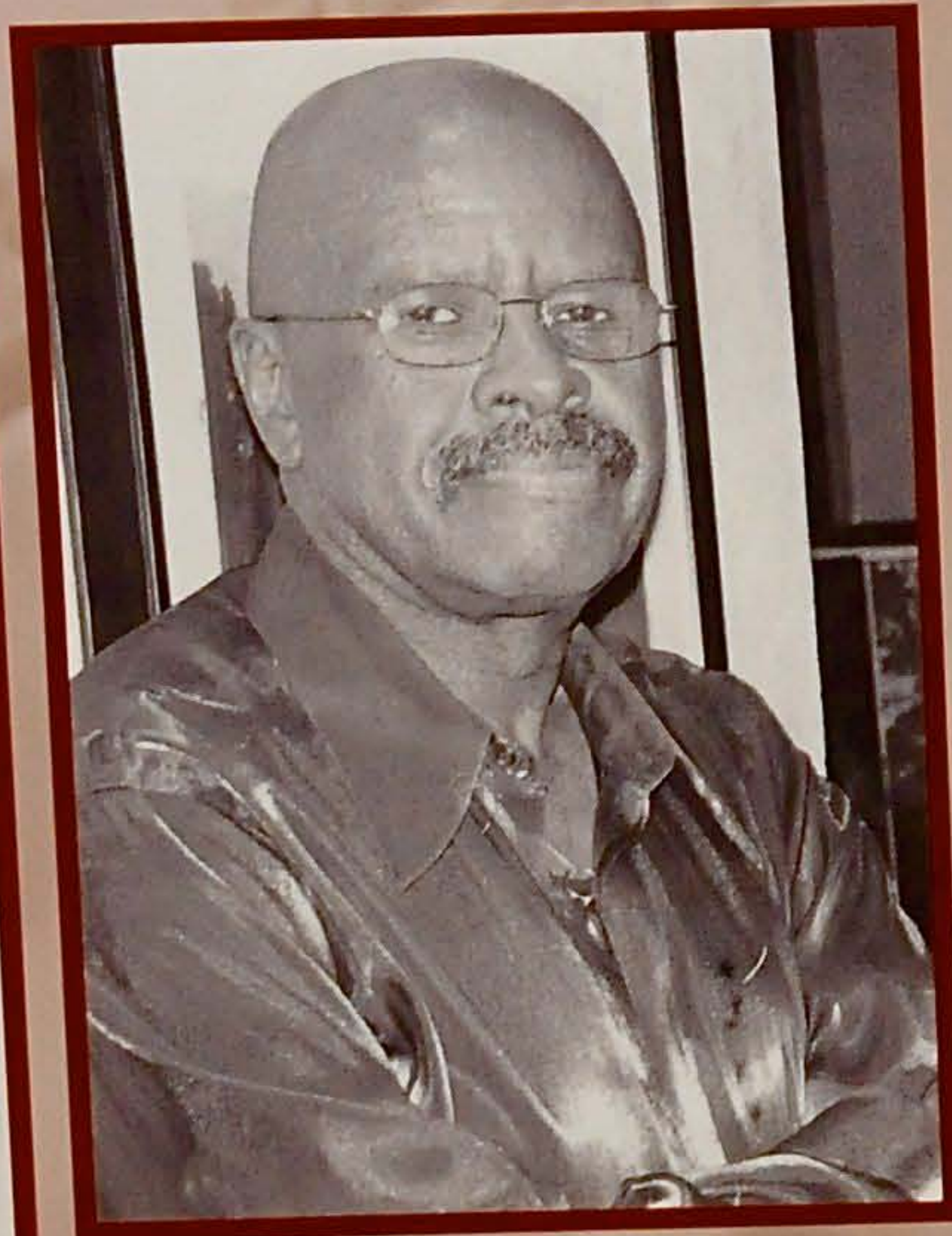
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Bill Tucker

Bill Tucker, male vocalist extraordinaire, has been one of St. Louis' best kept secrets, but Tucker is coming out in full swing. With a truly unique, smooth and laid-back style, Tucker has an impressive command of the rhythm and blues, Motown, blues, jazz and pop musical genres.

In 1961, Tucker headed a doo-wop group called the Ili Lights. They appeared on the popular Showtime at the Apollo in New York City. Here in St. Louis, MO, where Tucker made his home following an honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps, he has performed at the Gent's Lounge, SRO, Hannegan's and Ruby's Lounge in East St. Louis, Ill. In 1974, Tucker operated a club called Tobacco Road in St. Louis. Tucker has also appeared locally on a band stand called Black Circle Hour. One of his most memorable moments was when he was given the opportunity to sing for thousands of fans at the 1987 World Series Baseball Game for the St. Louis Cardinals. He has also performed at weddings, corporate events, dinner engagements, private parties, fraternities and many other organizations.

Most recently, Tucker was the featured vocalist for more than 12 years at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis, where he performed nightly for numerous people from around the world. Tucker continues to perform locally and abroad.

Jeffrey Hardin

Jeffrey Hardin is a native of St. Louis with a musical career that spans 20 years. He seasoned his jazz, rhythm and blues and gospel vocal style in his father's church when he began singing in the choir at 5 years of age. Hardin's spiritual appreciation for all musical styles has established him as one of St. Louis' most versatile singers in the area.



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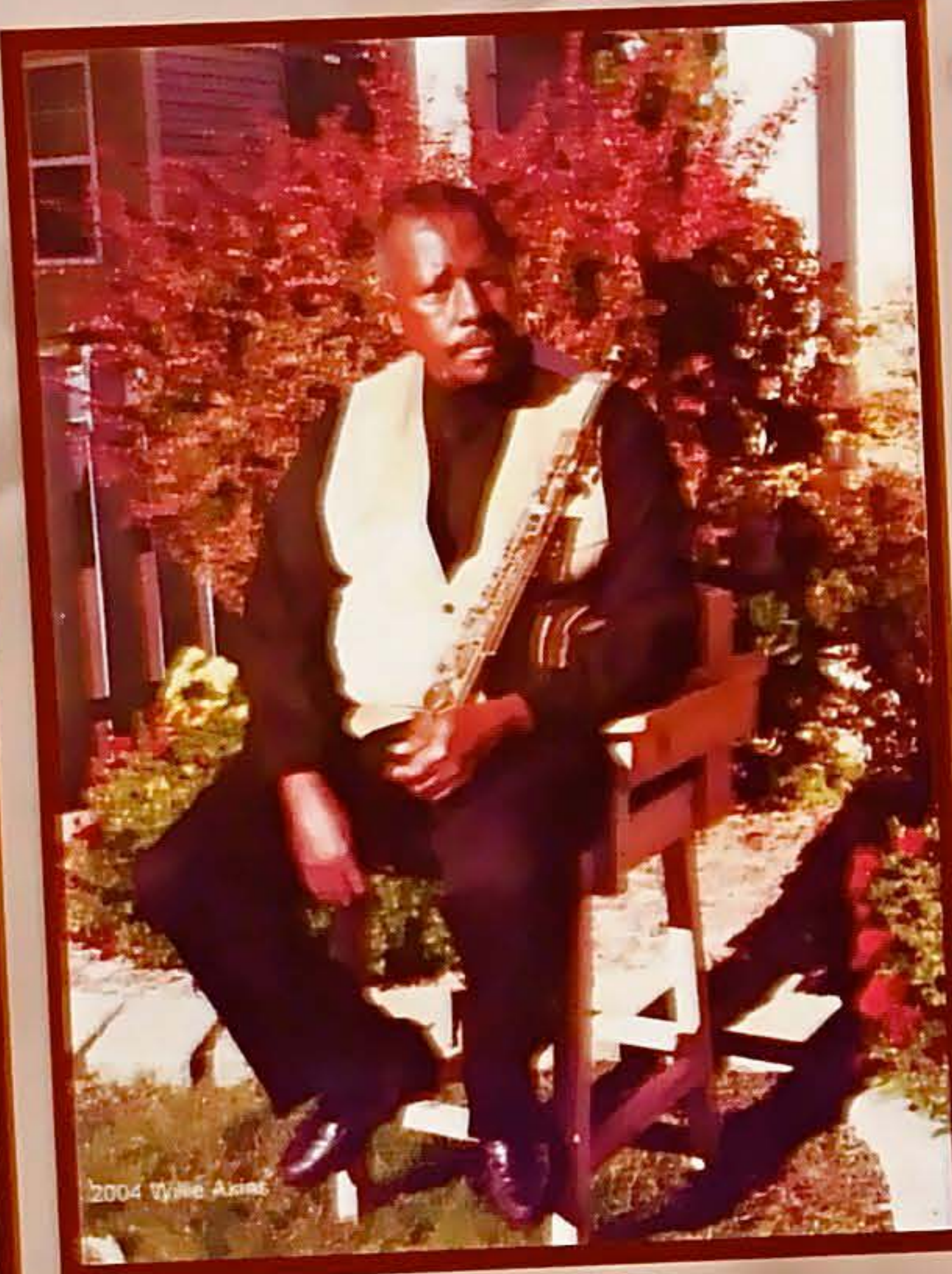
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Willie Akins

Willie Akins has carved his musical niche for more than 50 years on tenor and soprano saxophone. His performing career began with jobs in a variety of small New York clubs, while he built his skills and learned his subject firsthand. A decade of experience with masters such as Thelonius Monk and John Coltrane and sessions at Birdland, Minton's, Connie's and Small's Paradise in Harlem, strengthened his ideas as well as his style.

Akins has played with Billy Cobham, Johnny Coles, George Cables, Ted Dunbar, Roy Hanes, Jack McDuff and long-time friend John Hicks. Since his return to St. Louis in 1968, Akins has continued to hone his craft into the definitive bebop he plays today. Since 1995, Akins is presently performing Saturday matinees at Sprull's on Jefferson and Stoddard.

Akins' work is showcased on *Alma*, his 1998 debut release. Through his own originals, he moves easily from a lush McCoy Tyner ballad, to Jimmy Heath hard bop. In 2001, Akins began teaching jazz combo band as a musical instructor at Webster University, in Webster Groves, MO.

In 2004, Akins received a trophy for excellence in the arts from The St. Louis Arts Awards Arts & Education Council. Known for his teaching and training of young jazz musicians, this St. Louis legend is now rising to a long overdue place of statue in the world of jazz music.

"Willie is one of the unsung heroes of jazz... a mentor to generations of up and coming... Anyone involved with St. Louis Jazz has been touched by Willie," said the late John Hicks, veteran jazz pianist of the New York and international scene.

Michael Renner of the St. Louis Post Dispatch said, "The Akins sound — strong, smooth and with an equal footing in blues and bebop — brings to mind the straight-ahead jazz found in New York and St. Louis years ago."

The late Leo Cheers, St. Louis Jazz Radio Icon, said, "His playing symbolizes a true straight-ahead feeling. When I first heard Willie, I immediately thought of John Coltrane. When I hear him now, I think the same thing. He's more mature and his horn has more resonance, but he's still that same cool, calm guy."

Michael Fitzgerald

Michael Anthony Fitzgerald was a typical child growing up on the North side of St. Louis, and did not realize his destiny into music until he reached the 5th grade. At age 10, a band teacher came into his classroom and asked all of the students who would like to play an instrument to raise their hand. As he looked around, no one else had raised their hand. He then jumped up and shouted, "I DO!"

This was the beginning, the development of talent that was truly innate. Not having any prior musical background, nor coming from a family of musical greats, Fitzgerald has proven himself worthy of performing close to the big names.

At the age of 15, Michael began to develop a style of his own, playing the alto and tenor saxophones. A style reflecting his inner soul while his fingers waver from key to key with fluctuation between the formal classical and the contemporary free styles of music. By the time Michael was 18, he had mastered not only the saxophone, but all of the woodwinds and keyboards, as well as becoming a master composer.

As a music major at Webster University, he broadens his musical talents to that of the more formal. With today's high demand of computer technology, Michael has expanded his knowledge to the understanding of music production. He continued to develop various sounds of classical, jazz, R&B and gospel. His awesome techniques have helped to lay the foundation for his impressive improvisation and arrangement skills.

Michael recalls, "I often wondered how it would feel to hear my music on the radio and to receive compensation through the music industry. Having that dream come true, with the release of the nationally distributed CD 'Physical Therapy,' was very satisfying. It really makes you feel like you're on the right track, especially when you see your royalty statements with the amount of performances of your music."

Fitzgerald is a member of the contemporary jazz group Physical Therapy and co-produced their first CD entitled, "Physical Therapy" in 1992. Physical Therapy released its second nationally distributed CD in 1997, entitled "Casino" co-produced again by Michael.

Michael occasionally performs with singers who further enhance his ability to play horns. He is truly making his mark in the highly competitive music industry. His combination of re-mixes and original material is truly mind blowing.























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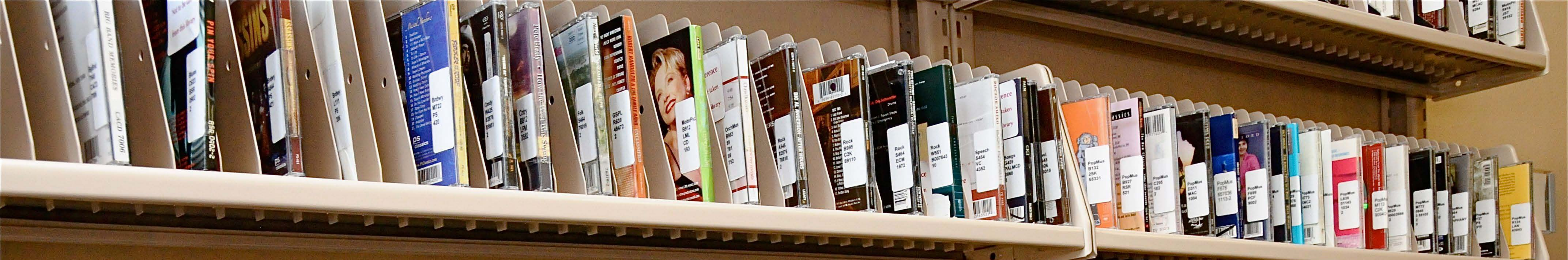


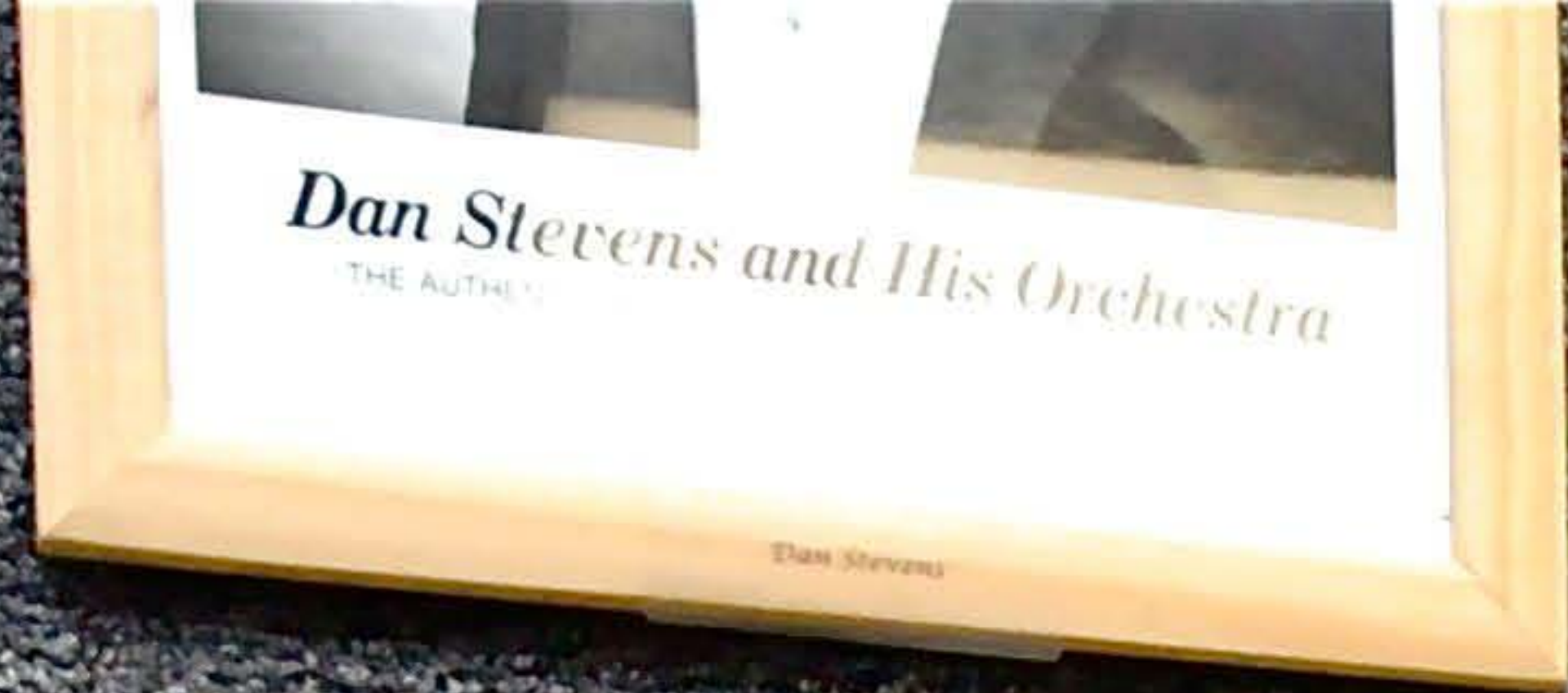




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A framed poster is visible on the wall in the background, featuring a central figure and some text.

ANDRE
RACHMAN











ORCHESTRA

DANCE ORCHESTRA
MOTION PICTURE
OPERA

CLASSICAL
COMEDY
COUNTRY
FOLK



BIG BAND
BLUES
BROADWAY
CHRISTMAS





Club ★ ★ ★
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