



Black Art Jazz Collective

Wayne Escoffery – tenor saxophone

Jeremy Pelt – trumpet

James Burton III – trombone

Corcoran Holt – bass

Victor Gould – piano

Mark Whitfield Jr. – drums

Selections will be announced from the stage from BAJC's latest release *Armor of Pride* as well as music from their previous release *Black Art Jazz Collective Presented By The Side Door Jazz Club*

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

Williamstown, Massachusetts

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Pre-Concert Talk - Berkshire Symphony

Fri Nov 15 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 6:45 PM

Berkshire Symphony

Fri Nov 15 | Chapin Hall | 7:30 PM

Williams Gospel Choir

Sat Nov 16 | Chapin Hall | 4:00 PM

Master Class - Prof. Yair Kless, violin - Visiting Artist Series

Mon Nov 18 | 4:15 PM

Yair Kless, violin - Visiting Artist Series

Tue Nov 19 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 7:30 PM

*Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.*

Wayne Escoffery

Downbeat Critics Poll Winner and Grammy Award winning tenor saxophonist **Wayne Escoffery** is one of the jazz world's most talented rising stars and in-demand sidemen. He has been mostly associated with The Mingus Big Band and with trumpet master Tom Harrell after securing one of the most coveted gigs in jazz: a frontline position in Harrell's working quintet in 2006. For the past decade Escoffery has toured the globe with the trumpeter, recorded seven CDs with The Tom Harrell Quintet and co-produced four of those releases. He has been a member of The Mingus Dynasty, Big Band and Orchestra since 2000 and has made several recordings with the group. Over the years he has recorded and performed internationally with a who's who in Jazz including Ron Carter, Ben Riley, Abdulah Ibrahim, Eric Reed, Carl Allen, Al Foster, Billy Hart, Eddie Henderson, Rufus Reid, Wallace Roney and Herbie Hancock to name a few. Escoffery leads his own groups which tour internationally and has made several highly acclaimed studio recordings with said groups. His current working quartet features pianist David Kikoski, bassist Ugonn Okegwo and drummer Ralph Peterson and has two releases, *Live at Smalls* on the Smalls Live Record label and *Vortex* on the Sunnyside Label. The band's next recording is scheduled for release this spring and will feature the quartet with guests Randy Brecker and Mike Moreno and will be released on the Smoke Sessions Label.

In addition to performing, Escoffery is dedicated to music education and presents lectures and masterclasses on Jazz music. He is currently the saxophone instructor for The New Jersey Performing Arts Wells Fargo Jazz for Teens program and in the Fall of 2016 was appointed Lecturer of Jazz Improvisation and ensemble coach at the Yale School of Music as a part of Yale University's new Jazz Initiative, the first of its kind for the University. The vast array of contributions Wayne Escoffery has made to the Jazz world in such a short time leads seasoned industry professionals like Niel Tesser to write, "Pay special attention to tenor man Wayne Escoffery whose rapid development - from album to album (and seemingly solo to solo) - has given us a jazz hero for the coming decade".

Black Art Jazz Collective

Mr. Escoffery is also a founding member of Black Art Jazz Collective which is comprised of fellow rising star musicians of his generation and is dedicated to celebrating African American Icons through originally composed music while serving as a positive role-model for young African-Americans and young musicians of all ethnicities worldwide. The group's recording *Black Art Jazz Collective Presented By The Side Door Jazz Club* (in Old Lyme) received 4.5 stars in the October, 2016 issue of Downbeat Magazine. The Collective's latest release *Armor of Pride* has received rave reviews and was number two on the Jazz charts for several weeks just behind John Coltrane's *Both Directions at Once*.

