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***JAZZ ON THE AVENUE* SERIES PREMIERS WITH MULGREW MILLER TRIO**

Most in-demand jazz pianist inaugurates jazz series at King Arts Complex Theatre

Columbus, Ohio – *Jazz on the Avenue*, co-presented by the Jazz Arts Group and the King Arts Complex, kicks off a swingin' season full of small group jazz with the Mulgrew Miller Trio on Saturday, October 14 at 8:00pm at the King Arts Complex Theatre, 867 Mount Vernon Avenue.

Mulgrew Miller has established himself as an inventive soloist, a significant composer and a major force on the current jazz scene. With the technical prowess of Oscar Peterson and a style influenced by McCoy Tyner, Miller is a top jazz session pianist appearing on over 400 recordings with legends including Art Blakey, Betty Carter and Tony Williams, among others. His straight-ahead, hard swinging piano trio is arguably one of the finest on the scene today.

Jazz on the Avenue, formerly known as the *Firehouse Jazz* series, is co-presented by the Jazz Arts Group and the King Arts Complex, and presents a mixture of the finest local and national jazz musicians in small ensembles, offering an intimate experience for concertgoers. The new name ties the series to its location at the King Arts Complex Theatre on Mount Vernon Avenue – once called "The Avenue" – and to the history of jazz in Columbus, when jazz clubs dotted the city's Near Eastside from the 1920s through the '60s.

Single tickets (\$25/\$15 for KAC members) are available for purchase from the Jazz Arts Group online at www.jazzartsgroup.org or by phone at 614.294.5200. Single tickets are also available through the King Arts Complex (614.645.0642) or online at www.ticketmaster.com. Student Rush \$10 tickets (valid college ID required) and Be-Bop Balcony \$5 tickets (ages 6-18) are available at the door. Series subscriptions are also available through the Jazz Arts Group, providing subscribers with tickets for all six 2006-07 performances for only \$99.

The *Jazz on the Avenue* series continues November 11 with "Fathead & Fatback!" featuring David "Fathead" Newman with the Tony Monaco Trio. A complete schedule can be found online at www.jazzartsgroup.org.

More about Mulgrew Miller

"...No pianist of Miller's generation brings such a wide stylistic palette to the table." – *DownBeat Magazine*

As a child, Mulgrew Miller began picking out melodies on the piano at six, took lessons at eight, and went on gigs with his older brother at eleven. As a teenager in his native Greenwood, Mississippi, he absorbed all kinds of musical influences – blues, country and western, gospel, R&B, and classical European – but it was upon his first listen to Oscar Peterson that he knew he would become a jazz pianist.

Since beginning his professional career at age 20 with the Duke Ellington Orchestra, led by the late Mercer Ellington, Miller has worked with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, Woody Shaw and Betty Carter, and was one of the founding members of Tony Williams' Quintet. Having gained experience with such luminaries, Miller rapidly became established as one of the most in-demand pianists on the New York jazz scene. Miller continues to be a vital contributor in the world of jazz; highly esteemed as a skilled, swinging accompanist and an inventive soloist by veterans and "young lions" alike, he has established himself as a leader of vision and a significant composer whose style exhibits a very personal way with melody, harmony and rhythmic feeling. Miller has appeared throughout the U.S., Europe, Japan, Australia and Canada, and he is a member of the Contemporary Piano Ensemble, a unique group consisting of four pianists performing simultaneously on four grand pianos with a rhythm section.

Miller made his first recording as a leader in 1985, and through the '80s and '90s recorded a series of fine albums on the Landmark and Novus labels. Miller went into the studio again as a leader in 2002 with his Wingspan project, after a seven-year hiatus, recording for the MaxJazz label. The CD, appropriately titled *The Sequel*, quickly ascended to the #1 position on the radio airplay charts and placed #18 for the 100 most-played recordings of 2002. Miller has since released two live recordings, *Live at Yoshi's (Volume One)* in 2004 and *Live at Yoshi's (Volume Two)* in 2005, both recorded in 2003 at Yoshi's at Jack London Square in Oakland, CA, one of the world's finest jazz clubs. Miller has a total of twelve recordings as a leader to his credit, and appears on over 400 recordings.

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The Jazz Arts Group advances America's musical art form through performance, education, support of professional musicians and by commissioning new works. The Jazz Arts Group receives ongoing support from the Ohio Arts Council, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and The Columbus Foundation.

The mission of **The King Arts Complex** is to enrich and improve the quality of life in our community and society, creating enhanced understanding and harmony by preserving, presenting and fostering the contributions of African Americans through creative expression and education.