

# FOCUS

## STEVE WILSON

When The New York Times decided to do a feature article on "A Sideman's Life," they wisely called on one of the Big Apple's most in-demand musician - saxophonist Steve Wilson. As a veteran of various jazz ensembles led by Chick Corea, Lionel Hampton, Dave Holland, Buster Williams, Mulgrew Miller, Leon Parker, and Michele Rosewoman, Wilson was the perfect choice: "the quintessential sideman," wrote The Times.

Time for The Times to update their story. Wilson has broken out from the sideman's role, showcasing his performance and compositional skills as a leader in his own right with "Generations," - CCD-9019-2 his debut disc for Corea's two-year-old Stretch Records.

"Being a sideman is so many different groups has allowed me to observe and absorb what it takes to be a leader," explains Wilson as he talks about moving from sideman to main man. "As a leader, you have to be responsible not just for yourself and your own musical abilities, but for the other musicians as well."

A Hampton, Virginia native, Wilson began his formal training as a musician at the age of 12, and started performing with local R&B funk bands through his teenage years. Moving from oboe (which earned him a scholarship to the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond) and baritone sax to the alto and soprano horns, Wilson had the opportunity to study or perform with jazz greats Jimmy and Percy Heath, John Hendricks, Jaki Byard, Frank Foster, and Ellis Marsalis. In 1986, Wilson landed a chair in the band

OTB (Out of the Blue), a sextet of promising young East Coast musicians sponsored by Blue Note records. The next summer, he made the big move to New York City, and continued to perform with OTB until 1989. He also toured the U.S. and Europe for a year with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, and signed on as a hornman with fellow OTB alum-

nus Ralph Peterson's acclaimed Quintet and Fo'tet.

At the dawn of the 1990's, Wilson expanded his universe and his sideman's chops through high-profile gigs with Rosewoman, Renee Rosnes, and the American Jazz and Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks orchestras. He also joined the Buster Williams Quintet.



## The 1999 Ellington Centennial commemorative tour



Wynton Marsalis and the entire Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra play to benefit Young Audiences

Portland, OR - Wynton Marsalis and the entire Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra launch their global tour of The Ellington Centennial celebration called America In Rhythm and Tune at 7:30 PM on March 10, 1999 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra chose Portland as the first stop for the commemorative tour which will visit 35 additional cities in the United States, and for the first time in Portland the entire Lincoln Center Orchestra will accompany Marsalis. Not only does the concert celebrate the 100th anniversary of jazz legend Duke Ellington, but also it supports potential artists by raising funds for Young Audiences.

During the 1998-1999 season, Wynton Marsalis and his Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra will inaugurate The Ellington Centennial with their America in Rhythm and Tune concert. The Ellington Centennial is a yearlong acknowledgment of Duke Ellington's contributions to jazz music. Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington is considered by many to be America's greatest composer,

bandleader, and recording artist. The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra will embark on six months of national and international touring featuring all Ellington programs, working with major performing arts organizations across the world. Ellington would have been 100 years old on April 29, 1999, and Jazz at Lincoln Center aims to be the center of the international celebration of this great artist.

Wynton Marsalis, the first jazz artist to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize in music, is considered the most accomplished and acclaimed jazz artist and composer of his and a distinguished classical musician as well. A recipient of eight Grammy Awards, Marsalis serves as a mentor to future generations of musicians, sharing his soul on a series of recording and through his vision as Artistic Director of the internationally renowned organization Jazz Lincoln Center (JALC).

Marsalis, a board member of National Young Audiences, honors his commitment to the arts in education by using the concert to benefit Young Audiences of Oregon and

Southwest Washington, the local chapter of the nation's leading arts in education organization. Young Audiences seeks to enhance young people's education with creative resources from the arts community. Each year Young Audiences presents over 1,500 arts events or over 200,000 local arts lovers. At a time when the arts are vanishing from the classroom, Young Audiences makes the arts affordable to schools throughout the state by subsidizing the cost of school performances, residencies and workshops presented by talented local musicians, storytellers, dancers, theatre, and visual artists.

Tickets for The Ellington Centennial are now available at Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office and all Ticket Master outlets. Tickets cost \$75, \$55, and \$39. Patron tickets, sold by Young Audiences, cost \$125, and include the pre and post concert receptions. For patron tickets call (503) 225-5900 or (360) 693-1829. For group sales call (503) 220-0901. All ticket sales benefit Young Audiences of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

## Dawson Creek



Revelations - In the conclusion of a powerful two-part episode, Joey (Katie Holmes) and Jack (Kerr Smith) put everything on the table as they redefine their new relationship in the "...And That Is The Question" episode of "Dawson's Creek" airing Wednesday, (8-9 PM ET) on the WB Network.

## McMenamins White Eagle Implements Cover Charge

Minimal fee instituted March 1, 1999

PORTLAND, OR - Beginning March 1, 1999, McMenamins White Eagle will charge a minimal entrance fee for nightly live music.

A decision to increase the range and caliber of artists made necessary a minimal cover charge.

Management hopes that rais-

ing the bar will drive a new breed of music-lovers to discover the historic charm of the Eagle, putting it back on Portland's musical map.

The White Eagle is located at 836 North Russell Street in Portland. The hours are 11:00am-1:00am Monday through Thursday, 11:00am-2:30 Friday and

Saturday and noon to midnight on Sunday.

For more information, please contact Ken Naffziger at McMenamins Headquarters at 503-223-0109.



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