

Friday, April 11, 2003

**David Murray and the Gwo-Ka Masters**

David Murray – tenor saxophone, bass clarinet  
Guy Konkete- lead vocals  
Klod Kiavue- congas, ka-drums, vocals  
Philippe Makala- ka-drum, vocals  
Omar Kabir– trumpet  
Jaribu Shahid – bass  
Hamid Drake – drums

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series welcomes back the much lauded and highly acclaimed tenor saxophonist and bass clarinetist, David Murray. “He remains the most formidable tenor soloist of his generation,” concludes The Penguin Guide to Jazz.

David Murray exhibited a passionate style of playing when he burst onto the New York City scene in the mid '70s, mixing the avant-garde fervor of Albert Ayler with some of the tonal qualities of Paul Gonsalves. Murray has recorded 84 albums as a leader or co-leader for Black Saint, DIW, Columbia and Justin Time, and is a founding member of the World Saxophone Quartet, with whom he has released 14 records. Mr. Murray can also be found on recordings by Jack DeJohnette’s “Special Edition”, James ‘Blood’ Ulmer’s “Music Revelation Ensemble”, numerous Kip Hanrahan projects and Clarinet Summit (Alvin Batiste, Jimmy Hamilton and John Carter). Murray has won many prestigious awards including a Grammy Award (1988), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1989) and the Danish Jazzpar prize (1991).

Born in Berkeley, Calif., on Feb.19, 1955, Mr. Murray learned elementary harmony from his mother, a pianist in the Missionary Church of God and Christ. He began playing tenor at age 9, then found an interest in rhythm 'n' blues at age 12 and was leading groups as a teenager. He attended Pomona College near Los Angeles for two years, before moving to New York City in 1975.

“Soulfulness,” wrote Stanley Crouch, “that blend of optimism, heroism, humor and sensuality in the face of the tragedies of life has always been basic to Murray’s music. His is a remarkable and personal synthesis which illustrates a full awareness of the fact that the entire legacy of jazz is avant-garde and precedent setting in one way or another.”

From his big band (which he has led since 1984), to his abiding interest in music from throughout the African Diaspora, Mr. Murray is always on the creative cusp. “I just want to collaborate with the best musicians,” he has said. In 1997, Mr. Murray recorded “Fo Deuk Revue”, with Senegalese percussionist Doudou N’Diaye Rose, and formed his “Creole” project, with Guadeloupean vocalist Guy Konkete and drummer Klod Kiavue,. The album that they produced, *Yonn-De* (Justin Time), fuses the power of gwo-ka (indigenous drumming and chanting) with the bite and polish of a jazz ensemble.