

Festival Program Guide



ART ADDISON FARMER MEMORIAL Jazz Festival

Saturday, August 23, 2003

4:00 pm to 10:00 pm

**Harrah's North River Parking Area
Council Bluffs, Iowa**

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ART ADDISON FARMER
MEMORIAL
Jazz Festival

Saturday, August 23, 2003

Featuring

The Ryan Kisor Quartet

8:00 pm

Dick Oatts

with

The Bluffs Big Band

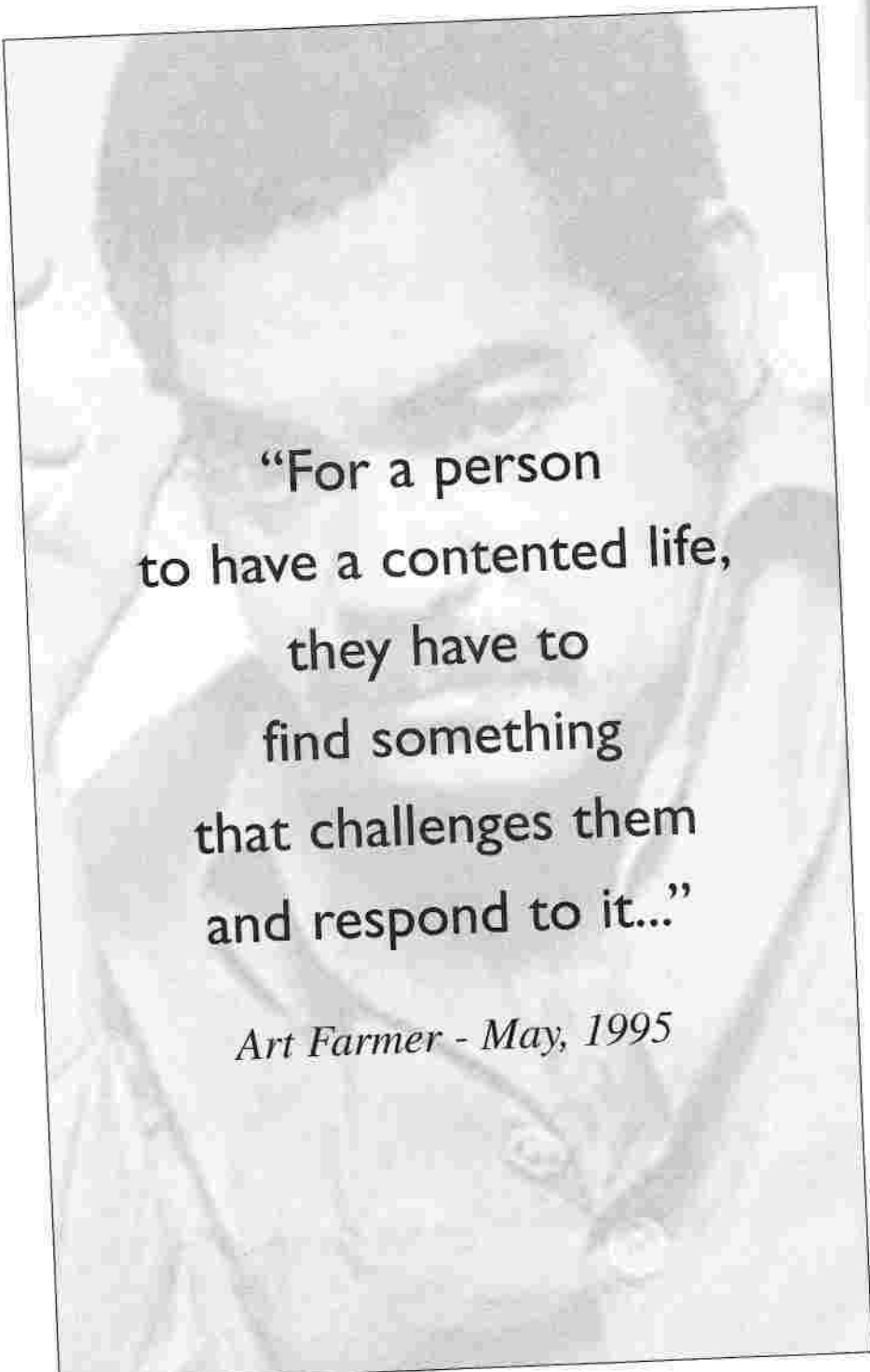
6:30 pm

Ric Swanson & Urban Surrender

5:15 pm

Susie Thornton Quintet

4:00 pm



“For a person
to have a contented life,
they have to
find something
that challenges them
and respond to it...”

Art Farmer - May, 1995

ART AND ADDISON FARMER

TWO GREAT JAZZ MUSICIANS

Art and Addison Farmer were two of the most respected jazz musicians in America and Europe. They were twin brothers born in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1928 to a musical family.

Though Addison died in 1963 of a brain aneurysm, he made his mark as a respected bassist playing in Los Angeles with Miles Davis and Charlie Parker. Addison later played with Teddy Edwards, Jay McShann and Gerald Wilson before moving to New York to work with his brother Art, Stan Getz, and other notable Jazz musicians. He was an original member of the famous Farmer-Golson Jazztet which was formed by his brother Art and saxophonist Benny Golson.

Brother Art continued a long respected jazz career, which lasted about 50 years before he died of a heart attack in New York City at the age of 71. Art Farmer was an eloquent jazz musician who was a master of the trumpet, flugelhorn and an instrument of his own creation he called the 'flumpet' which was sort of a hybrid flugelhorn and trumpet.

Art practiced his trumpet diligently all of his life and was a very versatile musician. His playing was characterized by a sweetly lyrical tone and a melodic approach to phrasing. Art was an excellent reader and was very good at improvisation. These skills enabled him to play with big bands and small groups of various kinds from Horace Silver, Lionel Hampton, Gerry Mulligan to Art Blakey. In 1959, Art Farmer collaborated with noted saxophonist Benny Golson in organizing The Jazztet, which played and recorded some of the classic music of the bop era.

In the late 60's when rock music was taking hold in America, Farmer moved to Vienna, where he joined the state subsidized Austrian Radio Orchestra. During the latter years of his career he traveled frequently between Europe and America making over a hundred recordings and playing in numerous venues. He played Haydn's First Trumpet Concerto with the Austrian-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonic Orchestra in 1994. In that same year, a concert honoring his lifetime musical achievements was given at the Lincoln Center. Many jazz musicians, including Wynton Marsalis and Gerry Mulligan, gave him special tribute. In 1999, Art received The National Endowment of the Arts Life Time Achievement Award at the International Association of Jazz Educator's Conference in Anaheim, California.

One of Art Farmer's last performances was a concert on April 28, 1999 at the American Embassy in Vienna, Austria where he performed with his long time Austrian pianist, Fritz Pauer, in celebration of the 100th birthday of his favorite composer, Duke Ellington.

Council Bluffs can be very proud of the many accomplishments of the Farmer twins.

Ryan Kisor

TRUMPET

Ryan Kisor (Trumpet) was born on April 12, 1973, in Sioux City, Iowa and began playing trumpet at age four. Ryan was born into a musical family, his father is professional trumpet player along with his brother Justin, who is presently a student at the Juilliard Jazz Program.

Ryan was encouraged by his early mentor, the legendary musician Clark Terry to enter the prestigious Thelonious Monk jazz competition. In 1990 at the age of 17, Ryan won first prize at The Thelonious Monk Institute's first annual Louis Armstrong Trumpet Competition, beating out noted trumpet players Nicholas Payton and others.

In 1991 Ryan moved to New York City to enroll in Manhattan School of Music to study with trumpeter Lew Soloff and soak up the jazz cultural in New York.

He has performed and/or recorded with the Mingus Big Band, the Gil Evans Orchestra, Horace Silver, Gerry Mulligan, Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, the Philip Morris Jazz All-Stars, and others. As well as being an active sideman, Mr. Kisor has recorded several albums as a leader, including *Battle Cry* (1997), *The Usual Suspects* (1998), *Point of Arrival* (2000) and *The Dream* (2001). He has been a member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra since 1994.



DICK OATTS

SAXOPHONE

Born and raised in Iowa, Oatts was brought up in a musical family and introduced to the saxophone by his father, Jack Oatts, a respected jazz educator and saxophonist. After high school Dick attended Drake University and in 1972 began his professional career in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

It was 1977 when Oatts decided to move to New York City. He then became a member of the Thad Jones - Mel Lewis Orchestra. Since then he has recorded and toured with small groups such as Red Rodney, Eddie Gomez, Vic Juris, Bob Brookmeyer, Mel Lewis, Dom Salvador, Jerry Bergonzi, Flim & The BBs, Fred Hersch, Dave Berkman, Terrell Stafford, Lalo Schiffrin, and Ray Mantilla. His big band and larger group experience include the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Mel Lewis, Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, Lester Bowie, Joe Lovano, Sam Jones-Tom Harrell, Paquito D'Rivera, Jim McNeely, Tito Puente, Kenny Wheeler, and Gunther Shuller.



Oatts has also been featured with the Stockholm Jazz orchestra, Danish Radio Big Band, Rome Radio Big Band, Berlin RIAS Big Band, Norboton Jazz Orchestra, and the UMO Big Band in Helsinki. He has accompanied vocalists like Joe Williams, Sara Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald, Neena Freelon, Mel Torme, and Milton Nascimento. He has recorded solos for pop artists Luther Vandross, James Taylor, and Everything But The Girl.

Oatts is now a Steeplechase recording artist and has five CDs released as a leader (*All of Three / Standard Issue / Simone's Dance / Standard Issue vol. 2 / South Paw*).

He also has a new CD out on the RED label with bassist Dave Santoro entitled *Meru*. Dick has three CDs as leader on the DMP label with pianist and co-leader Garry Dial.

For 30 years Mr. Oatts has appeared at college jazz festivals as soloist and clinician throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, South America, and the Middle East. Oatts has been on the Manhattan School of Music Faculty since 1989 and an artist-in-residence at the Amsterdam Conservatory since 1998.



Susie Thorne

with Joey Gulizia, drums/percussion

Dan Cerveny, piano/keyboard

Mark Luebbe, bass

Joe Genovesi, clarinet/saxophone (alternate)

Susie grew up singing in her father's jazz band and accompanying her mother's school (swing choir) and church choirs on piano. With a family of musicians, Susie was influenced at an early age to a tremendous mix of musical styles.

After attending the University of Colorado at Denver as a piano performance major, Susie continued her vocal studies attending the Academy of the Arts. She has been a professional vocalist, and recording artist for the past 15 years. Susie has traveled extensively on a national and international level and performed at a wide variety of venues from clubs to corporate and private functions, to festivals and concert halls. Susie currently is the Director of Music at a local church with a staff of 12 overseeing and directing seven choirs from traditional to contemporary music.

As a performer focusing primarily on Jazz for the past 5 years, Susie recently recorded and released her first CD. Another recording project is currently in the works. She has also taught vocal jazz improvisation on a private level and continues to perform locally and regionally with her own band.

Urban Surrender

Re-Birth of the Cool Concert - Featuring:

Ric Swanson - Drums

Dennis Strawn, Alto Sax Matt Wallace, Tenor Sax Joe Wheeler, Trumpet

Ann Pearson, French Horn Jerry DeVore, Bass Dan Cerveny, Piano

with Camille Schmidt, Vocal

2003 marks the 20th anniversary for Urban Surrender.

The Omaha based group has performed concerts and clinics throughout the United States, and has recorded a half dozen CDs.

...*"US has a distinctive voice in Contemporary Jazz!"* - Radio and Records Magazine

Ric Swanson is the Leader/Composer/Drummer for *US*. The Berklee College of Music graduate started his professional musical career at age 16, and has worked continuously in the field.

The *US* sound has worked its way on airways nationwide and into National Public Radio and Television, ABC's Wide World of Sports, The Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous and the 1988/2002 Olympics.

US has lent their abilities to back other artists including Paul Schaffer (of David Letterman fame) Larry Coryell, Ritchie Cole and many more.

...*"US has a penchant for blending mainstream sensibilities in Contemporary music!"* - Billboard Magazine

Blending mainstream sensibilities in contemporary music is the *US* Re-Birth of the Cool sound. Reminiscent of the 1950's *Cool Jazz*, these high energy, sparsely orchestrated arrangements with rich harmonic content sets the backdrop for the bands featured soloists.



ART ADDISON FARMER
MEMORIAL
Jazz Festival

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Jazz Arts Midwest, Inc. is a non-profit IRS-501(c)3 volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing and preserving all fine arts. Its specific focus is dedicated to the encouragement of jazz performances and to provide various educational venues to promote, preserve and enhance jazz as America's only true art form.

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