

THE LOUISVILLE JAZZ SOCIETY PRESENTS: TYRONE WHEELER'S TRIBUTE TO DAVID BAKER

THE CAFE

AUGUST 25, 2024

Bassist Tyrone Wheeler leads his 502 Vintage Keys group in a tribute to his teacher and mentor David Baker, a world-renowned trailblazer in jazz education, prolific composer and jazz trombonist and cellist.

Baker (1931-2016), grew up in Indianapolis and by his teens had fallen in love with jazz – haunting jazz clubs ‘from the time I was able to draw a mustache on with an eyebrow pencil and pray it didn’t rain”. (NYTimes). After earning degrees in music education at Indiana University, he auditioned for the Indianapolis Orchestra, but was turned down because he was black. He then taught for several years at a Missouri university before being fired for marrying a white woman, after which he taught privately for several years.

Baker began teaching at Indiana University in 1966, and founded the jazz program there, one of the first in the country, two years later. His students at IU included Michael and Randy Brecker, Chris Botti, Jeff Hamilton, John Clayton, Freddie Hubbard and Jamey Aebersold. He had continued to play trombone in jazz gigs while teaching, including with Quincy Jones and with pianist George Russell’s “out-there” sextet in the sixties, but switched to cello after injuring his jaw in a car wreck.

He wrote over 2000 compositions – jazz, classical and chamber works and film scores, as well as many books on jazz. He was considered a leader in “third stream jazz – the fusion of jazz and classical music, and Russell called him the leader of 21st century soul music.

THE TUNES

The group will play the following tunes in an order determined as the evening progresses and the groove develops. Except for the final three, all were written by Baker.

KENTUCKY OYSTER

LE MIROIR

BLACK THURSDAY

SOLEIL D'ALTAMARA

PASSION

BOSSA BELLE

AULEIL

SUITE FOR CELLO & JAZZ TRIO, FIRST MOVEMENT

TIN TIN DEO

DIZZY GILLESPIE

IN WALKED HORACE

J.J. JOHNSON

EZZ-THETIC

GEORGE RUSSELL

THE PLAYERS

Tyrone Wheeler, a bassist in demand throughout the region, has played with jazz greats such as JJ Johnson, James Moody, Jimmy Raney, Jim Hall and Slide Hampton, toured with the Buddy Rich Big Band and is a regular with the Jamey Aebersold quartet. His trademarks are great swing feel, great note selection and a big sound.

Diego Lyra, a Brazilian pianist/composer, has a Masters in Jazz Composition and Performance from UofL. Now living in Louisville, he performs actively with Louisville jazz greats including Jamey Aebersold, Mike Hyman, Tim Whalen, Tyrone Wheeler and Craig Wagner.

Reed man **Hunt Butler** has been a mainstay on the Louisville jazz scene for many years and plays frequently at French Lick.

Another staple in the Louisville music scene, drummer **Ted Richardson** is a member of the Ron Hayden Group, the Jerry Tolson Group, the Trendells, Boogie Juice and the HPK Trio.

Ellen Weis, cello, is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and voice teacher here.

Thanks for coming out tonight, folks. See you next month at Doug Finke's Gershwin show at the Mellwood Center.

Louisville Jazz Society