

"MOTOWN* TODAY" 2009 CUE ARTISTS SHOWCASE

WORKSHOP / MASTER CLASS / REHEARSAL FACILITATORS



Al McKenzie has played and recorded with an array of world renowned artists including Martha Reeves, O.C. Smith, Esther Phillips, The Spinners, Ali Woodson, Jean Carne, The Four Tops, Mary Wilson, Penny Wells, Norman Connors, The Supremes, The Contours, Etta James, Stevie Wonder, Jennifer Holiday, Kim Weston, Anita Baker, and Marlena Shaw. As Music Director The Temptations, he fostered two gold records, one platinum album, and a Grammy. Al currently records under his label, AMAC Records. His non-profit corporation, In-Accord, operates youth music programs including the weekly "Kids and Jazz" program at Baker's Keyboard Lounge, and provides Interlochen scholarships to Detroit-area instrumental music students. He also serves on the Entertainment Task Force for the City of Detroit, providing opportunities for local entertainers.



Deblon Jackson is an excellent Flautist Born in Detroit Michigan. She received her Bachelors of Music Education at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She was a Flutist in the United States Air Force Band. She is founder of Classique Productions which is dedicated to preserving Jazz music with young people. Her CD White Blaze depicts her excellent musicianship and musical technique. She was the runner-up in the Detroit International Jazz Festival Solo Competition in 2002, founder of Jazz Kids, and won the Detroit finals for Women who Jams June 24, 2006. She has performed with Teddy Harris Jr., James Tatum, Milt Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Johnny Rodriguez, and many others.



Delbert J. Nelson is a native Detroit musician, vocalist, and composer currently touring with the Funk Brothers, as well as performing, recording, and touring with numerous local, national and international artists. He appeared in "Standing In The Shadows of Motown" the documentary film about the Funk Brothers, Motown Records' studio musicians. Mr. Nelson received his most significant musical training under Rev. Charles Nicks, former Minister of Music for the renowned St. James MBC Young Adult and Allegro Choirs, and former Vice President and Leader of the Gospel Music Workshop of America.



Deloris Saulsberry, proprietress of Dees Apparel, is a graduate of Wayne State University's Apparel Design and Merchandising/Art Program. As a fashion design entrepreneur, she produces apparel for men, women, and children, including liturgical attire, elegant formal wear, uniforms, accessories, home décor products, and tailoring services. Mrs. Saulsberry applies her training and experience to educate, inspire, and to have a positive influence on youth, with a focus on mentoring young girls. She is also a substitute teacher in several metropolitan Detroit school districts.



Kelly Miner is a reporter for FOX Toledo News First at 4 and 10 and FOX Toledo News Weekend. Previous to working at Four Seagate she was a part-time news writer for WXYZ in Detroit, her hometown. Kelly earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in telecommunications/film from Eastern Michigan University, and earned her Master's Degree in public administration from Saginaw Valley State University. She hosted her first cable access TV show at the age of 15 in Southfield, Mich. Kelly has received numerous awards for her work and community service, has been a member of the National Association of Black Journalists since 1992, and is a member of the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.



Ralph Armstrong, Bass Player, Cass Technical High School alumnus, classically trained at Michigan's Interlochen School of Fine Arts for four years before joining the Mahavishnu Orchestra. He performed with Frank Zappa and Jean-Luc Ponty. Mr. Armstrong presently tours globally performing with internationally acclaimed artists, including Aretha Franklin, and teaches intermittently at Michigan State University, Oberlin Conservatory, and within the community. He is actively dedicated to representing the interests of professional musicians.



William Townley has been providing professional videography and photography to the metro Detroit and Southeastern Michigan areas for over 25 years. He began shooting both video and photos while at Michigan State University and received a video research grant from the college in 1976. He and his Visuals staff regularly attend workshops and seminars to keep their skill levels updated. Mr. Townley is a former Business Consultant for the Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute, and is presently a Career Counselor with Services To Enhance Potential Center for Entrepreneurial Development.

*("Motown Today" Is Unaffiliated With Motown Records)