



Visiting Artist Series presents  
**DONNY MCCASLIN GROUP**

December 7 . 7 & 9PM  
THE LOW ROOM  
@ MilkBoy ArtHouse

ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM

**VAS**  
VISITING ARTIST SERIES

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center's  
Visiting Artist Series presents

## DONNY McCASLIN GROUP

Donny McCaslin  
*saxophone*

Jeff Taylor  
*voice*

Jason Lindner  
*keyboards*

Mark Guiliana  
*drums*

Nate Wood  
*bass*

*This performance will last approximately 1 hour.*

### PROGRAM TO BE SELECTED FROM:

*Shake Loose*

*Beyond Now*

*Bright Abyss*

*Face Plant*

*Fast Future*

*Henry*

*Stadium Jazz*

*Lazarus*

*Look Back in Anger*

Three-time GRAMMY® nominee Donny McCaslin is the leading saxophonist, composer, and musical pioneer of his generation, receiving wide commercial and critical acclaim in jazz, rock and electronica circles alike. With 12 albums to his name, McCaslin is best known for his collaboration and friendship with the late David Bowie, who tasked McCaslin to work hand-in-hand on his final album, *Blackstar*.

“It was like a dream except it was something I never could have dreamed of,” reflects Donny. “David Bowie was a visionary artist whose generosity, creative spirit, and fearlessness will stay with me the rest of my days.” The result was *Beyond Now*, McCaslin’s latest album dedicated to Bowie.

The next evolution of the Donny McCaslin will be documented on a new recording for Motéma Music in 2018. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two children.

<http://donnymccaslin.com>

#### CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

Donny McCaslin will be presenting a clinic for students in the Jazz Studies department at UMD’s School of Music tomorrow.

Artists lead complicated lives. They collect material for new work, they often teach and engage with community groups and they are always developing their craft.

In **SIDE NOTES**, we are providing good reads and fun facts to give you a sense of who our visiting artists are and what makes them do what they do. Contributing writers include students, faculty, staff and alumni from the extended Clarice family.



Donny McCaslin is one of the great collaborators of the musical world. Please don't understand that to mean that he is constantly playing the role of a secondary figure. Always the bridesmaid and never the bride. No, referring to McCaslin as an extraordinary collaborator should be taken as high praise. Yes, he leads his band and typically we would consider his bandmates to be his collaborators.

But in jazz the music is a constant conversation; no part is more important than any other. Certainly our ears go to the leader, but imagine John Coltrane without bassist Paul Chambers or trumpeter Lee Morgan. Suddenly *Blue Train*, one of the great albums in any genre, lies flat. And this isn't the same as in a string quartet, brass sextet, or an orchestra. Obviously if you remove Paul Watkins the Emerson String Quartet lose something without their cellist. But that cellist can be (pretty adequately) replaced by another because the music is already there. Beethoven has done the heavy lifting of putting it on paper, now it's up to the musicians to translate that.

If you replace Paul Chambers, suddenly the music *has* to become something different because one of the collaborators creating the thing has changed. In jazz the performer is the composer, and all of the performers work together to play a

composition that is uniquely theirs. Even if the bandleader does “the” composition, they still must collaborate with all of the other players to get to a final performance, a performance in which everyone is given the freedom to do at least a little composing of their own. Without this give and take we cannot have jazz.

So to call McCaslin a great collaborator is to say, simply, that he is a great jazz musician. This tautology is perhaps nowhere better demonstrated than on an album that isn’t even McCaslin’s, at least in name. David Bowie’s *Blackstar*, released on 8 January 2016 just two days before the singer’s death, is the perfect demonstration of McCaslin’s abilities as performer, composer, and collaborator.

The album began to take shape in 2014 when Bowie asked composer and bandleader Maria Schneider to work with him on his new album. The two had previously paired on his single “Sue (Or in a Season of Crime),” and Schneider was eager to collaborate again but had other obligations that prevented her from doing so. Instead, she took him to a Donny McCaslin quartet show at 55 Bar in New York’s Greenwich Village neighborhood. For his part, McCaslin was acutely aware that the center of the room’s attention was not on him. “I glanced up and saw where he was sitting. I just tried to keep myself grounded and not think about it. But the pressure was on.”

And Bowie loved what he heard. A few weeks later he sent an email asking McCaslin to work on the album that would become *Blackstar*. What may be surprising to many is the amount of control that the singer gave the band. “He told us: ‘Whatever you hear, I want you to go with it.’ He said ‘great’ to everything.” The creative process was a fairly straightforward one. Bowie wrote the songs and gave them to McCaslin and his band. They then played them however they saw fit and Bowie added the vocals. It was collaboration in the purest sense.

The result was an album that took Bowie to musical places he had never been (which is saying a lot for a musician who made a name for himself by reinventing his music every few years). “Tis a Pity She Was a Whore” blends gospel-inflected keyboards, a face-melting saxophone line, and Bowie’s lurid vocals. “Lazarus,” perhaps the most heralded track from the album is an altogether more mellow affair. It has the sort of quiet, intense build that Bowie first used in “Space Oddity,” but with McCaslin’s group providing a background that sounds more like trance music than jazz.

*Blackstar* breaks new musical ground as a whole and its individual parts all seem to belong to different worlds. It is a testament to McCaslin’s ability as a collaborator that he managed to do for Bowie what Bowie had done for himself over the course of his entire career: he made transformation something that happened song-to-song while always remaining quintessentially “Bowie.”

## ABOUT THE ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM

**THE ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM at The Clarice** curates a multi-arts performance with regional, national and international artists and creative innovators program dedicated to creating performance and learning opportunities for students and our community through artist residencies workshops, master classes, K-12 student matinees and artistic exchange. We believe artists can be a catalyst for community change, leadership and empowerment.

As part of a major public research university, the Artist Partner Program is committed to the creation and investigation of new work and new ways of participating in the performing arts.

The Artist Partner Program has three primary missions:

- To supplement and extend the academic learning and investigation of the classroom for UMD students;
- To provide artistic and cultural opportunities as part of the UMD experience for students, faculty, staff, alumni and university friends;
- To enhance and develop the artistic and cultural ecology of the community that surrounds and supports the university.

Visit [theclarice.umd.edu/app](http://theclarice.umd.edu/app) for more info.

### ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM STAFF

**MARTIN WOLLESEN**

Executive Director, The Clarice

**BOBBY ASHER**

Senior Associate Director

**RICHARD SCERBO**

Director, National Orchestral  
Institute and Festival

**MEGAN PAGADO WELLS**

Associate Director

**JANE HIRSHBERG**

Assistant Director, Campus and  
Community Engagement

**YARINA CONNERS**

Artistic Administrator

**ANDREW GIZA**

Artist Services Coordinator

**AMANDA STAUB**

Graduate Assistant

For the 2017-2018 season, The Clarice is proud to present several artists whose beliefs in social justice and the power of the human spirit inform the art they make. These powerful voices will speak about their work through a series of public events in a variety of formats. Designed to complement UMD's **Do Good** campus initiative to create a hub of activity for philanthropy, nonprofit management, public policy, social change and leadership; these events will educate, inspire and reinforce the importance of taking action to make a positive change in our society and in the world.

**DO GOOD DIALOGUE**  
**ARTMAKING AS AN ACTIONABLE TOOL**

TUE, FEB 13 . 7PM  
 MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

In this Do Good Dialogue, wild Up founder Chris Rountree and UMD faculty from the College of Arts and Humanities host a public conversation, examining how artists create change in society. Rountree writes, "what a set of gargantuan tasks lays out before us. Many of us feel like our work couldn't possibly be enough to do what it needs to do...but I'm eager to talk about how it can and what we can do to make that happen."

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**DO GOOD DIALOGUE**  
**TAKING ACTION:**  
**UPSTANDING AND STANDING UP**

WED, APR 4 . 7PM  
 MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

During this Do Good Dialogue, we discuss the 600 Highwaymen's unique way of making work, usually with a diverse body of performers, in what co-founder Abigail Browde describes as, "sculpting our animal instinct to look at each other."

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**DO GOOD DIALOGUE**  
**NO PLACE TO HIDE: A CONVERSATION**  
**ABOUT PRIVACY OR THE LACK THEREOF**

WED, FEB 28 . 7PM  
 MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

The Plurality of Privacy Project in Five-Minute Plays (P3M5) is a transatlantic theater project focused on the value of privacy. In cooperation with the Goethe-Institute Washington, theaters across the US and Europe have commissioned playwrights to write five-minute plays exploring the central question, "What does privacy mean to you in the digital age?" The results will be presented in different formats by a network of theaters, including The Clarice, between January 2017 and June 2018. In this dialogue, UMD faculty members will host a round-table conversation with three of the participating artist/playwrights.

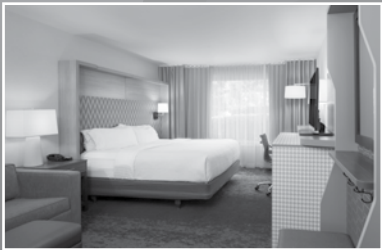
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## UPCOMING VISITING ARTIST SERIES PERFORMANCES

### WENDY WHELAN, BRIAN BROOKS AND BROOKLYN RIDER (USA)

#### SOME OF A THOUSAND WORDS

SAT, DEC 9 . 8PM

*Join the artists for a conversation after the performance, moderated by Vladimir Angelov from Dance ICONS.*

A ballet-inflected contemporary dance work from Wendy Whelan and Brian Brooks, accompanied live by the string quartet Brooklyn Rider.

### 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE

SAT, JAN 27 . 3PM & 8PM

The 35th annual showcase featuring an evening of works by new and established choreographers. Presented in partnership with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

### GRUPO CORPO (BRAZIL) SUITE BRANCA / DANÇA SINFÔNICA

WED, JAN 31 . 8PM

An evening of hypnotic, athletic contemporary Brazilian dance, accompanied by original instrumental music by Samuel Rosa of the band Skank.

### STEFAN JACKIW & JEREMY DENK WITH UMD SCHOOL OF MUSIC VOCAL QUARTET (USA)

#### CHARLES IVES VIOLIN AND PIANO SONATAS

THU, FEB 1 . 8PM

Two of America's most thought-provoking, multi-faceted and compelling classical chamber artists perform Charles Ives' complete sonatas for violin and piano.

### ETIENNE CHARLES (TRINIDAD)

#### CREOLE SOUL

FRI, FEB 2 . 7PM & 9PM

#### MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

Trumpeter and bandleader Etienne Charles ushers jazz into new territory in this buoyant performance embracing his Afro-Caribbean roots.

### WILD UP (USA)

FRI, FEB 16 . 8PM

#### MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This modern music collective committed to creating visceral, thought-provoking happenings, believes that great ideas, empowered by art, are capable of affecting great social change.

### KYLE ABRAHAM/ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION (USA) DEAREST HOME

FRI & SAT, FEB 23 & 24 . 8PM

An interactive theatre performance focused on loving, longing and loss. Experience the show in silence, or don headphones to layer on a rich soundscape.

### ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET (CANADA)

THU, MAR 1 . 8PM

This world-class chamber ensemble brings every piece of music to the audience in vivid color.

### PRIVACY PROJECT (INTERNATIONAL)

FRI & SAT, MAR 2 & 3 . 8PM

#### MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This groundbreaking theater project created by the Goethe-Institut Washington, features five-minute plays exploring the question, "What does privacy mean to you in the digital age?"

### LINDA MAY HAN OH GRP (MALAYSIA/AUSTRALIA/USA)

THU, MARCH 8 . 7PM & 9PM

#### MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

Though the bass rarely takes center stage, in this jazz performance, Linda Oh showcases the instrument's funky, soulful potential.

### CYRO BAPTISTA & BANQUET OF THE SPIRITS (BRAZIL)

FRI, MAR 16 . 8PM

#### MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

A wild, unstoppable world beat percussive band featuring international musicians and spontaneous dance breaks!

### RENÉ MARIE (USA)

#### EXPERIMENT IN TRUTH

THU, MAR 29 . 7PM & 9PM

#### MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This GRAMMY-nominated vocalist borrows various elements of folk, R&B and even classical and country to create a captivating style uniquely her own.

# MILKBOY

# ARTHOUSE

**VENUE | ART | KITCHEN | BAR**

A neighborhood gathering place for refined comfort food, craft beverages and eclectic performances. A partnership between The Clarice at UMD + MilkBoy of Philadelphia.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

**December 11**  
**BOHEMIAN CAVERNS**  
**JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

Some of DC's best perform jazz & big band

**January 20**  
**BOAT HOUSE ROW: THE PREMIER**  
**YACHT ROCK EXPERIENCE**

Prepare to be rocked...lightly

**February 2**  
**ETIENNE CHARLES (TRINIDAD)**

Buoyant Afro-Caribbean influenced Jazz

**February 16**  
**WILD UP (USA)**

An LA-based experimental modern-classical music collective

**March 2 & 3**  
**PRIVACY PROJECT (PARTS 1&2)**

Groundbreaking transatlantic theater project focused on the value of privacy

**March 8**  
**LINDA MAY HAN OH GRP**

The undeniable beating heart of the jazz combo, the bass takes center stage

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 For more information, Contact Cecily Habimana at [habimana@umd.edu](mailto:habimana@umd.edu) or [www.collegeparkpartnership.org/arhousedonation](http://www.collegeparkpartnership.org/arhousedonation)*



APP Visiting Artists Third Coast Percussion engage with K-12 students during a special matinee performance.



# NURTURE THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS

We believe artists can be catalysts for community change, leadership and empowerment.

This season, our Visiting Artists will:

- CREATE opportunities for young audiences to experience live performances and creative conversations through the K-12 School Partner Program
- ENHANCE our understanding of the world through Do Good Dialogues, exploring social justice and the ways the human spirit informs art
- SUPPORT creation and development of new work by UMD students through master classes, coaching and performances of their work by visiting artists
- ENGAGE students through intimate, unplugged performances in residence halls throughout the year, creating connections through art, food, and shared experiences

Immerse yourself in a world of artistic discovery with our 2017-2018 visiting artists and strengthen the future of the arts by making your gift today.

To support the Visiting Artist Series visit [theclarice.umd.edu/make-gift](http://theclarice.umd.edu/make-gift). Or call 301.405.4517.

THE CLARICE