

WILLIS DELONY, pianist

Assisted by
Bill Scarlett, saxophone
Taylor Coker, double bass
Nolan Nevals, drums

PREVIEW PROGRAM

Rondo in A Minor, K. 511

W. A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Three Conceptions (2009)

A Night in Catalonia
Blue on White (“Bleu sur blanc”)
Pulse

Joseph Makholm
(b. 1954)

Sonata No. 2 (rev. 1931)

Allegro agitato
Non allegro – Lento
Allegro molto

Sergei Rachmaninov
(1873-1943)

brief pause to reset stage

Tribute to Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967)

U. M. M. G. (“Upper Manhattan Medical Group”)
Chelsea Bridge
Take the ‘A’ Train

WILLIS DELONY

Willis Delony has won national and international acclaim as a jazz and classical pianist, conductor, chamber player, commercial composer, and arranger. His concert explorations of the jazz and classical piano worlds are showcased in a recent recording of music by American composers entitled *Double Dance – Classical and Jazz Connections II*, which was released by Centaur Records in 2008. A previous album, also on the Centaur label, is entitled *A New World A' Comin' – Classical and Jazz Connections*. In a *Fanfare* magazine review of *A New World A' Comin'*, Peter Burwasser writes: "(Delony) plays with gusto and finesse, and with an especially nimble rhythmic sensibility, a proper combination of attributes for jazz, or any other kind of music-making, for that matter." Previous album credits include a recording of sonatas by Samuel Barber and Sergei Prokofiev, also on the Centaur label, and a jazz album entitled *Civilized Conversations*, featuring Delony and bassist Bill Grimes. He is featured in collaboration with bassoonist William Ludwig on the recent recording, *Rhapsody in Bassoon*, on the Mark Records label, which features the world premiere recording of André Previn's *Sonata for Bassoon and Piano*.

During recent concert seasons, Delony has appeared as piano soloist or conductor with American orchestras in Wichita, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Toronto, Madison (Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra), Spartanburg (South Carolina), Rochester, Omaha, Nashville, Fort Worth, New Orleans (Louisiana Philharmonic), Shreveport, the Sun River Festival Orchestra in Bend, OR and the Florida Orchestra (Tampa). He has appeared as guest soloist with the Columbus (GA) Symphony, Orlando Philharmonic, Toledo Symphony, the Baton Rouge Symphony, the Louisiana Sinfonietta and, in a 2002 Asian tour, the Shanghai Symphony. As a solo recitalist, he performed classical and jazz concerts throughout the United States and Europe. An experienced jazz arranger, Delony's scores have been performed by orchestras throughout the U.S. and Canada. His work as pianist, arranger and conductor is currently featured in *Club Swing* and *Stay Tuned*, the popular orchestral shows featuring the Minneapolis-based vocal group Five By Design.

Delony is the Barineau Professor of Keyboard Studies and Professor of Jazz Studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He is a past recipient of an Artist Fellowship by the Louisiana Division of the Arts in recognition of his achievements in classical and jazz performance.