Iconic drummer and bandleader ART BLAKEY was born in 1919 and tonight’s concert will celebrate him during this 100th anniversary of his birth. Blakey and his group, The Jazz Messengers, virtually created the Hard Bop style of jazz and were at the forefront of the music from 1955-1990. Known for discovering and featuring talented young musicians, the personnel from the various editions of the Jazz Messengers reads like a who's who of modern jazz including trumpeters Lee Morgan, Freddie Hubbard, Woody Shaw and Wynton Marsalis; saxophonists Benny Golson, Johnny Griffin, Wayne Shorter and Branford Marsalis; and pianists Horace Silver, Bobby Timmons, Cedar Walton and James Williams. Propelled by a boundless spirit, active and energetic fills, and a hi-hat that never quits, no drummer swung harder than Blakey. Tonight’s concert will feature several of the original arrangements of the Jazz Messengers from his great Blue Note records period of the late 1950's-60's.
"Celebrating Art Blakey"

Program to be selected from:

Ugetsu (Fantasy in D) .......................................................... Cedar Walton (1934-2013)
One By One ................................................................................. Wayne Shorter (b. 1933)
Dat Dere ....................................................................................... Bobby Timmons (1935-1974)
Lester Left Town ................................................................. Wayne Shorter
Free for All ................................................................................ Wayne Shorter
The Core ............................................................................... Freddie Hubbard (1938-2008)
On the Ginza ................................................................................. Wayne Shorter
Ping Pong ....................................................................................... Wayne Shorter
Backstage Sally .......................................................................... Wayne Shorter

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BILL SEARS has been the Director of Jazz Studies and Instructor of Saxophone at Interlochen Arts Academy since 1987 and Interlochen Arts Camp since 2010. The award-winning jazz ensemble and combos under his leadership are considered to be among the finest high school groups in the country. He was formerly an instructor at the summer jazz camps of the Shell Lake (WI) Arts Camp and Saskatchewan School of the Arts. An active jazz saxophonist, Sears has performed, toured and recorded with many leading musicians including Ray Charles, Dizzy Gillespie, Rick Margitza, saxophonist Bill Evans, Art Farmer, Joe Williams, Nancy Wilson, Peter Erskine and Geoffrey Keezer. He is featured on a new recording, Basically Baker Vol. 2 with the Buselli-Wallarab Jazz Orchestra. This album honors the musical legacy of one of his mentors, Professor David Baker of Indiana University where Sears received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Saxophone and Jazz Studies. He is also the leader on two albums, Chasin’ The Goal and With One Accord with the Arts Center Jazz Collective. Sears has recently published Jazz Improvisation: A Systematic Approach to Developing Basic Jazz Vocabulary, which serves as the textbook for the two-year jazz improvisation curriculum at Interlochen Arts Academy. Bill Sears is an artist/clinician for Vandoren, whose reeds and mouthpieces he plays exclusively.

SEAN DOBBINS (IAC Fac 13) got his start as a sought-after Detroit area jazz sideman at a young age, when he would regularly play with Blue Note artist Louis Smith. Due to Sean’s great talent both as a player and an educator, he has been the focus of countless news articles, jazz radio programs, and documentaries. Though still young by jazz standards, Dobbins has amassed an impressive list of playing companions. He has performed/toured/recorded with Johnny Basset, Benny Golson, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Frank Morgan, Joey DeFrancesco, George Cables, James “Blood” Ulmer, Marcus Belgrave, Larry Willis, Rodney Whittaker, Claude Black, Johnny O’Neal, Paul Keller, Tad Weed, Kurt Krahnke, Jon Hendricks, David “Fathead” Newman, Donald Walden, Cyrus Chesnut, Barry Harris, David Baker, Randy Johnston, Marion Hayden, Mose Allison, and a host of other great musicians. Sean’s sound can best be described as hard-driving, solid rhythm with
refreshing melodic sensibility. In 1999 Sean was asked to become the director of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Summer Jazz Program. This program was designed to help educate and inspire young artists as they began their quest of learning jazz. In 1998, a year before Sean's arrival, the program was in jeopardy of being cancelled due to low enrollment. In 2000, a year after Sean took over the reigns, the enrollment more than tripled and a year later, the group was featured on WEMU, a national jazz radio program. Currently, Sean is on faculty at the University of Michigan, Oakland University and Wayne State University. He has served as the Artistic Director of Jazz Ensembles for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and is currently the Executive/Artistic Director for the Southeastern Music Academy.

TOM GARLING attended the Berklee College of Music for two years until he had his first break into the professional jazz scene with Buddy Rich in 1986 at the age of twenty. After touring with Buddy for a year, he was offered a full scholarship to attend the University of Miami, where he received his master's degree in 1992, majoring in Jazz Composition and Arranging with an emphasis in studio jazz writing. Shortly thereafter, Maynard Ferguson hired him as trombonist and musical director from 1992-1998. His writing and playing can be heard on albums by Maynard, Buddy Rich, Tito Puente, Dianne Schuur, Michael Feinstein, Frank Mantooth, the Chicago Jazz Orchestra, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble, and the Chicago Yestet, to name a few. He has been in high demand for the past 30 years as performer, composer, arranger, recording artist, producer, teacher, director, clinician and professional musician at any capacity. He currently resides in the Chicago area and maintains a busy schedule consisting of teaching, writing, performing and recording, and touring. Recent appearances have been with Frank Sinatra Jr., the Chicago Jazz Orchestra, the Chicago Yestet, and numerous clinician/guest soloist performances throughout the country. He is teaching both privately and in numerous institutions around the Chicago area in the fields of jazz composition and arranging, jazz trombone, jazz theory and jazz improvisation. Garling plays a modified King 2B “Jiggs Whigam” model trombone and a King 7C mouthpiece.

ROBERT HURST, a Detroit native, has enjoyed a stellar career spanning 30 years, and is a highly respected and well recognized composer, electric and acoustic bassist, educator, recording artist, and business man. His cultivation into a membership of talented musicians was fostered by lengthy tours and GRAMMY® Award winning recordings featuring: Paul McCartney, Charles Lloyd, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Dave Brubeck, Harry Connick Jr., Terrence Blanchard, Tony Williams, Nicholas Payton, Sting, Carl Allen, the legendary Pharaoh Sanders, Barbra Streisand, Willie Nelson, Yo-Yo Ma, Ravi Coltrane, Chris Botti and Diana Krall. Hurst has performed on over 150 diverse and critically acclaimed recordings. A select group of these productions have garnered him performances yielding seven GRAMMY® Awards, several RIAA ® certified Multi-Platinum and Gold recordings whilst his own seven recordings as a Bandleader have all generated Top Ten and Five Star recognition around the globe. Hurst was the inaugural bassist in the house band of “The Tonight Show” with Jay Leno from 1992 to 1999. He appears on over 30 major motion film and video soundtracks and has featured solos and performances captured on block busters: Ocean’s Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen, and Good Night, and Good Luck the soundtrack. Hurst is an Associate Professor of Music and Director of Small Jazz Ensembles in the Department of Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation at the University of Michigan’s School of Music, Theatre & Dance in Ann Arbor. Hurst maintains membership on the ISIM Advisory Council, has written skill and exercise materials published for the Woodshed Master Class Series in DownBeat Magazine, and has served on the Board of Directors for The John and Alice Coltrane Foundation since 2002.
GARY MOTLEY is a jazz pianist and composer. He is best known for his captivating performances, classic yet current sound, and popularity in the southeastern United States jazz music scene. Motley has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Great American Jazz Piano Competition and the American Composers Forum (ACF). Featured on NPR’s Piano Jazz with Marian McPartland, his notable performances also include the premiere of his first orchestral work "The Artist and the Visionary," duo performances with pianists Dave Brubeck and Kenny Barron, and concerts with Jon Faddis, Eddie Daniels, Benny Golson and others. Motley's selection by the ACF as an artist-in-residence led to his second composition for string orchestra and jazz trio "The Resolution of a Dream." He premiered his "Highland Summit: A Suite for String Quartet and Jazz Quartet" with the Vega String Quartet at the Highlands Chamber Music Festival and later performed his "Suite Odyssey" with the ensemble at Carnegie Hall. In 2010, Motley premiered a composition based on a work by Toni Morrison at the Toni Morrison Society's 6th Biennial Conference in Paris. Recent travels include performances and workshops in South America and Cuba. Cited by his home state for his artistic and educational achievements, Motley was inducted into the Alabama jazz Hall of Fame in 2015. As the Director of Jazz Studies at Emory University, he has developed The Strickland Jazz Studio - an interactive teaching facility that integrates the rich heritage of American jazz with today's technology practices. Motley holds memberships with the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and the Jazz Education Network.

ROBBIE SMITH (IAC Fac 10-16, IAA Fac 00) is a Professor of Music-Jazz Studies at Central Michigan University. He graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Trumpet Performance in 1986 and earned a Master of Music in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas in 1989, where he performed in the world-renowned One O'clock Lab Band. He was jazz faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp (2010-2016) and taught at Interlochen Arts Academy (sabbatical replacement) in 2000. Smith performs regularly on trumpet and saxophones as a freelance artist and has performed and recorded with several notable groups including: The Woody Herman Jazz Orchestra (worldwide concert tours), The Kirk MacDonald Quintet and the Kirk MacDonald Jazz Orchestra (Toronto), and The Steve Haines Quintet (New York). He currently performs regularly with the Detroit Jazz Festival Orchestra (2012-15), the Toledo Jazz Orchestra (2012-15), and The Masters of Music Big Band (Detroit 2011-16). In 2005 he toured with Terri Lyne Carrington, James Genus, Paul Bollenbeck, Munyungo Jackson, Mitch Forman, Nancy Wilson and Dianne Reeves in a tribute to Billie Holiday. Smith has made several recordings with his Michigan-based quartet, Mind’s Eye and recorded two CD’s of his own compositions with the Central Michigan University Faculty Jazz Sextet entitled, Caught In The Act and Conspiracy Theory. Smith has performed in concerts with many notable jazz artists, including Rufus Reid, Buddy DeFranco, Marcus Belgrave, George Benson, Phil Markowitz, Peter Erskine, Steve Turre, Wayne Bergeron and many others. He has performed at concert venues and jazz festivals in England, Scotland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Turkey, Italy, France, Spain, Canada and the United States.

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