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FIRST-EVER MACK AVENUE TOUR BRINGS LABEL SUPERSTARS TO WILSON CENTER

All-Star Ensemble includes 2016 NEA Jazz Master Gary Burton and Beyoncé's Saxophonist Tia Fuller



Brookfield, WI (January 27, 2016) For the first time in its history, the [Mack Avenue SuperBand](#) is heading out on tour, with the stellar line-up of **Gary Burton, Tia Fuller, Sean Jones, Christian McBride, Christian Sands, and Carl Allen** performing for one night only in Wisconsin at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (Wilson Center) on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets for the Mack Avenue SuperBand range from \$42-\$73 and may be purchased through the Wilson Center Box Office at 262-781-9520 or online at wilson-center.com. The Wilson

Center is located at 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield's Mitchell Park.

Since its rollicking debut at the 2012 Detroit Jazz Festival, the Mack Avenue SuperBand has become a tradition at the annual event, a gathering of label superstars that the Motor City can look forward to every Labor Day weekend. Live From The Detroit Jazz Festival—2015 captured the fourth incarnation of the all-star ensemble. The 2016 tour is the first time that audiences outside of Detroit have had the opportunity to share the invigorating experience of witnessing the ensemble live.

The members of the SuperBand represent a diverse range of generations and styles. It offers a rare opportunity, for instance, to hear seven-time Grammy Award-winning vibraphonist and 2016 NEA Jazz Master Gary Burton engage with a group of younger players with more of a hard-bop focus than he usually encounters in his own more modern-leaning bands. "This is definitely not my normal zone," says Burton. "But this is the music I grew up playing. I was a bebop guy in my teens and twenties—that was the standard jazz of the day."

For the first time, the ensemble is under the leadership of bassist and musical director Christian McBride, who made his label debut in 2009. Joining McBride as a first-time member of the SuperBand is pianist Christian Sands; while Sands has not recorded as a leader for Mack Avenue, he has recorded for the label under McBride's leadership as a member of both Inside Straight and the Christian McBride Trio. The rest of the six-piece group all are returning veterans: drummer Carl Allen has anchored the band since the beginning, while saxophonist Tia Fuller and Gary Burton are three-time members.

"I'm looking forward to playing some of the music that we played in Detroit and a lot more and seeing where it goes," McBride says. "These bands change a little bit every year and we already know that this is not going to be a permanent group, so we just want to have as much fun as we can while we're together."

Greater Milwaukee-area students of jazz will also have an opportunity to benefit from this rare gathering of jazz giants, as Mack Avenue SuperBand saxophonist and member of Beyoncé's all-female band Tia Fuller will be leading a Master Class at the Wilson Center on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. A dynamic musician, composer, and educator, Fuller is a Berklee College of Music Professor, and she has worked with such artists as Chaka Khan, Jay-Z, Janelle Monét, and Aretha Franklin. While the Master Class is free, advance registration is required. For more information, contact Wilson Center Education Director Christina Ratatori at 262-373-5037 or cratatori@wilson-center.com.

The Mack Avenue SuperBand is presented as part of the Wilson Center's 2015-2016 Performing Arts Series, which is sponsored by Krause Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Enterforce, and Godfrey & Kahn S.C.

Images and bios of all artists are available upon request.

About the Mack Avenue SuperBand

The Mack Avenue SuperBand has become synonymous with stellar line-ups consisting of established and up and coming jazz artists with pronounced identities and original grooves. This year's group, presented exclusively for the 2015-2016 season and featuring Christian McBride as musical director, tops them all.

Seven-time Grammy Award-winning vibraphonist and jazz legend Gary Burton made his first recordings at age seventeen, and has toured and recorded with a who's who of famous jazz masters including Chick Corea, Pat Metheny, and Stan Getz to name a few. *The Washington Post* stated, "[Burton] ...knows a thing or two about what makes a jazz collaboration truly special."

Saxophonist Tia Fuller is at home at all points of the music spectrum—from her show-stopping solos as a member of superstar Beyoncé's all-female band, to her scintillatingly swinging jazz dates and recordings. For this season's SuperBand, Fuller brings her fire and punch, rhythmic freedom and drive, and her youthful twisting of genres she's gained from a life in both top-of-the-charts pop and jazz.

Sean Jones plays the trumpet with intense immediacy and urgency, hewing to the jazz tradition, but moving the music forward at the same time. After stepping down from his longtime position as Lead Trumpeter of the Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and then touring with Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock's Tribute To Miles, Sean has established himself as a formidable leader through his recordings and live performances.

The foundation of the Super Band is musical director and bassist Christian McBride with his compatriots, pianist Christian Sands and drummer Carl Allen, both of whom have been performing in McBride's Trio and Quintet for several years, honing their conception to a fine point of expressive depth and nuance through select performances around the world. "The real core," Christian says of this rhythm section, "is hardcore swingin,' blues and the American songbook. Part of that is because Christian [Sands] is so well-rounded and willing to go to so many places." Carl Allen one of the most recorded jazz drummers of all time, with over 200 recordings to his credit.

About the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is Southeast Wisconsin's premiere, non-profit, multi-disciplinary cultural arts center that presents performances by world-renowned artists and ensembles; offers arts education opportunities; curates the Ploch Art Gallery, which features both national and Wisconsin-based fine artists; and is committed to extending the arts beyond the walls of the Center through Lynn Chappy ArtsPark—a vibrant, outdoor sculpture landscape that will engage and inspire the broader Southeastern Wisconsin Community. In August, the annual Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival celebrates the world's leading classical, rock/blues, jazz, and fingerstyle guitarists. Wisconsin fine artists are showcased at the Hidden River Art Festival each September. The Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin's finest arts organizations offer professional

instruction at the Wilson Center, including First Stage Theater Academy, Trinity Irish Dancers, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. To learn more, visit www.wilson-center.com.

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