

UNLV

**Department of Music
College of Fine Arts**

presents

Las Vegas Academy Jazz Band III

Patrick Bowen, director

featuring Marlena Shaw, The Cunninghams, and Carmen Woodruff

UNLV Jazz Ensemble I

Dave Loeb and Nathan Tanouye, directors

PROGRAM

A Celebration of Black History Month

Las Vegas Academy Jazz Band III

Directed by Patrick Bowen

INTERMISSION

UNLV Jazz Ensemble I

Directed by Dave Loeb and Nathan Tanouye

All selections will be announced from stage.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

7:30 p.m.

**Ham Concert Hall
Performing Arts Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

UNLV Jazz Ensemble I

Saxes

John Summers
Ron Holmes
Nick Tulli
Keaton Martin
Gizmo Hall

Trumpets

Jesse Garcia
Kevin Early
Matt Koerner
Jorge Machain

Trombones

Nick Veslany
Nate Kimball
Stephen Anongthep
Paul Munger

Guitar

Josh Williams

Piano

Otto Ehling

Bass

Nick Schmitt

Drums

Austin Pooley
Stephen Shapiro

Vocals

Carmen Woodruff

LVA Jazz Band III

Saxes

Robert Springs
Aiden Ketchum
David Osterhuber
Conor McKinley
Andre Walton

Trumpets

Owens Edge
Juanpablo Macias
Daniel Ferenbach
Padilla Mills
Dion Burnett
Edgar Salazar
Randall Stupka
Jessica Devaney

Trombones

Tyler Barrett
Chris Bertussi
Jacob Hughes
Jeremy Allison
Allan Quan

French Horn

Tracy Echeverri

Guitar

Brandon Tulli
John Lloyd

Piano

John Denman
Kamen Tsvetkov

Bass

R.J. Reyes
Ed Lacala
Anthony Wesley

Drums

Miguel Jimenez
Justyn Tatum

Marlena Shaw

While everyone agrees that Marlena Shaw is a national treasure, it's difficult to categorize her. Both Downbeat and Record World have named her "Best Female Singer," and many have compared her range, class and swing that of to eternal jazz lights like Sarah Vaughn, Dinah Washington, and Nancy Wilson. She's also been called a "soul legend." The critics use words like "astonishing," "peerless," "radiant" and "powerful," and marvel at her "soaring sensuality."

Given her 40-year plus boundary-busting career, such labeling confusion is inevitable. It's easier and more descriptive to think of Marlena as a natural element: like water. Marlena's music is unmistakable. Whether she's singing jazz, R&B, pop, rock, soul, blues or gospel, her originality makes such distinctions irrelevant, and each song becomes intimate and new.

Marlena is universally admired for her warm, supple voice and relaxed charm; a natural storyteller, her spoken words before, during, and between songs is often hilarious. Marlena's smiling; spontaneous interplay with both her band and her audience invites the listener in like a valued friend.

Using the experience she received with the Count Basie Band, Marlena has become a favorite singer for big bands. Witness her work with Frank Foster at Lincoln Center and with Diva. But despite her long experience, there's no slickness or pretense in Marlena's style. Communicating directly from her heart and soul to yours, her undiminished creative vitality has no artificial ingredients. Like water – or a welcome breath of fresh air – Marlena is an all-natural element.

Don and Alicia Cunningham

The Cunninghams are not only impressive musicians, they are scintillating entertainers. Whether they are performing in night clubs, recording or appearing in concert, they mesmerize their audiences with poignant ballads, intricate scatting and electrifying improvisation of original and classic jazz compositions. Born in St. Louis, Missouri Don Cunningham spent his youth studying alto saxophone and mastering percussive instruments. He played saxophone and clarinet in the 63rd Army Band and was Johnny Mathis' percussionist for 7 years. He also played with Count Basie's band.

After moving to Los Angeles in 1969, Don decided he wanted to sing more. He accomplished this by forming his own group. Alicia Cunningham, a native of Los Angeles, California was an operatic contralto before switching to jazz singing. She plays piano and organ and orchestrates as well as conducts. The Cunninghams' abilities have earned them praise around the world. Their credits are too numerous to mention. They recorded five albums, one of which won them a Grammy nomination in 1988 for the song "I Remember Bird" from the album "Strings N' Swing"

Carmen Woodruff

Carmen Woodruff joins the UNLV music program after working for nearly a decade as a communications professional. She earned her first BA degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and aspires to pursue a master's degree in Jazz Studies. Hailing from the Detroit metropolitan area, Carmen started singing with jazz ensembles at the age of eleven, continuing throughout high school and college, where she was featured in a Busch Gardens big band show. Accolades include recognition from the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) as the two-time "Teal Jazz Vocalist of the Year" and the "Woody Herman Jazz Performance" award. Mentors and instructors include Sunny Wilkinson, Ursula Walker, Marion Hayden, Jo Belle Yonely, Marlane Coker and Motown's Martha Reeves. Carmen has performed many genres of music around the nation and internationally in Europe and South Africa. Recording credits include corporate jingles and Detroit-based saxophonist Randy Scott's "FUTURE" album. Carmen is honored to be a part of UNLV's award-winning Jazz Studies program and strives to continue spreading the positive, universal language of music.

Patrick Bowen

Mr. Bowen has been a guest soloist with the Hartt Symphony, Henderson Civic Orchestra, and UNLV Percussion Ensemble. Mr. Bowen has performed with the Nevada Symphony Orchestra, Nevada Dance Theater Orchestra, Mahler Orchestra, New Haven Symphony, New Britain Symphony, Las Vegas Pops, Nevada Wind Ensemble, Nevada Opera Theater, and the Missoula Symphony Orchestra. He has extensive ensemble experience premiering works at the Columbia New Music Festival, Yale University New Music Festival, and the Saratoga Springs Festival.

He has been the Dance Accompanist at UNLV accompanying such choreographers as Gus Solomans, Jr., Loretta Livingston, Marcus Alford, Walter Nicks, Judith Moss, Sam Watson, Billy Siegenfield, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. He has also played with Celine Dion, Elton John, Clint Black, Sheila E, Wynonna Judd, Lionel Richie, Dudley Moore, Boyz II Men, Michael Bolton, Kenny G, Olete Adams, Fleetwood Mac, Stevie Wonder, Don Henley, Tim McGraw, Brian McKnight, Andre Bocelli and David Foster.

Mr. Bowen has served as the President of the Percussive Arts Society for the State of Nevada. He has also published Snares and Sets: A Book of Duets, and Temple: A Timpani Concerto for Timpani and Percussion Ensemble. He has written articles for the Percussive Arts Society and many of his original works have been recorded.

Mr. Bowen has a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance from the Hartt School of Music (Cum Laude), a Master's degree in Music Performance from the University of Montana, and a Teaching Certificate from UNLV.

Las Vegas Academy

Jazz Bands at the Las Vegas Academy have won "Best in State" at every Reno Jazz Festival in attendance, Downbeats "Outstanding Big Band" and "Best Combo" awards, Lionel Hampton Jazz Festivals "Overall Winner" and first places in the big band and combo divisions, Monterey Jazz Festival finalist, Monterey's 51st Jazz Festival participant, "Superior" ratings at CCSD Jazz Festivals, 2009 Midwest invitation, and the fine arts area were seven time winners of the Signature Gold Grammy Award, and two Signature Grammy Awards. Mr. Bowen housed the IAJE Teachers Training Institute and was invited to the IAJE Conference in Long Beach, California.

About the UNLV Jazz Studies Program

The UNLV Jazz Studies Program has been active for more than 20 years.

Today, the Jazz Studies Program offers degrees in instrumental or vocal jazz performance and composition at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Currently, the UNLV Jazz Studies Program has three big bands and several combos including Contemporary and Latin ensembles. Since its inception, the jazz program has nothing but outstanding reviews from critics including a five-star rating from the premier jazz publication, *Downbeat Magazine*.

Recently, UNLV Jazz Ensemble I was a finalist at the *Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival* and won "outstanding performance" in the graduate division of the Student Music Awards from *Downbeat Magazine*. UNLV Jazz Studies students were also recognized as outstanding soloists at the Reno and *Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festivals* this past spring.

With over 15 recordings to its credit, the UNLV Jazz Ensemble has performed across the United States and abroad at such venues as the Hawaii International Jazz Festival, Telluride Jazz Festival, the Kennedy Center, and the Village Vanguard.