BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Fine Arts
School of Music

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
ARTS ALIVE SERIES

presents the

WYCLIFFE GORDON QUINTET

Saturday, October 30, 2021 | 7:30 p.m.
Sursa Performance Hall
WYCLIFFE GORDON QUINTET
Wycliffe Gordon, trombone, trumpet, and vocals
Adrian Cunningham, reeds and vocals
Ehud Asherie, piano
Corcoran Holt, bass
Alvin Atkinson, drums

Set I

It Don’t Mean A Thing ........................................ Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington
I Give You Love ................................................................. Wycliffe Gordon
Blue and Boogie ................................................................. John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie
Sweet Spot ................................................................. Wycliffe Gordon
Rockin’ Chair ................................................................. Hoagy Carmichael
Toast My Bread ................................................................. Wycliffe Gordon
Hello Dolly ................................................................. Louis Armstrong
When You’re Smiling ................................................................. Louis Armstrong

Set II

Pie Eye’s Blues ................................................ Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington
Honeysuckle Rose ................................................ Thomas “Fats” Waller
Black and Blue ................................................................. Thomas “Fats” Waller
Blues 2020 ................................................................. Wycliffe Gordon
America, the Beautiful .............................................. Samuel Ward, Katharine Nates (lyricist)
Ow!!! ................................................................. John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie
Rhythm Cone ................................................................. Wycliffe Gordon
What A Wonderful World ................................................ Louis Armstrong
Just A Closer Walk ............................................................. Traditional
When the Saints ............................................................. Traditional

THIS PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Wycliffe Gordon and his International All Stars, formed in 2011, pays homage to musicians coming of age at the dawn of jazz recording, particularly jazz master Louis Armstrong and his All Stars. Returning to a time when musicians considered themselves entertainers first and foremost, striving to please the audience with their music, Wycliffe and his All Stars are consummate entertainers reveling in the old school traditions of the musicians of Armstrong’s generation.

The group, which features the talent of amazing musicians from all over the world, includes Adrian Cunningham (from Australia) on reeds and vocals, Ehud Asherie (from Israel) on piano, Corcoron Holt (who has ties to West Africa) on bass, drummer Alvin Atkinson (who is from America’s Gold Coast), and of course Wycliffe Gordon (who hails from Georgia) performing on trombone, trumpet, soprano trombone, and vocals. Wycliffe and his band brilliantly combine the old school jazz with the new school traditions. Tonight’s program features hits from several of Wycliffe’s recordings including Hello Pops: A Tribute to Louis Armstrong and the latest All Stars recording titled I Give You Love, which is a follow-up recording to the popular Hello Pops.

“This program is near and dear to my heart. Louis Armstrong is one of the biggest musical influencers of mine, and this show features music that was regularly performed by him. The show features many of the songs that Armstrong made famous including “When You’re Smiling”, “Hello Dolly”, “What A Wonderful World” along with many of my originals including “Blues 2020”—a tune that was inspired by events that took place last year, and “I Give You Love”, my sentiment of my music. Other hits include, “Black and Blue”, “It Don’t Mean a Thing”, “Ow” and “When the Saints Go Marchin’ In.” On this show, I sing and play several instruments including, trombone, soprano trombone, and trumpet.”
—Wycliffe Gordon
Wycliffe Gordon, trombone, trumpet, and vocals

Wycliffe Gordon experiences an impressive career touring the world performing to great acclaim from audiences and critics alike. Jazz Journalists Association named him 2021 “Trombonist of the Year” for the record-breaking 14th time, and he’s topped Downbeat Critics Poll for “Best Trombone” for an unprecedented six times (2020, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2013, and 2012). Recent awards include the “Louie Award”, the International Trombone Award, the Satchmo Award, and the South Arts Jazz Road Creative Residency Award, among others. Wycliffe is a prolific recording artist and is extremely popular for his unmatched signature sound, plunger technique, and unique vocals. He can be heard on hundreds of recordings, soundtracks, live DVD's, and documentaries.

In addition to an exceptionally successful solo career, Gordon tours regularly leading his All Stars, headlining at legendary jazz venues and performing arts centers throughout the world. He is commissioned frequently, and has an extensive catalog of original compositions that span the various timbres of jazz and chamber music. Musicians and ensembles of every caliber perform his music throughout the world and his arrangement of the theme song to NPR’s “All Things Considered” is heard daily across the globe.

Gordon is a former veteran member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and has been a featured guest artist on Billy Taylor’s “Jazz at the Kennedy Center” Series. Gordon is also one of America’s most persuasive and committed music educators, and serves as Director of Jazz Studies at Augusta University in Augusta, GA.

Recent projects include several commissions including a piece marking the 100th anniversary of the historic Douglass Theater in Macon, GA, and two trombone ensemble works for Georgetown College. Recent guest appearances include concerts with the Boston Brass, the Brass Band of Battle Creek, Vail Jazz, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Newport Jazz Festival, and numerous Zoom master classes and concerts across the globe.

Wycliffe Gordon is a Yamaha Performing Artist and has his own line of Wycliffe Gordon Pro Signature Mouthpieces by Pickett Brass.

Visit wycliffigordon.com to learn more.
Adrian Cunningham, reeds and vocals
Adrian Cunningham is an award winning multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and world traveler. Originally from Sydney, Australia and now based in New York, he is proving to be one of his country’s top exports. With fluent command of the saxophones, clarinet, and flute, he is one of the finest multi-instrumentalists in Jazz. Since moving to NYC in 2008, Adrian has quickly risen to be one of the most in demand woodwind players on the New York jazz scene, having recorded/performed with Jazz luminaries such as Jeff Hamilton, John Clayton, Wynton Marsalis, Herlin Riley, Jon Batiste & Stay Human, Cecile McLorin Salvant, Steve Jordan, Grammy-winner Vince Giordano, Grammy-nominated Rene Marie, and renowned trombonist Wycliffe Gordon. Adrian is the recipient of the Hot House Saxophone Award for 2017. Adrian is an Arbors Records recording artist, and his latest CD Jazz Speak was recorded in LA with jazz legends Jeff Hamilton, John Clayton, and Ted Rosenthal and broke the top 20 in the national US Jazz week charts.

Ehud Asherie, piano
Largely self-taught, or rather, “old-schooled,” Asherie learned the ropes at Smalls, spending much of his early teens becoming a fixture of the late-night jam sessions held at this now legendary Greenwich Village club in New York City. Mentored by the late Frank Hewitt, his present style combines this broad tradition of techniques and merging idioms into a distinctly personalized approach. Acclaimed album releases under Ehud Asherie’s leadership have included Shuffle Along which reinterpreted the music of Eubie Blake, Organic, which finds Asherie on organ, and Upper West Side and Lower East Side, duet projects featuring the saxophonist Harry Allen and his trio recording Music Makes Me. Asherie’s most recent trio recording is Wild Man Blues on the Capri Label. Ehud has worked with a broad range of renowned musicians including Cécile McLorin Salvant, Wycliffe Gordon, Catherine Russell, John Pizzarelli, and Charles McPherson, and has performed at clubs and festivals in South America, Europe, Asia, and throughout the U.S. His playing can be heard on numerous celebrated recordings, including the 2010 Grammy Award winning soundtrack of HBO’s Boardwalk Empire. Beyond his dedication to jazz music, Ehud Asherie has also developed a passion for traditional Brazilian music. He has performed and recorded with acclaimed Brazilian artists like Wilson das Neves, Duduka da Fonseca, and Maucha Adnet. His appreciation and profound knowledge of the music can be heard in his new project Discovering Ernesto Nazareth.
**Corcoran Holt, bass**

Corcoran Holt, a son of Washington, DC, began playing djembe and other West African percussion at the age of four, and began his study of upright bass at age ten with the renowned DC Youth Orchestra (DCYOP). Corcoran attended the prestigious Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington DC where he studied classical bass and jazz and went on to complete a Bachelors of Arts in Jazz Studies from Shenandoah Conservatory and a master's degree in Jazz Studies from Queens College. Corcoran has been blessed and has worked with numerous pioneers and greats of the music such as Curtis Fuller, Jimmy Heath, Benny Golson, Jimmy Cobb, Harold Mabern, Steve Turre, Billy Hart, Kenny Garrett, Javon Jackson, and Wycliffe Gordon to name a few. Corcoran is currently the regular bassist with the world renown alto saxophonist Kenny Garrett and performs regularly at many of the top music festivals and venues around the world. In addition, he leads his own group and has a new release titled *The Mecca*. He is also a part of three Grammy-nominated recordings, Kenny Garrett’s 2013 recording *Pushing the World Away* recorded on Mac Avenue Records, Jamison Ross’s 2014 recording *Jamison* recorded on Concord records, and The Baylor Project’s 2017 recording *The Journey*.

**Alvin Atkinson, drums**

Alvin Atkinson, Jr. is a six-time Jazz Ambassador, drummer, bandleader, and educator, and has traveled the globe performing America’s classical music. As an ambassador of Jazz, Alvin possesses the characteristics of a diplomat whether he’s performing in front of a large audience in Saudi Arabia, working with college students in Jordan, or working with middle school children in New York City. He formed Alvin Atkinson and the Sound Merchants in New York City in 2004. The group’s first recording project, *Alvin Atkinson and the Sound Merchants*, received nominations for “Best International Jazz Song” from the First Annual 2007 Toronto Exclusive Magazine Awards and “Best Jazz Song” from the Seventh Annual Independent Music Awards in 2007 for the composition “Dance of the Emirates.” The group combines jazz and blues influences with inflections of various rhythms and melodies from around the world.
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
Seth Beckman, dean
Christie Zimmerman, associate dean

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Ryan Hourigan, director
Jon Truitt, associate director
Peter Opie, coordinator of admissions and scholarships

ABOUT ARTS ALIVE
Ball State University’s College of Fine Arts is expanding the offerings in this year’s Arts Alive, the college’s annual event series aimed at making arts and entertainment more accessible to community members and students. Previously focusing mainly on the School of Music, Arts Alive 2021 will also include events from David Owsley Museum of Art, the School of Art, and the Department of Theatre and Dance. Upcoming events include:


January 22, 2022: The Department of Theatre and Dance will host artist collective, Applied Mechanics in the David Owsley Museum of Art for two performances.

January 28, 2022: The Department of Theatre and Dance will host tap dancer Ayodele Casel at Sursa Hall.

Spring 2022: The School of Art will host performance artist Nick Cave (date and location to be announced).

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