

Jazz Guardian Award

Marcus Belgrave



Marcus Belgrave was born in the Philadelphia suburb of Chester, PA, in 1936. But over the course of a distinguished career that has spanned six decades and included performances with many of the greats of jazz and R&B, the trumpeter, composer, arranger and educator has established himself as a true Detroit legend.

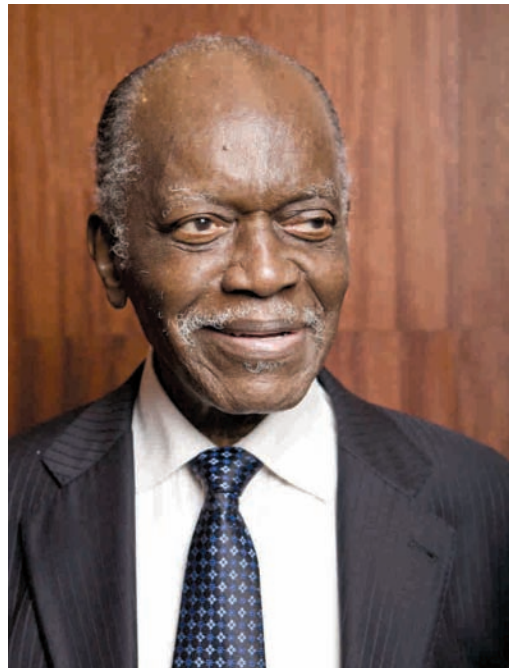
Belgrave, who began playing the trumpet when he was six-years old, came into prominence at age 18 when he joined the Ray Charles Orchestra. He toured with Charles for five years (1954-1959) and can be heard on such hits as "Night Time is the Right Time," "Stella by Starlight," and "What'd I Say."

In the early '60s, Belgrave worked and recorded with some of the leading innovators of the era, including Max Roach, Charles Mingus and Eric Dolphy. In 1963, he moved to Detroit, where he became a prominent Motown studio musician. He can be heard on such R&B classics as "Dancing in the Streets," "The Way You Do the Things You Do," and "My Girl." He attracted attention with his own recordings in 1975 with the release of *Gemini II*, and later produced such notable recordings as *Working Together* (1992) and *Marcus Belgrave and Detroit's Jazz Piano Legacy, Vol. 1: Live at Kerrytown Concert House* (1993), which featured Tommy Flanagan and Geri Allen.

Belgrave is a charter member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra (1988). More recently (2006), he was featured in Jazz at Lincoln Center's concert series, "Detroit: Motor City Jazz," with Yusef Lateef, Curtis Fuller, Charles McPherson and Ron Carter.

Currently serving as Professor of Jazz Trumpet at Oberlin University (Ohio), Belgrave is co-founder of the Jazz Studies program at the Detroit Metro Arts Complex, an original faculty member of the Oakland University Jazz Studies program, and founder of the Jazz Development Workshop in Detroit. He has also received numerous honors including the Arts Midwest Jazz Master Award (1991), the Michigan Governor's Arts Award (1994), and the Louis Armstrong Award (1995).

Hank Jones



In an incredible career that has spanned more than seventy years, pianist and composer Hank Jones has carved out a secure place in the pantheon of jazz greats.

Born in 1918 in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Jones grew up in Pontiac, Michigan – just 30 miles from Detroit. The eldest of the legendary Jones brothers (that included drummer Elvin and trumpeter/composer Thad), Hank was already playing with local bands in Michigan, Ohio and Buffalo by the age of 13.

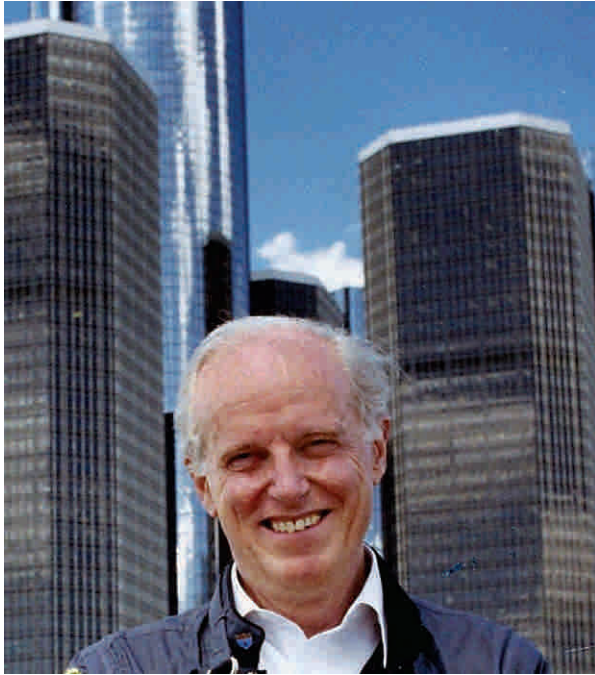
In 1944, he moved to New York to play with Hot Lips Page at the Onyx Club on 52nd Street. From there, he had brief stints with bands led by Andy Kirk, Billy Eckstein, John Kirby, Coleman Hawkins and Howard McGhee. From 1947 to 1951, Jones began touring with Norman Granz's Jazz at the Philharmonic crew. And from 1948 to 1953, he was accompanist for Ella Fitzgerald. During this period, Jones also made several recordings for Norman Granz's various labels, including historical sessions with Charlie Parker and Lester Young.

After leaving Ella, Jones formed a steady rhythm section with Barry Galbraith, Milt Hinton and Osie Johnson that recorded with the likes of Roy Eldridge, Lionel Hampton, Milt Jackson, Rex Stewart and many others. After several years as a freelance player, including brief stints with Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw, he joined CBS studios as staff pianist (1959), a position he held for seventeen years. During this period, he continued to perform and record jazz as a soloist, in duets with other pianists (including John Lewis and Tommy Flanagan), and as a leader of small ensembles – most notably, the Great Jazz Trio, which at various times included bassists Ron Carter, Buster Williams and Eddie Gomez and drummers Tony Williams, Al Foster and Jimmy Cobb.

In recent years, Jones has continued to perform and record in a variety of settings and with many of the leading figures in jazz, adding to his legacy as one of the most sought after and recorded pianists in jazz history.

Jones has received numerous honors for his contributions to jazz, including the NEA Jazz Masters Award (1989), the ASCAP Jazz Living Legend Award (2003), and the National Medal of Arts (2008).

Robert McCabe



Michigan-born Robert E. McCabe, a noted national urbanologist, became the first president of Detroit Renaissance in April 1971. After three years service in the Asiatic-Pacific theater during World War II he began his career in Washington, D.C., and served in various capacities of federal urban development in San Francisco and Washington D.C.

Prior to returning to Detroit, McCabe served as general manager of the New York State Urban Development Corporation (UDC), the nation's largest redevelopment program. He was appointed to this post by then New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

From 1967-1969, he was deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the highest-ranking career appointee in the Department.

Mr. McCabe served in several different capacities with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., from 1957-1967. During his tenure with the Government, Mr. McCabe also held the position of chief of the International Cooperation Administration's Southeast Asian and European Branches.

Mr. McCabe attended public school in Detroit and Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. He received a BA from Central Michigan College, and a Masters in Sociology and in Urban Planning from the University of Chicago. He also received an Honorary Ph. D. from Central Michigan University.

Among his numerous awards are the Detroit City Council Award (1982) and Michiganian of the Year (1982). He is also an honorary member of the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

He currently is Founder/Honorary Chairman of the Detroit International Jazz Festival Foundation Board and Vice Chairman of the Music Hall Center of the Performing Arts.

Ernie Rodgers



Woodwind player Ernie Rodgers has been a major contributor to the Detroit music scene as both a musician and educator. Born in Monroe, Michigan, Rodgers moved to Detroit in 1947, where he studied saxophone with renowned musician and educator Larry Teal. He went on to graduate from Detroit's famed Cass Technical High School and earn a Bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and a Masters from Eastern Michigan University.

Rodgers has played with many top jazz artists, including Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Quincy Jones, and Wynton Marsalis. He has also recorded with many of the top artists at Motown Records and toured with several Motown packages throughout the U.S. and Canada. In addition, he is the leader of The RAPA House Jazz Band, which is named after his club.

A respected educator, Rodgers taught in the Detroit Public Schools for forty years and founded the Northwestern High School Jazz Ensemble, which toured Michigan, Ohio, Canada and Europe. His former students include bassists Ralph Armstrong and Marion Hayden and saxophonist James Carter. Rodgers is currently an adjunct professor at Wayne State University in the Jazz Studies Program.

The Jazz Guardian Award is presented annually by the Detroit International Jazz Festival in recognition of an individual with Michigan ties who through advocacy, teaching, philanthropy and/or musical achievement has made an extraordinary contribution to the elevation and perpetuation of jazz.

Past Recipients

2008

Johnny Allen Pianist and Educator
Gerald Wilson Composer and Arranger

2007

Yusef Lateef Reed Player and Composer
Bill Foster Jazz Advocate

2005

Ed Love Jazz Advocate