

**Digital Program**  
**Jazz in the Gardens | A Toast to the End of Summer**  
Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m.



Donna Limerick, executive producer  
Marshall Keys, music director, saxophone  
Janelle Gill, keyboard  
Angel Bethea, drums

Maureen Monteiro, assistant producer  
Thad Wilson, trumpet/flugelhorn  
Karine Chapedelaine, bass  
Alfredo Mojica, percussion

**Program**

**“Summertime” – George Gershwin**

“Summertime” is an aria composed by George Gershwin in 1934 for the opera *Porgy and Bess*.

**“The ‘In’ Crowd” – Ramsey Lewis Trio**

*The In Crowd* is a live album by Ramsey Lewis Trio, recorded in July 1965 at Bohemian Caverns nightclub in DC. Lewis’ biggest hit, it received a Grammy in 1966 for Best Instrumental Jazz Performance.

**“Moon River” – Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer**

Mercer and Mancini wrote this song for Audrey Hepburn to sing in *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*. “Moon River” was also a hit single for Jerry Butler in 1961.

**“Watermelon Man” – Herbie Hancock**

Hancock was just 22 when he wrote “Watermelon Man”. It was inspired by his childhood memory of a watermelon seller whose vehicle rumbled noisily through his neighborhood’s cobbled streets in 1940s Chicago. Watermelon Man was a gigantic hit for Mongo Santamaria in 1962.

### **“Poinciana” – Nat Simon and Buddy Bernier**

Written by Nat Simon and Buddy Bernier in 1936, the song takes its roots from a Cuban folk song entitled “La Canción del Árbol”, inspired by the royal Poinciana Tree, also called flame tree. Royal Poinciana provides dappled shade in summer, with wide spreading branches and brilliantly colored flowers.

### **“Cantaloupe Island” – Herbie Hancock**

This jazz standard was composed by Hancock and recorded in 1964 for his album *Empyrean Isles*.

### **“Take 5” – Paul Desmond**

Written by Paul Desmond, “Take Five” is the biggest selling jazz tune of all time. Although Desmond is credited with composing “Take Five,” Brubeck says the tune was a group project. We’ll never know!

### **“Summer Breeze” – Seals and Crofts**

“Summer Breeze” is one of those relentlessly appealing 1970s harmony rock anthems—appropriately ubiquitous on the radio and in the memory.

### **“Rock Creek Park” – The Blackbyrds**

Rock Creek Park is an oasis of nature in the heart of Washington, DC, where The Blackbyrds were formed. (And where Hillwood is located.)

*Program notes are courtesy of Marshall Keys.*

## **About the Artists**

**Marshall Keys** plays the saxophone with a sense of grace and emotion that is wholly without cliché. He is a versatile musician with an expansive range, known for having a solid, soulful tone and for improvisations that begin simply before developing into elaborate, smartly constructed melodies. Keys received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and was commissioned by the Smithsonian to perform the music of Wayne Shorter. He was guest performer and lecturer at the Romare Bearden Exhibit at the National Gallery of Art. He has toured Africa and Central and South America for the State Department as a Jazz Ambassador and has played jazz festivals in the US, Germany, Ireland, Holland, Mexico, Panama, and Indonesia. Keys’s recent endeavors include playing in the Washington National Cathedral Band and collaborating with saxophonist Paul Carr in the Carr/Keys project. He has worked with many of the world’s fine musicians including but finds the vibrant jazz community in



Washington, D.C. to be a continuing source of inspiration and motivation. This summer marks the third year that Marshall has collaborated on Jazz in the Gardens at Hillwood.



**Thad Wilson** was born in Fort Dix, New Jersey where he was awarded the All-American High School Music Award. As a young adult, he studied with Jimmy Owens, NEA Jazz Master and former member of Dizzy Gillespie's Big Band. While living in New York, Thad was a member of Charlie Persip's Super Band and had a brief stint with Illinois Jacquet. In 1997, Thad created The Thad Wilson Jazz Orchestra before moving to Washington, DC.

Thad's original film score compositions include *Body and Soul*, *Metropolis*, *Elevator to the Gallows* and *Nosferatu*. He is currently working on *The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr. West in the Land of the Bolsheviks*.

Thad has played alongside artists such as James Moody, Benny Golson, Andrew White, Buck Hill, Keter Betts, Johnny O'Neal, Russell Malone and Roy Hargrove among other legends. He has toured many countries in Europe, Central and South America; and currently performs with his quartet, jazz orchestra and the legendary group, The Blackbyrds.

There's an ethereal journey that pianist **Janelle Gill** brings listeners on that transcends the boundaries of jazz. Through her work of self exploration as it exists in music, she has tapped into a vein of fluidity that heals with sound. Born and raised in Washington, D.C. Janelle is a graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Arts and attended Howard University. Her unique musical expression has brought her to work closely with musicians such as Delfeyo Marsalis, Oliver Lake, David Murray, The Blackbyrds, Maurice Hines' in his *Tappin' Through Life* as well as local artists including Marshall Keys, Nasar Abadey, and Kris Funn. Some of the venues she has been in concert at include the Kennedy Center, The Library of Congress, DC Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, and Baku Jazz Festival. As Janelle continues to be a student of life and welcomes new experiences she recently expanded her titles to musical director for the production of Toni Morrison's *Desdemona*, which debuted at the Source Theater. She remains a musical educator to everyone of all walks of life.





Bassist **Karine Chapdelaine** has led an active performance career that includes international performances in Europe, South America, Africa, and Asia. Karine is the Professor of Bass Studies at Mary Washington University and an active freelance musician in the greater DC area. Karine performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival, The Pori Jazz Festival, and the Istanbul Jazz Festival, opening concerts for artists such as The Brecker Brothers, The Maria Schneider Orchestra, and Regina Carter. In 2003, the Montreal International Jazz Festival awarded her the 'Galaxie Prize' for best composition, and gave her a headlining spot at the next year's festival. Endorsed by Godin Guitars, she has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, with Paquito D'Rivera's Latin Jazz Workshop at Carnegie Hall in New York, at the 2016's Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Celebration at Constitution Hall, and at the 2017 National Menorah Lightning at the White House,

and with Bobby McFerrin. Karine is a graduate of McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and in 2010, earned two Master's Degrees from Howard University. In 2011, Karine was awarded the 'Outstanding Performance in Jazz at the Graduate College Level' honor by Downbeat Magazine.

Born and raised in Washington D.C. **Angel Bethea** has been seen playing drums and percussion at various venues in the DC, Maryland & Virginia areas such as the Kennedy Center, Blues Alley, Strathmore, Mr. Henry's and others. She has been heard all around with groups such as the Amy K. Bormet Trio, Shannon Gunn & the Bullettes, Terra Firma and the Jeffrey Greenberg Quintet. Some of Angel's greatest influences consists of great drummers like Terri Lyne Carrington, Tony Williams, Elvin Jones, Jamison Ross, David Garibaldi and others. She is also passionate about helping non-profit arts organizations like The Washington Jazz Arts Institute located in D.C. as a drum instructor and mentor to the young students in training. She is a graduate of George Mason University in Fairfax, V.A. where she studied to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with a Minor in Jazz Studies & Arts Management. While there, Angel performed with several university ensembles like the Mason Jazz Big Band, Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble and Steel Pan ensemble. She's spent time performing with the Latin American Ensemble as well, which has earned its members a place in Downbeat Magazine as "Outstanding Performers". She has been working at mastering the drums for well over a decade and is looking forward to a lifetime of continuing to play, mentor, teach and work with non profit arts organizations.





**Alfredo Mojica** is a cornerstone of the D.C. salsa community. Born in Central America, he is a consummate percussionist and vocalist who began performing at a tender age with such legends in the field as Celia Cruz, Eddie Palmieri, Willie Colón, Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy Rich, El Gran Combo, Ray Barretto, and others.

*Photos are all courtesy of the artists.*

## About the Producers



**Donna Limerick**, executive producer, is an award-winning documentary producer, with over 25 years of experience producing programs for National Public Radio. As President and Executive Producer of North Star Communications, a radio syndication company she has partnered on projects with Ken Burns and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Her television and radio productions include Quincy Jones, Nancy Wilson, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Wynton Marsalis, and other jazz masters.

She was the Concert Producer for “Evolution of the Blues,” written by vocalist Jon Hendricks. It debuted at the Monterey Jazz Festival in 1996 and then on to a worldwide tour featuring Jon Hendricks, Joe Williams, Diane Reeves, Abbey Lincoln, Kevin Mahogany, and trumpeter Roy Hargrove.

She is currently a lecturer/consultant with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture for an exhibit about her mother Mae Reeves (1912-2016), hat designer and entrepreneur. Her clients included Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, and Marion Anderson. Donna Limerick has been the executive producer for Jazz in the Gardens at Hillwood since the series began in 2021.

**Maureen Monteiro** is the assistant producer for North Star Communications, Inc. This company syndicates radio programs to public radio stations nationwide, as well as produces concerts and lectures for the Mae Reeves Exhibit at the National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

*Photos are all courtesy of the producers.*

