

Jazz Beyond Borders

For Immediate Release:

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018 at 8 PM
CLARENCE WARD III & DMV COLLECTIVE
Montpelier Arts Center, 301-377-7800
9652 MUIRKIRK RD, LAUREL, MD 20708
TICKETS: \$25 –10% discount for members & seniors

CLARENCE WARD III & THE DMV COLLECTIVE BRING PASSION AND FIRE TO THEIR MONTPELIER ARTS CENTER JAZZ CONCERT

Clarence Ward III and DMV Collective perform at the Montpelier Arts Center in Laurel on March 9, 2018. Aided by some of the finest musicians in the region, the multi-instrumentalist will burn away the cold with the passionate delivery of his jazz music.

One of the lionhearts of jazz in Baltimore, Ward is a master of multiple genres from straight-ahead jazz to R&B and soul, playing both classic standards and original compositions. Listeners are spellbound by the wail of his trumpet and delighted by the funkiness of his saxophone. His soulful, heartfelt style of old school sax gives classics new meaning. His trumpeting, reminiscent of Roy Hargrove, is energizing and restorative for listeners.

Ward has toured and performed with icons such as Gladys Knight, Nancy Wilson, and Aretha Franklin. In the R&B world he's worked with the Chante Moore, Ruff Endz and Ledisi. He has also worked with gospel greats CeCe Winans and Richard Smallwood. He played countless venues in the U.S. and Japan before returning his focus to Charm City, where he has created one of the most exciting jazz jam sessions on the Eastern Seaboard. Attracting seasoned jazz cats and putting newbies through their paces, The Session happens Mondays at Tabor Ethiopian Restaurant in downtown Baltimore from 8:00 p.m. until midnight.

Ward is joined by great performers for his Montpelier debut. Recently returning from Cincinnati, vibraphonist Chris Barrick has performed at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore and Blues Alley. Guest vocalist Zenia McPherson will continue on her path of winning hearts and minds internationally. Pianist Hope Udobe, bassist Mikel Combs, and percussionist Quincy Phillips complete the band. Phillips also drums for Roy Hargrove and appears on the 2017 Grammy winning Christian McBride Big Band album, *Bringin' It*. Program highlights will include Ellington classic "Cottontail," and the Ward original "Thanks for the Tears," written for his mother.

Equally accessible from Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Annapolis, Montpelier Arts Center is located at 9652 Muirkirk Road in Laurel, Maryland. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$25.00 with discounts for members and seniors. Reservations are strongly advised. Call 301-377-7800 or visit <http://culturecapital.com/organization/128/montpelier-arts-center>.

Jazz Beyond Borders is a Cultural Diversity Project of The Phillips Agency
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