

## **For Immediate Release**

### **What**

Beavercreek's (OH) Annual Weekend of Jazz concert featuring the new jazz ensemble Sylvan Street, with bassist Jay Rees, saxophonist Kelland Thomas, guitarist Frank Browne, drummer/vocalist Andrew Hix, trumpeter Chad Shoopman, and piano/keyboardist Evan Rees, presented by Beavercreek Music Parents Association.

### **Where**

Beavercreek High School Alumni Auditorium

### **When**

Friday, March 6, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

### **Cost**

General Admission tickets:

\$25 adults

\$20 seniors

\$15 students

### **Contact**

Media: [Publicity@weekendofjazz.org](mailto:Publicity@weekendofjazz.org)

Public: [Director@weekendofjazz.org](mailto:Director@weekendofjazz.org)

### **Photo**

Available upon request

### **Related website**

[www.weekendofjazz.org](http://www.weekendofjazz.org)

Beavercreek's Weekend of Jazz 2009 presents a concert of cutting-edge jazz- fusion performed by Summit Records recording artists Sylvan Street. The band is a select and accomplished group of professional jazz musicians from around the country, hand picked by Sylvan Street composer, bassist and leader Jay Rees to perform his wide range of innovative works. Sylvan Street includes soaring high note trumpeter Chad Shoopman avant-garde improvisational saxophonist Kelland Thomas, virtuosic Los Angeles guitarist Frank Browne, Chicago's multi-talented drummer/singer Andrew Hix, and 15 year-old keyboard prodigy Evan Rees. The concert is Friday, March 6, 2009 at 8:00 in the Beavercreek High School Alumni Auditorium. General admission tickets are \$25, \$20 and \$15.

The music of Sylvan Street is dynamic, funky, and very aggressive - an emotional and eclectic blend influenced by everything from Weather Report to Horace Silver to Talking Heads. "It's a fusion of my diverse background in jazz, popular music, standards, and

rock and roll,” says Rees. The music of Sylvan Street is unique in that it brings the energy and excitement of a rock concert to the intimacy of a jazz venue.

Sold out crowds enthusiastically received Sylvan Street’s 2008 debut performances, commenting that the songs took them on an emotional ride from tribal funk grooves and bittersweet love songs, to jump swing and blues beats. Sylvan Street’s self-titled CD is set for release on Summit Records later this year with advance copies being made available at the Weekend of Jazz 2009.

“Sylvan Street is honored to bring our music to this prestigious event,” adds Rees. “In addition to our concert, members of the group will conduct clinics with attending high school jazz musicians from across the Midwest. We look forward to working with all these young artists and inspiring the next generation of jazz innovators.”

Jay Rees, bass, is an accomplished musician in jazz performance, having appeared throughout the U.S., Canada and Japan. A composer of original music for jazz, wind ensemble, concert and athletic bands, Rees’ diverse works are commissioned and performed by major universities and high schools across the country. As bassist and musical director, he toured with the international recording act The Lettermen and is featured on their 1991 album release *Now and Then*. Rees is currently a full professor at The University of Arizona School of Music, bringing his wealth of experience as conductor, composer, arranger, and performer. He conducts the UA Wind Symphony and is Director of the UA Pride of Arizona marching and pep bands. Rees is also a featured performer at Southern Arizona’s annual AZ Jazz Concert Series.

Kelland Thomas, saxophone, is a versatile musician comfortable in a variety of genres. He appears frequently throughout the U.S., performing with the Firecracker Jazz Band, the Original Wildcat Jazz Band, Descarga, and as lead tenor saxophone with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra. Thomas has backed such acts as The Four Tops, Diane Schuur, Manhattan Transfer, The Spinners, Sam Moore, Jimmy Heath, and Marcus Belgrave. He is also musical director for Salsarengue, a new ensemble specializing in Latin Jazz, Salsa, and Dominican Merengue. Thomas serves on the faculty of the University of Arizona School of Music as both Coordinator of the Camerata Career Development Program and Professor of Saxophone.

Chad Shoopman, trumpet, performs regularly for Walt Disney World Co.. the Sam Rivers RivBea Orchestra, the Dan McMillion Groovin' High Big Band, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, and the hr-Big Band in Frankfurt, Germany. He is an artist for Powell Signature Series Trumpets and Warburton Mouthpieces. As lead trumpeter with The Chuck Owen Jazz Surge Big Band, Shoopman has worked and recorded with such artists as Randy Brecker, Chick Corea, and Bob Mintzer. Other credits include appearances with Patti Austin, Louie Bellson, Shelley Berg, Peabo Bryson, Kristen Chenoweth, Pete Christlieb, Peter Erskine, Jon Faddis, Wynton Marsalis, Arturo Sandoval, and Bill Watrous. Shoopman is an avid studio player having recorded numerous projects for television, film, and radio as well as sessions for Disney shows and theme parks

worldwide. Originally from Tucson, Shoopman is a graduate of The University of Arizona with degrees in Music Education and Conducting Performance.

Frank Browne, guitar, resides in Los Angeles and tours regularly throughout the U.S. He has performed on stage with many national acts including the jazz ensemble Big Brothers Big Band, and Zoot Suit Revue, the acclaimed swing, big band, latin, and jump blues show group. Browne is heard on ZSR's album "Bold, Borrowed and New" as well as three CD's with Gary Urwin's Studio Orchestra. Their latest recording, Kindred Spirits, features legendary saxophonist Pete Christlieb and trombonist Bill Watrous. Browne has appeared in major cities from coast to coast and at such notable venues as The Derby, The Coconut Club, The Supper Club NY, House of Blues, and the MGM Grand. Browne's original guitar duo, Taylor & Browne, released the CD "Best Kept Secrets," and performed a tour of select dates across the Southwest. Fluent in all musical genres, he also maintains a large studio of private students. Browne originally hails from New York and is a graduate of the University of Miami School of Music.

Andrew Hix, drums/vocals, has a diverse musical range having performed and recorded with artists in both Chicago and Los Angeles. He toured throughout the U.S. and Canada playing with several name acts including The Diamonds, The Coasters, Little Anthony, Del Shannon, and The Platters. Hix works extensively in the jazz clubs of Chicago, including the Apollo Theatre. In addition to performing, he is co-owner of Hix Brothers Music, where he also works as percussion faculty. Hix is a graduate of DePaul University's School of Music.

Evan Rees, piano/keyboards, is an accomplished jazz and classical pianist at a remarkably young age. He began playing piano at the age of 7 and has received numerous honors and awards. He currently performs with Tucson JazzWerx, an outreach combo of the Tucson Jazz Society. In 2008, he received the Felton Family Jazz Scholarship Award at the Northern Arizona University Summer Jazz Institute. In addition to Sylvan Street, Evan has performed alongside such notable musicians as Grammy Award-winning tenor saxophonist Brice Winston, and jazz bassist Joel DiBartolo of the Doc Severinsen and Tonight Show bands. Evan is a student at University High School in Tucson, AZ.