



Today's Date: Wednesday January 13th 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Birch Creek to Host Club Jazz Valentine Concert, "Matters of the Heart"

Egg Harbor, WI – Birch Creek invites all to a wonderful evening of music with Jazz Trio featuring Birch Creek faculty members Reggie Thomas (Vocal/Piano in Nat King Cole Style) and Rick Haydon (Guitar) with special guest Mark Urness (Bass).

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts with cash bar, along with this live, club jazz trio will be sure to sell out in the intimate setting of Juniper Hall, on Saturday February 11th from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. . Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at birchcreek.org/tickets or by phone at 920-868-3763. This event is generously sponsored by lead sponsor the Door County Medical Center and by Charlotte Lukes. Seating is limited; register early.

Our featured artists are:

Reggie Thomas is Coordinator of Jazz Studies at Northern Illinois University, after three years as Professor of Jazz Piano at Michigan State University and 20 years as Professor of Music at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. He can be seen fronting his own groups (Mardra/Reggie Thomas Ensemble; OGD) on both piano and Hammond organ and performing with other artists including Will Matthews, Ann Hampton Callaway and the Carl Allen/Rodney Whitaker Project. Reggie is a longtime consultant/clinician for Jazz at Lincoln Center working with the Essentially Ellington Program and Band Director Academy and presents workshops for the Weill Music Institute for Carnegie Hall. He is a current member of The Count Basie Orchestra and a rhythm section accompanist for the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competitions. Reggie has rich history performing for more than 20 years with the Birch Creek Jazz Orchestra.

Rick Haydon is Professor Emeritus of Music at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and is currently teaching Private Applied Jazz Guitar and directs the Jazz Guitar Ensemble. In his 30+ year career at SIUE, Rick played a key role in the development and evolution of the jazz program as well as the university's recording studio. Rick has served on the summer faculties of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Band Director Academy and the Birch Creek Music Center. Haydon has studied with many of the Masters of Jazz Guitar and performed with a number of great musicians. Among these are, Johnny Smith, Howard Roberts, Pat Martino, and most recently Bucky Pizzarelli (7-string). Professor Haydon has been performing professionally for over forty-eight years and has played in a variety of situations. He

has performed with Herb Ellis and Mundell Lowe during the Guitar Foundation of America International Guitar Convention and with Bucky Pizzarelli before a sold out concert at the Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis. Rick was the featured guest artist at the Quad City Jazz Festival along with Mulgrew Miller. Rick has recorded and performed with John Pizzarelli on various occasions and as part of the Jazz Cabaret Series.

Mark Urness Associate Professor of Music Lawrence University is a versatile bassist, composer, and educator. His diverse performance experience encompasses orchestral, chamber, solo, jazz playing. He was awarded First Prize in the International Society of Bassists Jazz Competition. His unaccompanied jazz CD, *Foreground*, was released in 2009. *Bass World* magazine described his playing as “completely in command of the instrument and the tunes, rife with good ideas, melodic instinct, and groove, not to mention killer intonation on the double stops and chords.” Recent performances include Chamber music broadcasts on Wisconsin Public Radio, and jazz performances with Bill Carrothers, Danilo Perez, Peter Erskine, and Joe Locke.

Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Egg Harbor, WI, is a residential summer music academy for advanced young musicians. With a performance emphasis, students are taught by nationally known performers and educators during the day, and perform alongside them in concerts at night. Four, two-week sessions focus on Percussion & Steel Band, Symphony, and Big Band Jazz. For more information about the 2017 season, visit www.birchcreek.org.

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