

**For Immediate Release**

**Friday, October 8, 2010**

## **Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame Ceremony and Concert**

**Monday November 8, 2010, 8 PM**

**The Afterthought Bar, 2721 Kavanaugh Blvd, Little Rock (501) 663-1196**

**Tickets \$20 each in advance, \$25 day of show, (501) 228-9999.**

Don't miss the outstanding 2010 Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame induction ceremony and concert will be held on Monday November 8, 2010. The event honors Arkansans who have contributed to jazz music through performance, promotion, writing, radio/TV, and other areas connected with jazz music. The event starts at 8 PM at the Afterthought Bar, 2721 Kavanaugh, Little Rock. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 day of show, and are available in advance from Capitol Keyboard, (501) 228-9999, Tickets can also be ordered by mail, or purchased at any Monday Jazz event at the Afterthought.

The Hall of Fame inductees are Jerry Atkins (posthumously) and Amina Claudine Myers. Jerry Atkins was a well-known Arkansas jazz radio host, saxophonist, and jazz writer from Texarkana. Amina Claudine Myers is a pianist, vocalist, and jazz composer from Blackwell, Arkansas. The event is sponsored by the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation, the Afterthought, the Hilton Little Rock Metro Centre, and Capitol Keyboard.

Roseanna Vitro (Vocalist/AR Jazz Hall of Fame 1998) will present the Jerry Atkins family with his posthumous award and Ms. Vitro will perform in Mr. Atkins' honor joined by his son Byron Atkins (guitar), and some of his musical friends. Sal Bonner (jazz promoter/AR Jazz Hall of Fame 2004) is scheduled to present Amina Claudine Myers with her award and Ms. Meyers will perform for her segment. The house band will feature bassist Joe Vick, pianist Tom Cox, saxophonist Dr. Barry McVinney, and at the drums Dave Rogers. A jam session will follow the inductions lead by the house players.

**Jerry L. Atkins** was born May 5, 1929 in Texarkana and lived on State Line Ave. He began playing clarinet at age 12 while in Jr. High School. While in High School at 16 years of age he played saxophone and clarinet with a wartime big band. He left Texarkana after high school and toured the Gulf Coast with a notable territory bebop band. Upon returning to the Ark-La-Texas area he formed several bands and began to write articles for several jazz magazines: Down Beat, Metronome, Jazz Journal International, International Association of Jazz Record Collectors, and Coda. He reviewed jazz records for Cadence Jazz magazine for more than five years. Atkins won awards for "Discographies and Discographers", "Texas Tenors' The Discography of Stan Getz"

Atkins created and hosted a jazz radio show "Enjoyment of Jazz" on 100,000-watt NPR radio station in Texarkana for 22 years. He owned a jazz collection of LP's, CD's, 78's, jazz photos, books, and arrangements; Well over 5,000 items in all. In 2009 he would have his last interview by one of his long time admirers and friends, international recording artist and U.S. Jazz Ambassador, Roseanna Vitro "live", in his home in Texarkana. Atkins remained active in jazz activities until his death in June of 2010.

**Amina Claudine Myers** has such a vast musical career that we could write pages. Born in Blackwell, Arkansas she spent her early years there and in Dallas, Texas, studying classical

music, playing in church, singing and entering talent shows. She received a Rockefeller scholarship and two other music scholarships to Philander Smith College as a music major. Ms. Myers started playing jazz on Ninth Street at the Safari club and played there for a few years. She got lessons from some of the local musicians, Art Porter for one, and learned her craft there. She continued her classical education and learned to play organ, bought her own B3 and began to travel. She joined the AACM and began composing and performing for both Big Band and Chamber Orchestra in Chicago. Moving to New York she played with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers as well as many other noted groups. She directed a gospel choir, and received four grants from National Arts Foundations. She was asked to join a group touring Europe and was there often playing in solo, duet, trio, and larger groups. She was teaching jazz and playing at jazz festivals throughout this time. She played with Zoot Sims, Sonny Stitt, Dexter Gordon, Eddie Harris and almost every jazz musician you know.

Ms. Myers has several recordings and she is currently performing original works of jazz, blues and gospel on the pipe organ. This year she was commissioned by the Chicago Jazz Institute to compose and direct a 17-piece orchestra to honor the late Mary Lou Williams' 100th birthday.

A limited number of tickets are available to attend the induction ceremony in the historic Afterthought Bar. Ticket prices are \$20, and will be \$25 day of the ceremony, available from Capitol Keyboard, 13401 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, in person or by phone (501) 228-9999. The Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation will be accepting mail-in orders while tickets last through November 1, 2010. Send requested number of tickets, check for the full amount, and self addressed stamped envelope to: Hall of Fame Tickets, c/o the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation, PO Box 251187, Little Rock, AR 72225-1187. Orders received after November 1, 2010, will be held at the door the night of the ceremony. Tickets may also be purchased on any Monday night, at the Afterthought Bar.

Our hotel sponsor, the Hilton Little Rock Metro Center, is offering a special rate of \$79.00 plus tax nightly, for out of town guests attending the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame on Sunday November 7, and Monday November 8, 2010. To make reservations, call the hotel at 501-664-5020 or 1-800-HILTONS and ask for the special room rate for the 2010 Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame.

**For press information about the Arkansas Jazz Hall of Fame call AJHF Secretary James Thomson (501) 225-2891, President Cece Rich (501) 228-9999, or email [info@arjazz.org](mailto:info@arjazz.org).**