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CEDAR WALTON BRINGS HIS MESSAGE TO NCCU'S JAZZ FESTIVAL

DURHAM, N.C. – Fans of Cedar Walton, one of the most universally respected jazz pianists, will have the opportunity to see him perform at North Carolina Central University's Jazz Festival and the Second Annual African American Jazz Caucus Research Institute (NAJRI) Conference, Thursday, April 17, 2008. Walton will take the stage at the NCCU's B.N. Duke Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Walton has played with Lou Donaldson, Kenny Dorham, J.J. Johnson, Art Farmer, and Art Blakey, and recorded with Freddie Hubbard, John Coltrane, and Joe Henderson. It was Walton's stint with Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers that he calls "the crowning experience" of his career. Walton played with Blakey from 1961–64. Two of his compositions became title tunes for Blakey's albums, *Mosaic* and *Ugetsu*. He also wrote the title tune for Joe Henderson's *Mode for Joe*. During the seventies, Walton cut albums *Eastern Rebellion*, *A Night at Boomer's*, and *Breakthrough*.

In 1996 and 1997, the Astor Place label released two CD collections of Walton's music: *Composer* and *Roots*.

In 2001, Walton signed with New York-based HighNote Records. His first CD was *Promise Land* (HighNote Records HCD 7081), which features young alto player, Vincent Herring. His second recording, *Latin Tinge* (HighNote Records HCD 7099) features the heavy-duty rhythm section of Cucho Martinez and Ray Mantilla.

Tickets are on sale now. For conference packages or individual tickets, call NCCU Tickets at 919-530-5170 or go to: www.najri.org

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