Late Night Concert: Sam Newsome with the UNCG Jazz Faculty

8:30 PM, UNCG Dance Theater ($10 adults/all students free)

**Sam Newsome** first came into prominence on the New York jazz scene as a member of the Terence Blanchard Quintet in the early 1990s, whose core members consisted of Mr. Blanchard on trumpet, Bruce Barth on piano, Tarus Mateen on bass, Troy Davis on drums, and Mr. Newsome on the tenor saxophone. The group toured all over the world as well as recorded several CDs for the Columbia/Sony label, including the critically acclaimed "Malcolm X Jazz Suite."

Mr. Newsome, who was feeling uninspired by his sound on the tenor, along with his inability to shake his early influences, seemed to find hope and inspiration in the sound of the soprano saxophone, which, consequently, lead to his radical change in 1996 that resulted in him trading in the big tenor saxophone, for the smaller, more difficult soprano saxophone. When asked why he made the switch, Mr. Newsome said, "The sound of the soprano allowed me to play with the freedom of not having to carry on my shoulders, decades of the great tenor saxophone legacy. I felt that the sound that I was producing was my own. That was very liberating."

Consequently, this lead to Mr. Newsome broadening his musical palette as he began studying music from North Africa, Japan, and the Middle East--incorporating non-Western scales into his musical vocabulary. He soon formed Global Unity, which was to become his working band for the next seven years. Global Unity consisted of a wide range of musicians from all over the world: vocalist Elisabeth Kontomanou, oud player Amos Hoffman, guitarist Michel Pilc, bassist Ugonna Okegwo, and percussionists Gilad and Satoshi Takeishi. They released two CDs: Sam Newsome & Global Unity (Columbia/Sony) and Global Unity (Palmetto).

After a seven-year commitment to honing his band sound with Global Unity, Mr. Newsome decided to take a hiatus from performing as a leader to develop a musical concept that was more specific to the soprano saxophone.

Moreover, being frustrated with trying to keep a working band together, and realizing that the essence of his musical concept with Global Unity was about sound and texture, made exploring the solo saxophone format even more attractive. This lead to years of Mr. Newsome diligently studying the solo works of Steve Lacy, Evan Parker, Sonny Rollins, and Anthony Braxton, where he learned how to approach solo saxophone as a concept, and not just sound like one person minus a band. The fruits of his labor culminated with the 2007 release of his critically acclaimed solo saxophone CD, "Monk Abstractions," on which he recorded the compositions of Thelonious Monk. Mark Corroto from All About Jazz wrote: "Newsome expands the sound of a single soprano saxophone into a one man band."

In 2010, Newsome released his second solo saxophone CD, Blue Soliloquy--this time with the blues being at the music’s core. Jazz critic Howard Mandel wrote, "Sam Newsome’s Blue Soliloquy is music of significant yet subtle accomplishment.” This CD was also given the distinguished five star ★★★★★ (masterpiece) rating by Downbeat Magazine.

Today, Mr. Newsome, in addition to being assistant professor of jazz studies at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus, continues to tour, record and develop new ways to explore...
Brandon Lee was selected by Wynton Marsalis to perform with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for a Louis Armstrong PBS special. In 2001, Brandon would become one of 18 students selected to become a part of the inaugural class of the Jazz Studies program at the Juilliard School. While at Juilliard, Brandon performed with many of the jazz giants including Benny Golson, Kenny Barron, Ray Brown, Clark Terry and Hank Jones. In 2005 Brandon completed his Bachelors of Music degree and in 2007 he completed his Masters of Music degree at The Juilliard School.

In August of 2007 Brandon released his debut album, From Within, and in March of 2010, Brandon released his second CD entitled Absolute-Lee, which featured all original compositions. In the fall of 2008, Brandon became the youngest to join the faculty at The Juilliard School and conducted the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra and showcased the orchestra in many venues including Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola and Alice Tully Hall in New York City, Snow College in Utah, and University of Osaka in Osaka, Japan.

Brandon plays frequently with his own group and as a sideman in several other groups. Some of the more recent groups include; Tommy Igoe and the Birdland Big Band, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Kenny Barron Quintet, Kurt Elling, Christian McBride Big Band, David Berger Big Band, Fat Cat Big Band, Alon Yavnai and Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra. Presently, Brandon resides in North Carolina where he is the Assistant Professor for the Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Saxophonist and composer Chad Eby teaches applied jazz saxophone, Jazz Ensemble II, Jazz Improvisation, Jazz History, and Jazz Listening in the Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program at UNCG. Chad is releasing his third studio album, "New Business", in December 2012, and his 2010 album "Broken Shadows" (Cellar Live) featured Steve Haines and Jason Marsalis, with guest appearances by Doug Wamble and Branford Marsalis. A Newhall, Iowa native, he has earned widespread critical acclaim as "a consummate improviser" (Jazz Times), "has tremendous poise and natural melodic sense" (Ottawa Sun), and his "tone is boundless, blues-inflected, and wholly satisfying" (AllAboutJazz.com). He is active as a composer, and received the Ohio Arts Council and North Carolina Arts Council awards for jazz composition in 2003 and 2009, respectively. Highly in demand as an arranger, his commissioned works have been performed or recorded by Bill Charlap with Kurt Elling, Wynton Marsalis with Willie Nelson and Norah Jones, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, the Dallas Jazz Orchestra, the L.A. All-Star Big Band, and many collegiate jazz ensembles. Visit chadeby.bandcamp.com to order or download his work. He is a Rico Reeds Performing Artist.

John Salmon, piano, has distinguished himself on four continents, as both a classical and jazz artist. Critics have praised his "mesmerizing boldness and confidence" (Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida) and called him "a tremendous pianist" (El País, Madrid, Spain) and "dashing performer" (Journal de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland). His broad repertoire covers the classics - Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms - though his involvement with contemporary music is equally strong. Salmon has been at the forefront of performing new works by such celebrated composers as Dave Brubeck (who dedicated two compositions to Salmon), Nikolai Kapustin, and Lalo Schifrin. His performances and recordings (on the Phoenix, Naxos, and Albany labels) have been heard on radio stations throughout the U.S., including National Public Radio, WNYC in New York,
and WFMT in Chicago; and on the national radio stations of Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ukraine. Salmon is a frequent guest performer at festivals in the U.S. and Europe, having appeared at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival (Charleston, South Carolina), Piano Festival Northwest (Portland, Oregon), Festival for Creative Pianists (Grand Junction, Colorado), Festival Internacional de Música del Mediterráneo (Cartagena, Spain), and the International Bartók Festival (Szombathely, Hungary). Other special appearances include an all-Liszt recital in Mexico City for the American Liszt Society and an all-Brubeck recital in Washington, DC for the Music Teachers National Association. John Salmon has been a member of the faculty of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Music since 1989. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin; the Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School; the Solistendiplom from the Hochschule für Musik, Freiburg, Germany; and the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts (philosophy) degrees from Texas Christian University.

**Steve Haines**, double bass, has played with Wycliffe Gordon, Paul Bollenback, Joel Frahm, Ralph Bowen, Joe Chambers, Dick Oatts, Fred Wesley, Adam Nussbaum, Bob Berg, and Joe Williams. His first album as a leader *The Steve Haines Quintet: Beginner’s Mind* (Artist’s House Records) received international critical acclaim and was hailed as “one of the best inside/outside records of the year.” His newest album as a leader, *The Steve Haines Quintet with Jimmy Cobb: Stickadiboom* (Zoho records) is available at www.amazon.com, or iTunes. His most recent recording as a sideman is Chad Eby’s *Broken Shadows* (Cellar Live records), with Doug Wamble, and Jason and Branford Marsalis. He is an associate professor and directs the Miles Davis Program in Jazz Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Haines holds a B.M. in Jazz Performance from St. Francis Xavier University in Canada and a M.M. in Music (Jazz Studies) from the University of North Texas. Haines’ music is published at the University of Northern Colorado Press. Steve orchestrated and arranged the musical *Ella: The Life and Music of Ella Fitzgerald*. Most recently, he orchestrated Chopin’s piano Mazurka in A minor for full orchestra and jazz quartet. He is a recipient of the North Carolina Jazz Fellowship and is a semi-finalist for the 2010 Jazz Knights Commission.

**Thomas Taylor** has been teaching at the University North Carolina at Greensboro as drum set professor since 2004. He is in great demand all over the Southeast for his performance as well as teaching abilities. Thomas is also one of the drum set instructors for the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz camps. He has performed with Ellis Marsalis, Kenny Garrett, Eric Alexander, Kevin Mahogany, Vanessa Rubin, David Baker, Bill Charlap, Cedar Walton, Mulgrew Miller and many others in concerts and clinics. Thomas has taught and performed at many festivals including The Northeastern State University Jazz Festival in Talequah, Oklahoma, The University of Louisville Jazz Week, The UNC Jazz Festival, IAJE conference in Toronto, The Ethno Jazz Festival in Moldova, The Odessa International Jazz Carnival in Ukraine, and served as an ambassador to the state of North Carolina by performing at the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau, Moldova. He has also been a performer and clinician in Japan, Alaska, Hawaii, and all over the continental United States. Thomas earned the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1991. Since that time he has taught at several Universities and Colleges, toured nationally and internationally, and recorded with local and national artists.