

International Recording Artist to Perform at Annual Jazz-O-Rama

The Brazoswood Jazz Bands, along with the Lake Jackson Intermediate Jazz Band will present their Annual Jazz-O-Rama concert on Monday, May 16th, 2011. The concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. at The Clarion at Brazosport College and is free. The featured guest artist will be recording and performing artist Grace Kelly.

When it comes to saxophonist /vocalist /composer /lyricist /arranger Grace Kelly, people seem to be divided into two groups: those who marvel at her proficiency, creativity and ever-accelerating growth, and those who have yet to encounter the 18-year-old wunderkind. The ranks of the former category are growing by the day. Trumpeter and Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis was so impressed with Kelly's three-night stand as guest of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in November that he has invited her to join the ensemble at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater in Washington, D.C. for an Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/Inauguration Eve concert on January 19th. Harry Connick, Jr. heard Kelly in a master class on a December afternoon and brought her on stage to sit in with his band that night. This capped an already exceptional end of 2008 in which Kelly's appearance on NPR's Piano Jazz with Marian McPartland was syndicated nationally, The Boston Music Awards declared her the city's Outstanding Jazz Act, and local ABC affiliate WCVB-TV named her one of five Bostonians to Watch in 2009. The 2009 57th Downbeat Critics Poll added to her list naming her one of the "Alto Saxophone Rising Stars", the youngest ever to be named so. She has numerous other awards to her credit.



To this astonishing list of kudos and credits, Kelly now adds Mood Changes, the fifth release on her PAZZ label. The album mixes six standards with four Kelly originals and features her working quintet (Jason Palmer, trumpet; Doug Johnson, piano; John Lockwood, basses; Jordan Perlson or Terri Lyne Carrington, drums), with guest appearances by guitarist Adam Rogers on two tracks and trombonist Hal Crook on one.

Kelly has garnered accolades from artists she has revered, sitting in with the likes of Dave Brubeck, the late Frank Morgan and Phil Woods. ("I gave her my hat, that's how good she sounded," Woods enthused. "She's the first alto player to get one.") Perhaps her most intensive connection has been with Lee Konitz, who Kelly has studied with for the past three years. "The biggest lesson that Lee taught me has been spontaneity, from day one," she emphasizes, while Konitz has referred to Kelly as "all ears and all heart." Kelly asked Konitz to guest on two tracks for her fourth album, an invitation that led to the joint composition "GRACEfulLEE" and an entire disc of the same name. GRACEfulLEE, with the all-star support of guitarist Russell Malone, bassist Rufus Reid and drummer Matt Wilson, garnered a rare **** ½ review in Down Beat, and has been widely acclaimed as one of the best jazz recordings of 2008.



Currently, Kelly is a junior at Boston's Berklee College of Music. "I auditioned for Berklee and received a full scholarship, I got my GED and started college at 16. It's been great, playing all the time and just living music all day. I'm learning so much and I'm playing all kinds of music. It is a challenge to balance college with all the touring I do with my band but so far I have been able to do both." Since age 12 Grace has performed over 500 concerts as a leader all around the world.

Read more at <http://www.gracekellymusic.com>

"Grace Kelly plays with intelligence, wit and feeling. She has a great amount of natural ability and the ability to adapt that is the hallmark of a first-class jazz musician."

Wynton Marsalis