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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Messenger Legacy Honors Jazz Great Art Blakey at the Weinberg Center**

FREDERICK, MD, Wednesday, January 15, 2020 — [The Messenger Legacy – Art Blakey Centennial Celebration](#) brings an all-star group of musicians to the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 8:00 PM to play tribute to the Jazz Messengers, the big band collective led by the late Art Blakey.

Tickets start at \$20 and may be purchased online at [WeinbergCenter.org](http://WeinbergCenter.org), by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street. Discounts are available for students, children, military, and seniors.

Drummer Ralph Peterson Jr. has assembled an all-star group of musical talent for a tribute to the Jazz Messengers, the prolific big band collective led by his mentor, the late Art Blakey. Also the founding drummer, Blakey led the influential jazz collective from the mid-1950s until his death in 1990. This year the collective is marking the 100th anniversary of Blakey's birth with selections from a new recording. The musicians include Peterson on percussion, saxophonists Bobby Watson and Bill Pierce, bassist Essiet Essiet, pianist Geoffrey Keezer, and trumpeter Brian Lynch. The Messenger Legacy can exist in several configurations. Musicians Phillip Harper, Robin Eubanks, Craig Handy, Donald Harrison, Johnny O'Neal, Lonnie Plaxico, Donald Brown and even the living senior Messenger Reggie Workman, are all connected to the project. Under the leadership of Blakey, the Jazz Messengers collective was a proving ground for young jazz talent, and that tradition continues today. These musicians often have a deep and direct connection with, and have been mentored by Messenger alumni listed above. Among the young musicians are Zaccai Curtis, Sean Jones and many others. This ensures the legacy lives beyond those who had direct contact with Blakey.

A link to images of the artist is available below.

[http://bit.ly/MessengerLeg\\_images](http://bit.ly/MessengerLeg_images)

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2019-2020 season can be found at [WeinbergCenter.org](http://WeinbergCenter.org).

#### **ABOUT THE WEINBERG CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

The Weinberg Center for the Arts is one of the region's premier performing arts presenters, offering film, music, dance, theater, and family-focused programming. Located in the historic Tivoli movie theater in downtown Frederick Maryland, the Weinberg Center strives to ensure that the arts remain accessible and affordable to local and regional audiences alike. Weinberg Center events are made possible with major support from the City of Frederick, the Maryland State Arts Council, Plamondon Hospitality Partners, and other corporate and individual donors.