**Marcus Belgrave- Detroit**



**Marcus Belgrave is Detroit's internationally recognized trumpet great**, who ever since arriving here in the mid 1960s has guided generations of young musicians from this city to find their ways with jazz. Born to musical if impoverished circumstances in Chester, Pennsylvania, Belgrave by age 6 was wild about Louis Armstrong, tutored in his teens by Clifford Brown, and made his first professional tour with the Ray Charles Orchestra at age 21. From 1958 to '63, at the height of its hit-making, Ray's band featured Marcus's soloing on some of its most famous albums and singles, and he was central to Charles' even jazzier small ensemble. After a New York City stint -- during which he recorded with Charles Mingus, Eric Dolphy, Max Roach, et al -- Belgrave settled in Detroit to become a Motown Records' staff trumpeter, educator and self-producing artist.

Ever since, he's been been the city's foremost jazz musician -- a "Detroit Jazz Masters," as Jazz at Lincoln Center billed him for a production that also featured Yusef Lateef, Ron Carter, Curtis Fuller, Charles McPherson and Geri Allen. Belgrave's most important local ventures have included his challenging '70s ensemble Tribe, his Jazz Development Workshop, his establishment of the Jazz Studies Program at the Detroit Metro Arts Complex, and a recent residency at Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center. He has also done significant jazz outreach, in 1997 traveling with five other Michigan jazz masters to Egypt, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey in a cultural exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and from 2000 to 2007 leading an eight-member ensemble to 50 cities across America, performing his Tribute to Louis Armstrong in observance of the legendary trumpeter's 100th birthday. He currently  performs with singer Joan Belgrave, his wife, in a program of Dinah Washington repertoire, and his concert recording Lotty the Body's Mood will be released by Blue Note Records this year.

**Belgrave has been officially named Jazz Master Laureate** for the City of Detroit, and received the prestigious Kresge Eminent Artist Award in recognition of his nearly 50 years of service to the young. His local protégés have included Regina Carter, Robert Hurst, Kenny Garrett, Geri Allen, James Carter, Ray Parker Jr. and Ali Jackson, among many others. He's taught at the Stanford Jazz Workshop and Oberlin College Conservatory, but also, as JJA member Mark Stryker has written in the Detroit Free Press, he has been associated with "a string of community arts programs, school residencies and his own Jazz Development Workshop, shoestring operations supported by grit and grant money." Marcus Belgrave, with his horn and gentlemanly demeanor, has supplied a heros share of the grit, vision and wisdom.

**--Greg Dunsmore**

Marcus Belgrave will receive his Jazz Hero Award during an Jazz Day Tribute to Donald Byrd, April 30 at Bakers Keyboard Lounge 20510 Livernois Rd Detroit Showtime:: 8PM $20 in Advance $25 at the door For reservations call 313 345 6300. Marcus will be performing at the Tribute; the Jazz Hero presentation is scheduled for 9pm.