



Rod McGaha, trumpet

February 15, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee 37203
christcathedral.org

Rod McGaha
February 15, 2019

Program

Set 1

Amazing Grace

The Challenge

Inner Courage

Lullaby

Bleep Blop

Cold Duck

Intermission

Set 2

Dis Here

When I Fall In Love

Sunny Side Of The Street

Quiet Nights

Cookout

Down By The River



About the Artist



Rod McGaha is exactly what working musicians strive to be: a potent combination of virtuosity and unfettered artistic passion. It has been said that good musicians know who the good musicians are, so read what some of the greats have said about Rod.

Max Roach (jazz legend): “[Rod is] an important new and original voice.”

Clark Terry (jazz legend): “When I first heard Trees (Rod), I got that same feeling I got when I first heard Wynton Marsalis. Some musicians just have that thing!”

Jeff Coffin (Dave Matthews Band): “Rod McGaha is a one-of-a-kind musician and has his own identity on the trumpet—an instrument that millions of people play—and that's saying something.”

Kirk Whalum (Grammy award winner): “Rod McGaha doesn't think he has the luxury of ever releasing music he doesn't feel deeply. I for one am glad that he connects us to his heart each time he connects to his mouthpiece.”

Victor Wooten (Grammy award winning bassist) “Rod is a special talent. Whether playing trumpet, writing, or arranging, he speaks with a voice that is uniquely his own. That is why I use him on my projects.”

Whether you first heard him as the opening act for Take 6 or as one of the featured jazz soloists with Max Roach's critically acclaimed group, or maybe even as a featured soloist playing in front of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, one of your first thoughts may have been “This guy makes playing great look really easy.” That's because Rod has lived a musical life founded on consistent hard work behind the scenes and passionate fun and pleasure on the stage. “If I didn't love playing so much, I would have quit years ago,” he says.

A native Chicagoan, Rod first showed up on Chicago's jazz scene as a young prodigy, during an era when young lions were making more than just a little roar. He says receiving the acceptance and guidance of legendary tenor saxophonist Von Freeman was very important to him. “When I teach in clinics, I remember how eager I was to get better and how important it was for me to be called one of Von's “horses.” When I teach kids today, I recognize that look in their eyes. I'm just as happy for them as I was for me. I understand their excitement and their fear.”

Rod is quick to admit that he was blessed to have garnered the attention of legends like Freeman and Clark Terry at a young age. He received an invitation from Wynton Marsalis to come to New York to audition for a spot as one of the newest young lions in Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, but felt that life was calling him to go in a different direction, to be a different kind of lion.

By the time he was 22, Rod was busy trying to find “a way” to express his spiritual beliefs musically, while utilizing his knowledge and skills in African American modern improvisation (or, as it is better known, jazz). Apparently that “way” is an endlessly long way. Rod has played concerts in Egypt, Japan, Germany, South Africa, Poland, and Mexico. He has played in bands for Kenny Rogers, Bebe and CeCe Winans, and was even the music director for the now alternative rock sensation Shelby Lynne.

One could list the stages on which he's played (Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Chicago's legendary Jazz Showcase, to name just a few) and come to the conclusion that his has been a complete musical life. But Rod says the music is the only thing that really matters. "If I can make someone feel something through my music, then I know I'm doing it right. I want people to feel the way I felt listening to Clark Terry. I remember that listening to a recording of Clark Terry gave me great joy. He made me happy just with his music alone. That's the power of music!"

It is Rod's power in music that led the *New York Times* to proclaim that his album *Preacherman* was one of the top 10 albums deserving greater recognition. Not one to rest on past achievements, Rod has continued to write and perform music that is both contemporary and classic in some nature. Traveling the world and playing with a diverse group of musical talents spurred him to create the well-received United For Peace Orchestra, a 22-member juggernaut of a band, amalgamating seven different nationalities. "Being on stage with that band was like being on stage with an Encyclopedia Britannica. There was knowledge and culture coming in from all different directions and the audience was just as inspired by it as we were." But complexity for complexity's sake is not Rod's approach. Often, you'll see him onstage using nothing but a plunger and his trumpet, playing raw a capella blues. His musical philosophy is one reminiscent of the familiar Nikki Giovanni line "...people try to speak English instead of trying to speak through it." Rod's primary goal is to speak through music in a way that brings joy to his audiences. And as for all the rest? "All the rest is gravy, doc!"



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MARCH 3-29, 2019**

SUNDAY, MARCH 3
Free and open to the public
Childcare provided
Reception following

4:00 p.m.

**20TH ANNUAL CATHEDRAL CHORISTER FESTIVAL
AND CHORAL EVENSONG**



Young choristers from around the Southeast sing Choral Evensong, under the direction of Guest Director Nicholas White, Director of Chapel Music and Organist at St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10
Free and open to the public
Childcare provided
Reception following

Concert
3:30 p.m.

**ORGAN CONCERT AND LENTEN CHORAL
EVENSONG WITH BENEDICTION**

Evensong
4:00 p.m.



Organ concert by Gregg Bunn, Organist and Director of Worship and Arts, Brentwood United Methodist Church. Solemn Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir, Dr. Michael Velting, Canon for Music; Joseph O'Berry, Assistant Organist and Choirmaster, organ.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
Free and open to the public
Childcare provided
Reception following

4:00 p.m.

VINCENT DUBOIS, ORGAN



The youngest of three titular organists of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, Vincent Dubois has been hailed for his "stunning performances" of major works for organ.

Sponsored by Gene Russell

FRIDAY, MARCH 29
Free and open to the public
Light refreshments and souvenirs
will be on sale.

4:00-10:00 p.m.

13TH ANNUAL BACHANALIA



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