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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **AUGUSTA SYMPHONY PRESENTS WYCLIFFE GORDON, JAZZ TROMBONE & ERIC REED, PIANO**



**WYCLIFFE GORDON**



**ERIC REED**

On **Saturday, January 19**, the **Augusta Symphony** presents jazz trombonist and **Waynesboro native Wycliffe Gordon** and pianist **Eric Reed** as part of the **Columbia County Music Series**. The **7:30 p.m.** concert is at **Jabez Sanford Hardin Performing Arts Center** in **Evans**.

In a recent correspondence with Mr. Gordon, he commented that the “program will consist of selections from [their] CDs WE and WE2. The music will come from several genres such as gospel, jazz, show tunes, and [works] by American composers ... Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Stevie Wonder, Thelonious Monk, Jimmy van Huesen, Thomas Dorsey, and many traditional favorites. Of course, there will be original compositions in the mix. The program will include, for example, *The Lord's Prayer*, *Amazing Grace*, *It Don't Mean a Thing*, *Embraceable You*, *Nancy (with the Laughing Face)*, *Precious Lord...*” Both former members of the Wynton Marsalis Septet and The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Gordon and Reed partnered to produce two albums, WE (2002) and WE2 (2007), exemplifying the role of jazz in various musical genres.

**Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased online at [www.augustasyphony.org](http://www.augustasyphony.org) or by calling 706.826.4705.** Full-time students and military personnel with valid I.D. may purchase \$7 tickets on concert evening only (subject to availability). The box office opens at Jabez Sanford Hardin Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. on concert evening.

A native of Waynesboro, Georgia, **Wycliffe Gordon** has been universally hailed by jazz critics for his extraordinary trombone playing. In addition to his impressive performance career, Mr. Gordon is also active as a conductor, composer, arranger, and educator. Gordon tours the world performing hard-swinging, straight-ahead jazz for audiences ranging from heads of state to

elementary school students. Mr. Gordon received the Jazz Journalists Association 2001 and 2002 awards for Trombonist of the Year, the Jazz Journalists 2000 Critics' Choice Award for Best Trombone, and has also been nominated for the Jazzpar Award. Recently, in recognition of his endeavors and accomplishments, the city of Augusta, Georgia, under the leadership of Mayor Deke Copenhaver, declared August 17, 2007 "Wycliffe Gordon Day."

A former member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet, The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and The Gully Low Jazz Band, Mr. Gordon now tours with the Wycliffe Gordon Quartet at venues throughout the world. A gifted composer and arranger, Mr. Gordon has been commissioned to compose film scores as well as a musical tribute to Muhammad Ali. His compositions have been performed by The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, The Wynton Marsalis Septet, The Wycliffe Gordon Quartet, and numerous other ensembles. Television appearances include the Grammy Awards, the PBS special documentary "Swingin' with the Duke" and two "Live from Lincoln Center" broadcasts with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Currently, Mr. Gordon serves on the faculty of the Jazz Studies Program at The Juilliard School, a position he has held since the founding of the program. As the youngest member of the U.S. Statesmen of Jazz, Mr. Gordon also serves as a musical ambassador for the U.S. State Department. Visit <http://www.wycliffegordon.com> for more information about Wycliffe Gordon.

Eric Reed brings hard-driving swing and daring expression to today's contemporary piano scene. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mr. Reed began playing the piano at the age of two, beginning formal instruction at the age of five. After moving to Los Angeles he discovered the works of famous jazz pianists including Ahmad Jamal, Erroll Garner, Oscar Peterson, and McCoy Tyner. At the age of 18, Mr. Reed began touring with his own ensembles and performing with the Wynton Marsalis Septet and The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. In 2005, Mr. Reed formed a quartet with Willie Jones III, Gerald Cannon, and Stacy Dillard. Mr. Reed's latest album, "Here", was released in May 2006. For more information about pianist Eric Reed, visit <http://www.ericreed.net>.

For interview requests, please contact Wycliffe Gordon via email at [coupdeconebiz@aol.com](mailto:coupdeconebiz@aol.com) or Eric Reed at [ericscottreed@aol.com](mailto:ericscottreed@aol.com).

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For more information about the Augusta Symphony, visit [www.augustasympphony.org](http://www.augustasympphony.org), call 706.826.4705, fax 706.826.4735 or email [marketing@augustasympphony.org](mailto:marketing@augustasympphony.org). Located on the second floor of Sacred Heart Cultural Center, the Symphony office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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