

**Date: November 30, 2006**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SHCHEDRYK - CAROL OF THE BELLS**

**THE ORBERT DAVIS JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**AND UKRAINIAN SINGERS TO PERFORM**

**AT THE**

**UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE OF MODERN ART**

By Marta Farion

The Orbert Davis Jazz Ensemble will perform the Ukrainian traditional carol "Shchedryk", known in the United States as the popular "Carol of the Bells", and other carols on Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 pm at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. He will be joined by two Ukrainian vocal ensembles, the Zhayvir Quartet and the Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Quintet. The St. Nicholas Children's Vocal Ensemble will

perform the song "When Christmas Comes to Town" from the movie "The Polar Express".



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**Orbert Davis**

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In 2000 Orbert Davis and his jazz ensemble played in Ukraine at the Kyiv Days Festival to a crowd of hundreds of thousands of listeners. The visit was organized by the Chicago Kyiv Sister Cities Committee. Mr. Davis' impressions of Kyiv, St. Sophia's Cathedral, the Andriyivsky Uzviz and the people of Ukraine left him with a deeper understanding of Ukraine's culture and particularly of their rich musical heritage.

When invited to play the famous Ukrainian traditional carol "Shchedryk" by Mykola Leontovych, known as "Carol of the Bells", Orbert Davis agreed and prepared a special jazz arrangement. This unique performance will be the first time that Ukrainian and American Christmas carols and the popular "Shchedryk" will be played as jazz arrangements interspersed with traditional vocal versions.

Orbert Davis is an extraordinarily accomplished musician. He has recorded over 3000 television and radio commercials and many record projects with such notable musicians as Stevie Wonder, Dionne Warwick, Duran Duran, Gladys Knight, The Temptations, Ramsey Lewis, Kurt Elling, T.S. Monk, Oscar Lopez, Paul Wertigo and

others. Winner of the 1995 Cognac Hennessy National Jazz Search, Orbert was chosen one of the Chicago Tribune "1995 Arts People of the Year" and Chicago Magazine named him "Y2k Best Trumpeter in Chicago" and "Chicagoan of the Year for 2002". He composed and arranged music for film, most recently helping arrange music in "Road to Perdition" with Tom Hanks and Paul Newman.

He was featured soloist at the 1996 Chicago Jazz Festival, performing Miles Davis and Gil Evans' "Sketches of Spain." As a prolific composer, Davis premiered his "Collective Creativity Suite" played by his 55 piece Chicago Jazz Philharmonic Orchestra at the Chicago Jazz Festival in 2005. He received rave reviews for this work, which underscored the force of sound and style in his mix of jazz, blues, African rhythms and a strong classical influence, particularly of Stravinsky.

Davis also dedicates huge amounts of his time schedule to teaching children, not only to aspiring musicians but to kids who need a different approach and a chance to see there is something else in life to find their own meaning.

Orbert Davis has a bachelor's degree in trumpet performance from DePaul University and a master's degree in jazz pedagogy from Northwestern University. Davis is dedicated to do all he can do to elevate jazz through teaching, writing and playing.

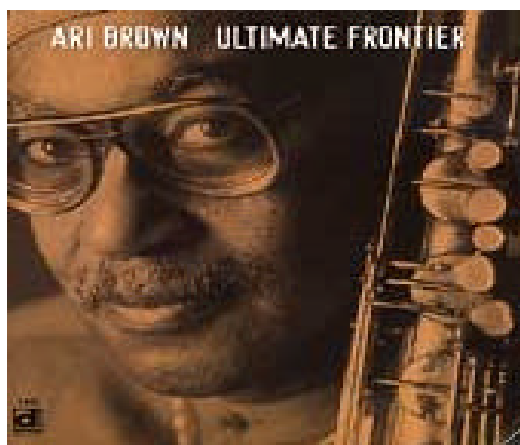
Joining Davis in the jazz ensemble will be jazz greats Ari Brown, Tenor Saxophone, Ryan Cohan, Piano, Ernie Adams, Drums and Stewart Miller, Bass.



Ernie Adams, Drums



Ryan Cohan, Piano



Ari Brown, Saxophone

The vocal ensembles are composed of new immigrants from Ukraine, all graduates of various music conservatories in Ukraine and former members of professional choirs, who are now making a new life in Chicago and enrich our city's communities with their singing and example of hard work and perseverance. The performance will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at 2:00 pm. Refreshments and snacks will be served. Tickets are \$15. It will be a musical event not to be missed - an extraordinary enjoyable musical experience to begin the holiday season.

#### **About the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art**

*The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art was founded by Dr. Achilles Chreptowsky to preserve and promote the knowledge and appreciation of contemporary Ukrainian art and culture. It has served as an artistic anchor in Chicago's West Town community for more than 30 years, providing world-class art exhibitions, concerts, literary readings, and educational and cultural exchanges.*

#### **About the Orbert Davis Ensemble**

*One of Chicago's busiest and most sought after musicians, jazz trumpeter, Orbert Davis has recorded over 3000 television and radio commercials and many record projects for such notable artists as Ramsey Lewis, Kurt Elling and Oscar Lopez to name a few. Winner of the 1995 Cognac Hennessy National Jazz Search, Orbert was chosen as one of Chicago Tribune's "1995 Arts People of the Year". For additional information please visit Orbert Davis' official website at [www.orbertdavis.com](http://www.orbertdavis.com).*

#### **Visiting the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art**

*UIMA is located at 2320 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL telephone 773-227-5522. The Institute is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*