

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

November 11, 2020

CCAC Contact: Andy Woodard

[Andrew@CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](mailto:Andrew@CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org)

410-848-7272

Band Contact: Eric Byrd

[eric@ericbyrdtrio.com](mailto:eric@ericbyrdtrio.com)

## **“A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas” to return at the Carroll Arts Center**

It has become a community tradition for audiences of all ages to gather at the Carroll Arts Center for the annual performances of “A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas.” Though the audiences this year will be smaller due to COVID-19 restrictions, that tradition continues this December! After a commercial-free screening of the classic animated movie *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, with its gentle reminder of the true spirit of the season, the unforgettable Vince Guaraldi jazz score is performed live by the incomparable Eric Byrd Trio. The Carroll Arts Center is pleased to present this popular series of family concerts on Friday, December 18 at 8 pm and Saturday, December 19 at 3 pm & 8 pm. Each performance will have limited capacity and safety measures will be implemented.

Each concert will end with a live auction of the charmingly scrawny “Charlie Brown Christmas Tree” complete with red ball ornament and blue security blanket. Audience members can arrive early to buy unique handmade gifts for everyone on their list at the annual Gallery of Gifts in the Tevis Gallery, which will be filled with contemporary arts and crafts by more than 15 talented regional artists.

For almost two decades, The Eric Byrd Trio have traveled the world as enthusiastic ambassadors of jazz. Their body of work spans seven unique studio and live recordings on which they take a rigorous, modern approach to standards as well as original compositions, playing with great acuity within the broad and rich jazz tradition. The Trio have been sponsored by the United States Embassy as Kennedy Center/U.S. State Department Jazz Ambassadors touring South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Eastern & Western Europe, and the Middle East. Trio members Eric Byrd (piano), Alphonso Young, Jr. (drums), and Bhagwan Khalsa (bass) are energetic, masterful musicians of modern jazz.

Guaraldi was born in 1928 and was known as “Dr. Funk” by his compatriots in San Francisco. He began performing as a piano player in college and quickly rose through the jazz scene. His career exploded after his performance at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Monterey Jazz Festival where audiences were on their feet after hearing his blues riffs. National prominence was just around the corner the following year when he composed the Grammy Winning “Cast Your Fate to the Wind.” He and master cartoonist Charles Schultz collaborated on 15 animated features. Guaraldi’s smooth trio compositions --- piano, bass and drums --- perfectly balanced Charlie Brown’s kid-sized universe. Sprightly, puckish, as well as somber and poignant, his gentle riffs established musical trademarks which, to this day, still prompt smiles of recognition. Guaraldi and “Peanuts” was a perfect match.

In accordance with the Arts Council's COVID-19 theatre guidelines, there are limited tickets to this event. To review the CCAC's full health and safety plan, visit [CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org/covid-19-policies](https://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org/covid-19-policies). Check their website for event updates or cancellations.

Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$12 for ages 25 & under and ages 60 & up. CCAC Members get an additional 10% off. Please note that Patron Passes cannot be honored at this event. The performances are sponsored by Woodhaven Building & Development and NWSB Bank. The Carroll Arts Center is located at 91 W. Main Street in downtown Westminster. Online tickets and more info at [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](https://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org) or call 410-848-7272.

# # #

CALENDAR LISTING (Please list under Holiday, Family Events, or related category):

"A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas." Fri, Dec. 18 – 8 pm; Sat, Dec. 19 – 3 pm & 8 pm. A special pairing of the animated Peanuts film followed by a live performance of Vince Guaraldi's jazz score by the renowned Eric Byrd Trio for a joyful holiday treat! Limited tickets available. \$12-16. Carroll Arts Center, 91 W. Main St., Westminster, MD 21157. 410-848-7272. Online tickets and more info at [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](https://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org).