

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Eric Byrd Trio celebrates 20th Anniversary with concert at the Carroll Arts Center

Local jazz favorite The Eric Byrd Trio is celebrating their 20th anniversary as a group with a new concert on Friday, August 27 at 7:30pm at the Carroll Arts Center.

For almost two decades, The Eric Byrd Trio (pianist/vocalist Eric Byrd, bassist Bhagwan Khalsa, and drummer Alphonso Young, Jr.) have traveled the world as enthusiastic ambassadors of jazz. Rooted in swing and be-bop, the Trio also embraces gospel and the blues as core elements of their expansive performance style. Their body of work spans seven unique studio and live recordings on which they shine as a Trio and as collaborators with an expanded 8-piece ensemble they call The Eric Byrd Trio: Brother Ray Band, in tribute to the genius of Soul icon Ray Charles. Their new recording "TWENTY" has just been released. Featuring 10 songs they've re-recorded and updated and 10 brand new songs, this new album celebrates their 20 years together as a jazz trio.

The Trio is part of the prestigious Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster, a listing of Maryland-based performing artists who are experienced and organized professionals. Artists featured on the roster are rated on artistic merit and a demonstrated history of successful touring engagements. One of their most successful engagements is their holiday concert, "A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas," an annual family favorite at the Carroll Arts Center and various other venues throughout the region.

"I've always wanted a band of stable and consistent band members, but I am simultaneously aware of how unique our situation is," says Eric Byrd, "It's hard to do anything for 20 years, let alone stay in a band. Prayerfully, we'll get another 20 years with the same cats. We're playing better than ever." The concert also marks the beginning of the Carroll Arts Center's 21/22 season of live performances. In regards to playing live shows once again, Byrd says that the trio is "grateful to stand on stage to make music for people" and hopes people do not take the concert experience for granted.

Sponsored by a Maryland State Arts Council Touring Grant. Tickets are \$22 Adults / \$18 ages 25 & Under and ages 60 & Up. CCAC Members get an additional 10% off. Tickets can be purchased online at CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org or by calling the box office at 410-848-7272. The Carroll Arts Center is located at 91 West Main Street in Downtown Westminster.

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CALENDAR LISTING (please list under Live Music or related category)

“The Eric Byrd Trio.” Fri. August 27 at 7:30pm. Local jazz trio celebrates their 20th anniversary with a new concert of both updated and brand new songs. \$18-\$22. Carroll Arts Center, 91 W Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157. [410-848-7272](tel:410-848-7272). Tickets and more info at CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org.