

***SONOKLECT '03-'04***  
*A Concert Series of Modern Music*  
Terry Vosbein, Director

**PHIL WOODS  
QUINTET**

Washington and Lee University  
Keller Theatre • 8:00 p.m. • 27 September 2003

PROGRAM

ACT I

— *Intermission* —

ACT II



## Phil Woods



The name Phil Woods evokes in most jazz fans the image of a searingly hot tone and intensely driving rhythmic pulse, as well as improvisations that grab listeners by the throat and never let go. He's an alto sax player (and clarinetist) whose lineage is clearly rooted in Charlie Parker, Benny Carter and Johnny Hodges.

Woods was born November 2, 1931, in Springfield, Mass., and began sax lessons at age 12. After graduating from high school at age 16, Woods moved to New York City for the summer to study at the Manhattan School of Music, then put in four years at Juilliard. He worked with his own groups in the '50s and '60s, often with altoist Gene Quill, also playing with Quincy Jones and Dizzy Gillespie. Also in his resume are stints and recordings with Carter, Clark Terry, Bill Evans, Michel Legrand, Oliver Nelson, Charlie Barnet and Thelonious Monk.

After a five-year expatriate stay in Europe that began in 1968, Woods returned to the United States, eventually settling in the Poconos. Early in 1974, the altoist formed the first of the various quartets and quintets that have been his bread-and-butter over the last quarter-century of touring and recording.

## Phil Woods Quintet

This is arguably the best working group in jazz today. In an era of loud, over amplified music, the band works mostly without microphones; a group for the solar age.

Upon his return to the United States from Europe in 1973, and after a brief stay in Los Angeles, PHIL WOODS moved back to the New York area and formed THE PHIL WOODS QUARTET. Two of the original members of that group, STEVE GILMORE and BILL GOODWIN, are still with him, more than twenty-three years later. BILL CHARLAP is only the fourth piano player to pass through their ranks, following in the footsteps of MIKE MELILLO (1974-1981), HAL GALPER (1981-1990) and JIM McNEELY (1990-1995), a distinguished group indeed.

Although briefly a Quintet in 1977-1978, due to the addition of HARRY LEAHEY on guitar, the group remained a Quartet until October 1982 when they were joined by TOM HARRELL on trumpet and flugelhorn. In May 1989, Tom resigned to form his own group and was replaced by HAL CROOK on trombone. BRIAN LYNCH replaced Crook in January 1992, continuing the tradition of great players in a great band.

This is a REAL quintet in the best sense of the word . . . a "repertory" company . . . not merely a great alto player with a good backup group. Each player contributes uniquely to the whole. Each player has his own rich musical history. Each player can swing with sensitivity and force.

The Quintet brings to it's fans both American standards and great jazz compositions as well as original material composed by the members of the group. They have toured clubs, colleges, festivals and concert halls in Europe, Japan and the United States, to increasing acclaim. They are three-time (1977, 1983, 1984) Grammy winners with countless nominations. Their latest release, MILE HIGH JAZZ (Concord CCD-4739) was released in November 1996.

They were voted the number one acoustic group in the DOWN BEAT Readers Poll for 1985 and 1988-1991 as well as the International Critics' Poll in 1979, 1988-1989 and 1991-1992. The Jazz Times 1990 Critics Poll named them #1 Acoustic Combo (Established Artist). In 1990, the Quintet shared the #1 slot in Jazz Times' Readers' Poll with the Modern Jazz Quartet, and Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers, illustrious company indeed. In 1991, the Quintet captured the #1 spot altogether. Woods personally has won the number one alto saxophone category in the DOWN BEAT Critics' Poll in the years from 1975 through 1979 and 1981 through 1992 and the Readers' Poll continuously since 1975. The Jazz Times Readers' Poll also voted him #1 Alto Saxophone from 1990 to 1995. The 1987 National Association of Jazz Educators' Poll named the Quintet winners in the combo category and Phil Woods winner in the alto saxophone category.

THE PHIL WOODS QUINTET plays in the tradition and speaks of how it was, and how good it still is. They are making a unique and invaluable contribution to the preservation and enrichment of the American music form called jazz. Their long-term commitment is documented on THE PHIL WOODS QUARTET/QUINTET 20TH ANNIVERSARY ALBUM on Mosaic.



2003-2004 SONOKLECT Season

SATURDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER

*Phil Woods Quintet*

SATURDAY, 24 JANUARY

*University of Georgia Woodwind Quartet*

SATURDAY, 13 MARCH

*Amernet String Quartet*

*with guest David Riley, piano*

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