

DAYTON FUNK SYMPOSIUM
AND DANCE PARTY
SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2018

Music, Art & Design
Theatre, Dance & Performance Technology
Global Languages & Cultures

Granville Chair

IN ARTS & LANGUAGES



University
of Dayton

DAYTON FUNK SYMPOSIUM & DANCE PARTY

As Graul Endowed Chair in Arts and Languages, and on behalf of the University of Dayton College of Arts and Sciences, I welcome you to the Dayton Funk Symposium and Dance Party, celebrating Funk Music for what may be the first time in the Academy. Funk is the genre that brought fame to Dayton, Ohio and its many talented musicians in the 1970's and 1980's. During this Symposium, we welcome and honor scholars and performers from Dayton and many parts of the United States and Scotland. We also have opportunities to hear the voices of several established Funk artists, some of whom continue to perform and tour today.

One person does not create an event like this Symposium without help and support. It is with special thanks that I recognize and thank Endowed Chair Office Administrative Assistant Heidi Haas, who has worked diligently on this project all summer and our student office worker, Chandra Kishore Danduri. Student graphic designer Elizabeth Weiler, with guidance from her faculty mentor Misty Thomas-Trout, designed all the creative publicity and program materials for the Symposium. There are also a number of faculty colleagues who have responded to calls for assistance, including Sam Dorf, John McCombe, Caroline Merithew, Tom Morgan and Todd Uhlman. Student assistance has been provided by three music organizations: The Ohio Collegiate Music Education Association and Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha music fraternities. Financial support has been provided by the Department of Music, Julia Randel, Chair, through a bequest from the George Zimmerman American Music Fund; the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Lawrence Burnley, Vice President; and the Department of History, Dr. Juan Santamaria, Chair. I also extend warmest appreciation to Dr. Jason Pierce, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, for his Symposium support and participation. Finally, special thanks to David Webb, CEO and President of the The Funk Music Hall of Fame & Exhibition Center here in Dayton for the many connections he has provided and for his ongoing assistance of this project. Thanks to all of these individuals and to anyone else I may not have listed.

Please enjoy the Symposium events and be prepared to dance the night away at the Thursday Dance Party!

DR. SHARON DAVIS GRATTO
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND
GRAUL CHAIR IN ARTS AND LANGUAGES

GREETINGS FROM SHARON GRATTO

Graul Endowed Chair in Arts and Languages





WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12

The Funk Music Hall of Fame & Exhibition Center Guided Tours

Wednesday morning by reservation

For more information on the museum:
www.thefunkcenter.org

Donations to the museum are always appreciated.

Symposium Presentations

2:30 – 9:30 p.m.

SEARS RECITAL HALL

JESSE PHILIPS HUMANITIES CENTER

Introductory Roundtable:

Looking Back at Funk History in Dayton

DR. TODD UHLMAN, Moderator
Assistant Professor of History, University of Dayton

**ERICKA BLOUNT, KEITH HARRISON,
AND CLARENCE WILLIS**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Scotland Connects with American Funk
and Dayton, Ohio**

JESSE RAE
The Funk Ambassador to Scotland

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

**The Sounds of Black America:
Funk and Dayton, Ohio**

DR. MATTHEW VALNES
Duke University

4:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Keynote Address:

**Dayton, Ohio: Toward a Funk Paradigm
of Knowledge Production**

DR. SCOT BROWN
Associate Professor of African American
Studies at UCLA.

7:00 – 9:30 p.m.



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13**Symposium Presentations****8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.****KENNEDY UNION TORCH LOUNGE****MUSIC BY FUNK DJ STAN “THE MAN” BROOKS.****Dayton Funk Music: Visually Speaking****WILLIS BING DAVIS**Shango: Center for the Study of African
American Art and Culture**9:00 – 9:45 a.m.****The Land of Funk: Dayton’s Stone Street Mural****MORRIS HOWARD**, Artist**BRITTINI LONG**, Project Manager**9:45 – 10:10 a.m.****Ride On to the Tree of Life: The History, Music and
Influence of Skip “Little Axe” McDonald****DR. MATTHEW DONAHUE**

Bowling Green State University

10:10 – 10:40 a.m.**Funky Comedy: That Funky Tramp in a Nite Club
(1967) and Funk’s Origins and Investments****DR. DAVID MCCARTHY**

Central Michigan University

10:50 – 11:20 a.m.**Detroit’s Lost Soul: Erasing the African American
Voice in the Aftermath of Motown****CHRISTIAN MATIJAS-MECCA**

University of Michigan

11:20 – 11:50 a.m.**How C.C. Got Down: The Case for Go-Go and How
Funk Thrived Past the 1970’s in Washington, D.C.****MELISSA WEBER**

Tulane University

11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.**Break****12:20 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.****MUSIC BY FUNK DJ STAN “THE MAN” BROOKS.****James Brown’s “Say It Loud” at 50!****DR. FREDERICK “RICKEY” VINCENT**

California College of the Arts

1:20 – 2:00 p.m.**Free Your Mind: Funk Transfigured as
Black Cultural Aesthetics****DR. TONY BOLDEN**

The University of Kansas

2:00 – 2:30 p.m.**Black Music Matters: Jazz, Funk and the Academy****ED SARATH**

University of Michigan

2:30 – 3:15 p.m.**Funk Dance Party****FEATURING THE MALE VOCAL QUARTET TOUCH,
THE DAYTON FUNK ALL-STARS BAND AND
THE DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY.****7:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

KENNEDY UNION BALLROOM

Admission is free, but tickets are required.**Visit the Kennedy Union Box Office or****tickets.udayton.edu****FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14****Closing Roundtable:****Reflections on the Symposium****DR. JOHN MCCOMBE**, Moderator

Professor of English, University of Dayton

**STAN “THE MAN” BROOKS, DR. SCOT BROWN,
JESSE RAE, DR. FREDERICK “RICKEY” VINCENT,
DAVID WEBB, AND JOSEPH WOOTEN****8:30 – 10:30 a.m.****KENNEDY UNION TORCH LOUNGE****MUSIC BY FUNK DJ STAN “THE MAN” BROOKS.**



Dr. Scot Brown **KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. SCOT BROWN** is Associate Professor of African American Studies and History at UCLA. He is the author of numerous books and articles on social and political movements, music, and popular culture. Brown is in the process of completing a book project exploring Dayton, Ohio as a hotbed of soul and funk music. He has appeared in numerous film and television documentaries and radio programs as an expert commentator.



DAVID R. WEBB, SR. is CEO and President of The Funk Music Hall of Fame & Exhibition Center, located at 113 E. 3rd Street in Dayton. For forty years he has been a studio musician on drums, a radio personality, and a record company producer. He is a community grassroots organizer and historian and has produced three programs with the DATV Studios. His tireless efforts on behalf of Dayton's 'story' have been recognized by local and national media, including National Public Radio.

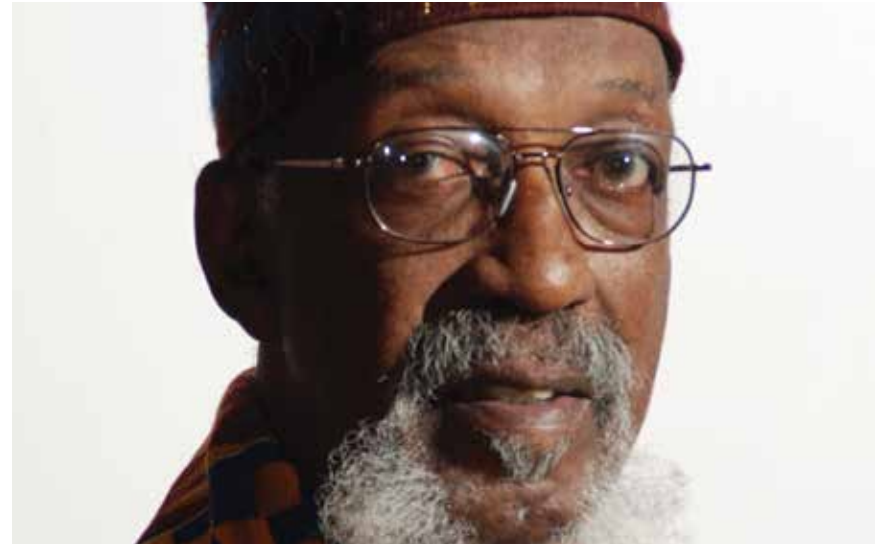
David Webb



PRESENTERS



Tony Bolden **DR. TONY BOLDEN**, Associate Professor of African and African-American Studies at the University of Kansas, is the author of *Afro-Blue: Improvisations in African American Poetry and Culture* (2004) and *The Funk Era and Beyond: New Perspectives on Black Popular Music* (2008). He also guest edited *The Funk Issue for American Studies* (2013). He is currently revising his book manuscript tentatively titled *Blue Funk*.



Willis Bing Davis **WILLIS BING DAVIS**, Director of the Davis Arts Studio and EbonNia Gallery in the Wright-Dunbar business district of Dayton, works in fine arts and crafts with his wife, Audrey, and son, Derrick Davis. Youth and community art and cultural activities are coordinated through SHANGO: Center for the Study of African American Art and Culture. Bing has been recognized with several Ohio awards, including the Governor's Irma Lazarus Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.



Keith Harrison **KEITH HARRISON**, bandleader, sideman, songwriter, producer, arranger, film composer, and solo artist, has performed throughout his long career with a variety of artists and bands, including Faze-O, Heatwave, Candles, The Ohio Players, George Clinton and the Parliament Funk-a-delics, the Bar-Kays and the Dazz Band, the latter of which received a Grammy Award in 1982 for the song *Let It Whip*.



CHRISTIAN MATIJAS-MECCA is Associate Professor of Dance and Music at the University of Michigan. He is author of *The Words and Music of Brian Wilson* (Praeger, 2017), *Listen To This! Understanding Psychedelic Music from the Beatles to Zappa* (Greenwood, forthcoming, 2020), and is researching a book on Soul Music in Detroit from 1967-1977.

Christian Matijas-Mecca



Ed Sarath **ED SARATH** is Professor of Music at the University of Michigan, director of the U-M Program in Creativity and Consciousness Studies, and is active as a performer, composer, recording artist, and scholar. Founder and president of the International Society for Improvised Music, his most recent book is *Black Music Matters: Jazz and the Transformation of Music Studies* (Rowman and Littlefield 2018).



DR. MATTHEW VALNES is an Instructor at Duke University. His publications on funk have appeared in *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* and *the Journal of Popular Music Studies*. His current project is a book entitled *We Want the Funk: Geography, Gender, and Technology in Post-Civil Rights Era Black Popular Music*.

Dr. Matthew Valnes



DR. FREDERICK "RICKEY" VINCENT, Associate Professor of Diversity Studies at California College of the Arts, is also a Lecturer in African American Studies at UC Berkeley and the City College of San Francisco. He has published extensively, including his 1996 book *Funk: The Music, the People and the Rhythm of The One* (St. Martin's Press).

Dr. Frederick "Rickey" Vincent



MELISSA A. WEBER is an M.A. candidate in musicology at Tulane University, New Orleans. For the past 20 years, she has hosted WWOZ FM's *Soul Power program* (as DJ Soul Sister), was featured in Nelson George's *Finding the Funk* documentary and has presented on Black popular music at various academic conferences.

Melissa A. Webber



Clarence Willis **CLARENCE WILLIS**, guitarist, bassist, songwriter and long-time member of the Ohio Players, graduated from the University of Dayton in the class of 1972. He was one of the founding members of the University's chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, a national fraternity that sponsors community service, social welfare, and academic scholarship programs through its foundation. Today, Willis continues to tour with the Ohio Players.



Joseph Wooten **JOSEPH WOOTEN** is a keyboardist, songwriter, arranger, producer, educator, and motivational speaker who has been nominated three times for Grammy awards. He has played keyboards for the Steve Miller Band since 1993 and has performed and recorded for many years with three of his equally musically talented brothers. When not touring with the Miller band, Joseph joins the musicians known as Freedom Sings to present a multi-media experience celebrating free expression at the First Amendment Center in Washington, D.C.



Ericka Blount **ERICKA BLOUNT** is a professor, author, journalist and film researcher with an extensive body of work in archival research, including for the documentaries *Nas: Time is Illmatic*, the Tupac documentary *Untitled*, and PBS's *Finding Your Roots*, hosted by Skip Gates. She has taught at the University of Maryland College Park and Loyola University in Baltimore and is currently a producer for The Real News Network.



STAN "THE MAN" BROOKS is a professional musician and on-air radio personality and sales representative for Soul of Dayton Radio, 98.7 on the dial. He hosts a weekly R & B and Funk program Fridays from 4 to 7 pm. Brooks began performing on drums at age 13 with the Dayton Sidewinders Band, a 10-piece group that often opened for such performers as The Intruders, The Delfonics, the Bobby Blue Band, and Rufus Thomas. Today he is a popular and active DJ in the region, providing music for a diverse array of special events.

Stan "The Man" Brooks



Dr. Matthew Donahue is a musician, artist, filmmaker, writer and a lecturer in the Department of Popular Culture at Bowling Green State University, specializing in courses related to popular music and popular culture. He has lectured on popular music and culture regionally, nationally and internationally.

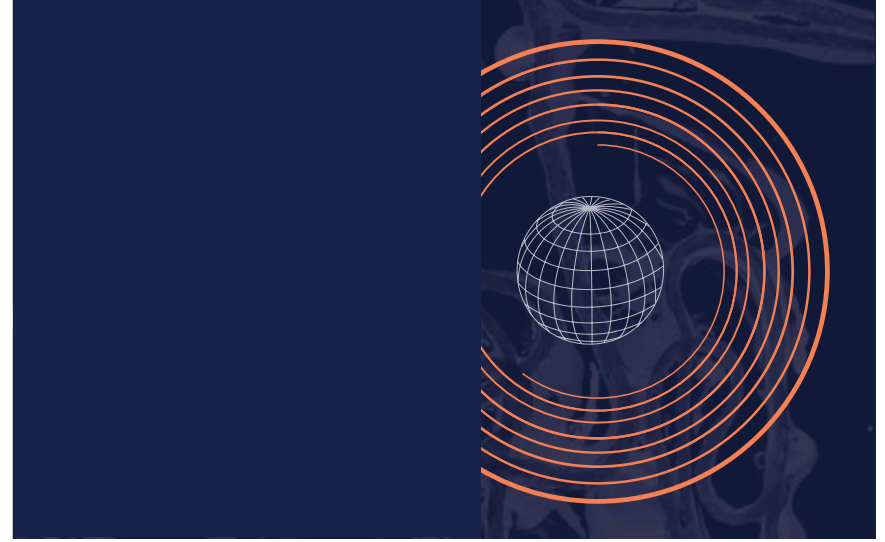


MORRIS HOWARD is the Lead Artist for the Dayton urban mural *The Land of Funk*, which honors seven noted Funk bands, the Ohio Players, Heatwave, Slave, Faze-O, Zapp, Lakeside, and Sun. Project Manager for the mural is **BRITTINI LONG**, Community Engagement Coordinator for Montgomery County Juvenile Court and founder of the HAALO Program for troubled youth, many of whom have earned stipends working on the mural project.

Morris Howard



Jesse Rae **JESSE RAE** is a Scottish singer, songwriter, filmmaker, and film director from St. Boswells in Scotland, who performs on vocals, guitar, and keyboard. He became personally and professionally connected to Funk music when he moved to the United States in the 1970's. In the 1980's he produced solo singles with some of the decade's greatest funk musicians, including Parliament-Funkadelic's Bernie Worrell and Zapp founder Roger Troutman. Much of the material became part of his 1984 album, *The Thistle*. On his return home, Rae became known as the Funk Ambassador to Scotland.



DR. DAVID MCCARTHY studies relationships between ideology and sense perception in the capitalist world after 1945. He is preparing a book, tentatively titled *The Walking Black Man inside the Whiter Society and the End of the 1960s*, a study of representations of walking black men in film, literature, painting, revue entertainment, and song.

Dr. David McCarthy



Dr. Todd Uhlman



Dr. John McCombe



PANEL MODERATORS



Dayton Contemporary Dance Company The World-Renowned **DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY**, Debbie Blunden-Diggs Artistic Director, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season. The company received a 2016 New York Dance and Performance 'Bessie' award for its outstanding revival in New York City of *Rainbow Round My Shoulder*, with choreography by the late Donald McKayle. In the spring of this year the company toured Russia and Kazakhstan as Cultural Ambassadors through the U.S. Department of State's DanceMotion, USA exchange program.



The male vocal quartet known as the **MOTOWN SOUNDS OF TOUCH** is a cover group with four high-energy singers from Dayton, Ohio. Touch has been entertaining audiences around the country for over 15 years and was a Top 3 finalist on the NBC-TV show, *The Winner Is*, hosted by Nick Lachey.

Motown Sounds of Touch



PERFORMERS



The Dayton Funk All-Stars Band **THE DAYTON FUNK ALL-STARS BAND** was created in 2000 by leader and guitarist Tony “Silky T” Allen and Co-Leader on Bass, Keyboards and Talk Box, Deron Bell. The experience of the Band’s all-star rhythm section, vocalist, and horn players spans over 3 decades of music industry contributions. Dayton Funk currently performs legendary Dayton hits and original tunes.



“BRING A LITTLE FUNK INTO YOUR LIFE.”