The 1998-99 Hans and Thelma Lehmann Distinguished Professor of Music

Billy Taylor, piano

with the

BILLY TAYLOR TRIO
Charles “Chip” Jackson, bass
Steve Johns, drums

8:00 PM
April 22, 1999
Meany Theater
From house pianist at New York's famed Birdland to jazz correspondent for CBS "Sunday Morning" to host of NPR's "Jazz from Kennedy Center," pianist BILLY TAYLOR has been an ambassador for the jazz world for more than 50 years. This National Medal of Arts recipient, educator, author and tireless performer is joined tonight by his trio partners Chip Jackson on bass and Steve Jones on drums.

Dr. Taylor is this year's Hans and Thelma Lehman Distinguished Visiting Professor and Senior Artist-in-Residence at the University of Washington. He has enjoyed over fifty years in jazz and can be heard on countless recordings from the beginning of his career to the present, the most recent of which are on the GRP label. He has the rare pleasure of having lived through the history of jazz. "In the halcyon days of jazz," writes Down Beat, "Taylor was Art Tatum's protege...he played with the best, from Dizzie Gillespie to Stuff Smith; not to mention Charlie Parker, Milt Jackson, Dave Brubeck and Art Blakey." Taylor puts his historical perspective to good use as Artistic Advisor for Jazz at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center, where he hosts a new weekly NPR Radio show, "Billy Taylor's Jazz from the Kennedy Center." In this interactive program, he performs with his Trio and invites guest artists to 'sit in' and field questions from the audience.

As Artistic Advisor to the Kennedy Center, Dr. Taylor helps develop and oversee the center’s jazz concerts and educational programs. In addition to performing with his Trio, he collaborates on a wide variety of projects with symphony orchestras such as National Symphony Orchestra, ensembles such as the Turtle Island String Quartet, and dance companies such as the Parsons Dance Company. He also performs with longtime friend Ramsey Lewis in a piano duo setting. Taylor has hosted jazz segments on CBS' "Sunday Morning" for over 15 years, initially with Charles Kuralt and currently with Charles Osgood, winning an Emmy Award for his illuminating profiles of jazz stalwarts including Dizzie Gillespie and Wynton Marsalis. Dr. Taylor also conducts a lecture/demonstration series at New York City’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.

As an author, Dr. Taylor has written "Jazz Piano," several instructional piano books, and many articles for magazines such as Esquire, Down Beat and Keyboard. In July 1992, President Bush presented Dr. Taylor with the exclusive National Medal for the Arts. He has been a guest artist at the White House on seven different occasions and has participated in three State Department tours.

Dr. Taylor is the founder and past president of JAZZMOBILE, a unique outreach organization that has brought jazz to the streets of New York in a series of free concerts that continues to this day. He is the winner of many awards, including two Peabody Awards, the National Endowment for the Arts' Jazz Masters Award, the National Music Council's American Eagle Award, and the International Society of Performing Arts' Tiffany Award. He is a former member of the National Council on the Arts and continues as a member of the International Association of Jazz Educators' Hall of Fame.
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1990-91 .................................................. RUDOLF FIRKUSNY
1991-92 ................................................ ALEXANDER SCHNEIDER
1992-93 ................................................ GERVASE DE PEYER
1993-94 ................................................ WILLIAM BOLCOM
1994-95 ................................................ LORIN HOLLANDER
1995-96 ................................................ MILTON KATIMS
                                          BÉLA SIKI
1996-97 ................................................ BYRON JANIS
1998-99 ................................................ BILLY TAYLOR

THE BILLY TAYLOR TRIO:
Management: Herbert Barrett Management, Inc.
              1776 Broadway, Suite 1610
              New York, NY 10019
Publicity: Lynda Bramble, NYC (718) 884-9019
Piano: Dr. Taylor is a Steinway Artist
Concert Sound: Christopher Anderson
Recordings: Arkadia, GRP