

From Miles to Wynton to Sean Jones

By **SUSAN KOH**

Special to Weekend!

EASTON — Don't miss the Saturday afternoon, Sept. 2, performance of the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival when Sean Jones and his group take the stage at 2 p.m. at the Avalon Theatre.

Jones, raised in northeast Ohio, originally was a gospel-bred drummer who discovered jazz and the trumpet when he was 10 after hearing Miles Davis's "Kind of Blue" and "Amandla."

"Davis's overall vision, the way he changed with the times, the purity of the sound is probably the single most powerful influence on me as an artist," Jones said.

Jones found his jazz epiphany at 19 listening to John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme," which sparked his desire to explore the spirituality of the music.

Jones perfected his technique through studies with trumpeter

Esotto Pellegini and William Fielder, and developed his ears in jazz listening to Woody Shaw, Freddie Hubbard and Clifford Brown. He earned his master's degree from Rutgers University and began his ascent into the upper echelons of the jazz world.

He landed a six-month stint with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, which led to an offer from Wynton Marsalis to be lead trumpeter for the LCJO, a position he held for six years.

Jones cited Marsalis for his "personal work ethic and ability to break barriers" as having a deep effect on him.

"When I saw Wynton's picture on a classical album," Jones said, "I know there were no limitations on me; everything could be within my grasp."

A respected and in-demand musician and composer, Jones has been featured with artists including Charles Fambrough, Joe



COURTESY OF JIMMY KATZ

Sean Jones and his band will perform Saturday, Sept. 2, at the Avalon Theatre, during the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival.

Lovano, Jimmy Heath and Dianne Reeves. Marcus Miller, Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter selected Jones for their Tribute to Miles tour in 2011. Jones has taught at Duquesne

University in Pittsburgh and Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and he is chairman of the brass department at Berklee College of Music. He serves as artistic director of the Pittsburgh and Cleveland jazz orchestras, and conducts master classes around the world. This is his fifth year as a member of the SFJAZZ Collective.

In May, Jones recorded his eighth album with Mack Avenue Records, "Live from Jazz at the Bistro."

"I've been wanting to do a live album for awhile," Jones said. "I wanted to capture the band's energy live."

Tickets are \$45 for reserved seats and \$25 for the balcony, available online at www.jazzonthechapeake.com or by calling 410-819-0380.

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Online:
www.sean-jones.com