

Saturday, November 3, 2007, 8pm  
Zellerbach Hall

## New Orleans Jazz Orchestra Irvin Mayfield, *Artistic Director*



Courtesy of NOJO

### *Do You Know What It Means?*

Evan Christopher	<i>alto sax &amp; clarinet</i>
Ray Moore	<i>alto sax</i>
Ed Petersen	<i>tenor sax</i>
Derek Douget	<i>tenor sax</i>
Dan Oestrieher	<i>baritone sax</i>
Ron Westray	<i>trombone</i>
Steve Suter	<i>trombone</i>
Terrance Taplin	<i>trombone</i>
Barney Floyd	<i>trumpet</i>
Leon Brown	<i>trumpet</i>
Eric Lucero	<i>trumpet</i>
Maurice Brown	<i>trumpet</i>
Victor Atkins	<i>piano</i>
David Pulphus	<i>bass</i>
Adonis Rose	<i>drums</i>

*Cal Performances' 2007–2008 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.*

## About the Artists

The **New Orleans Jazz Orchestra**, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, incorporated in December 2002 by founder and artistic director Irvin Mayfield, the Grammy Award-nominated, Billboard Award-winning trumpeter and composer and the officially appointed Cultural Ambassador for the City of New Orleans. The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra (NOJO) is a spirited, swinging, 16-piece band steeped in the tradition of New Orleans jazz, blues, swing and spirituals. NOJO performs and presents educational programs that draw upon the rich musical and cultural traditions of New Orleans and is the premier major performing and presenting jazz institution based in post-Katrina New Orleans.

Under the leadership of Irvin Mayfield, NOJO has created a permanent national performing arts and education organization to celebrate America's native musical form in the city of its birth. As a touring ensemble, NOJO is regularly presented at the country's most prestigious venues, with performances at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Chicago's Ravinia Festival, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Seattle's Benaroya Hall, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, UCLA's Royce Hall, SFJAZZ at The Palace, and Miami and Orange County's new performing arts centers. In 2007–2008, NOJO will make its debut performances in the Orchestra Halls of Chicago, Detroit and Minnesota, as well as Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, UC Davis's Mondavi Center, the University of IL-Krannert Center and Omaha's new Holland Performing Arts Center.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, NOJO has become a cultural beacon for a troubled city steeped in rich cultural traditions. NOJO's mission to bring authentic New Orleans music to cities throughout the United States was solidified by a partnership with Prudential Financial, Inc. and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in December 2005. Following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, NOJO's inaugural national tour was threatened with cancellation but the partnership with Prudential allowed NOJO to embark on its first national tour and created an extended performance and residency program for NOJO at NJPAC. In addition, Tulane University announced in January 2006 that it would serve as the new home of NOJO in New Orleans.

During the 2007–2008 season, NOJO offers audiences a program titled *Do You Know What It Means?*, a vibrant collection of Mr. Mayfield's big band arrangements of traditional New Orleans jazz, blues, swing and spirituals. This special program will evoke the wondrous blues sound, the incredible food, the magnificent architecture, the creative literary spirit and the celebratory *joie de vivre* of New Orleans. In concert halls throughout the country, audiences will learn what it means to miss, and to celebrate, New Orleans. With a firm commitment to music education, NOJO also offers master classes led by Mr. Mayfield and interactive jazz outreach activities for young people, entitled "A Visit with Jazz."



**Irvin Mayfield**, the City of New Orleans-appointed, state and federally recognized Cultural Ambassador to the City of New Orleans, is the latest in a long line of New Orleans trumpeters. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1977, Mr. Mayfield has quickly established himself as one of the most decorated and recorded jazz musicians of his generation. His music, which draws from all aspects of New Orleans life and culture, re-imagines

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unique New Orleans styles and blends them into an authentic 21st century New Orleans sound. In honoring his late father, a victim of drowning during Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Mayfield has dedicated himself to promoting, now more than ever, the unique New Orleans jazz music heritage that lives today.

Mr. Mayfield founded the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, Inc., the only major jazz performance institution of its kind in the city, in late 2002. Today he serves as Artistic Director for the non-profit institution, through which he envisions delivering year-round, rich and meaningful jazz presentations for the New Orleans region. In January 2003, he founded the Institute of Jazz Culture at Dillard University. In September 2003, Mr. Mayfield was unanimously appointed to the post of Cultural Ambassador for the City of New Orleans by city officials. Since then, he has served as a musician who not only embodies and represents the great New Orleans jazz legacy, but also as a cultural spokesperson for New Orleans.

In October 2003, Mr. Mayfield debuted *Strange Fruit*, featuring the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra and the Dillard University Concert Choir. This composition was the first commission of its kind made possible by a Historically Black College and University, marking a significant historic moment. Mr. Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra made history again on November 17, 2005, when they symbolically reopened New Orleans with the performance of another historic piece—composed by Mr. Mayfield—titled *All the Saints*. This commission was the first of its kind by an Episcopal diocese, and it served New Orleans as the first major cultural event inside the city post-Katrina.

Mr. Mayfield's numerous collaborative ventures have made him a sought after composer for special events, such as the New Orleans Museum of Art's commissioned musical tribute (Mr. Mayfield's first-ever commission) to renowned African American artist Gordon Parks. This piece, *The Half-Past Autumn Suite* was later recorded with Parks, Wynton Marsalis and the Irvin Mayfield Quintet and released by Basin Street Records. He co-founded the New Orleans-flavored Latin jazz band, Los Hombres Calientes. He also leads his own band, the Irvin Mayfield Quintet.

As a Basin Street Records artist, Mr. Mayfield has released 10 albums, and has appeared on or produced dozens of other records. His latest recordings, released in 2005 by Basin Street Records, are *Strange Fruit*, with NOJO and the Dillard University Choir, and *Volume 5: Carnival*, a Los Hombres Calientes recording. Los Hombres Calientes' previous album, *Volume 4: Voodoo Dance* (2003), was nominated for a Billboard Latin Music Award. *Volume Three: New Congo Square*, the group's 2001 release, was nominated for a Grammy Award. In 2000, *Volume One* was awarded *Billboard's* Latin Music Award for Contemporary Latin Jazz Album of the Year. Outside of the Basin Street Label, Mr. Mayfield has two other releases on the Half Note label and in 2005 recorded "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" on the *Higher Ground* CD released by Blue Note Records for Musician Relief, which was also performed for President George W. Bush during Black Music Month.

Mr. Mayfield has remained steadfast in his effort to bring New Orleans culture back to its feet. He participated as advisory member to the Lieutenant Governor's Louisiana Cultural Rebirth Committee and as committee member to Mayor C. Ray Nagin's Bring New Orleans Back culture subcommittee, and also took up a new post as the artist in residence at Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans immediately upon returning to New Orleans. Currently, Mayfield serves as a board member of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, New Orleans Arts Council, Police and Justice Foundation, New Orleans Public Library Foundation, The Historic New Orleans Collection, Vice Chairman for First Responders Fund, the Louisiana State University Health Science, Department of Psychiatry, Artist in Residence at the University of New Orleans, the city-appointed Chairman of the Board for the New Orleans Public Library, and as Chairman of the re-election campaign committee for Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie Jordan.