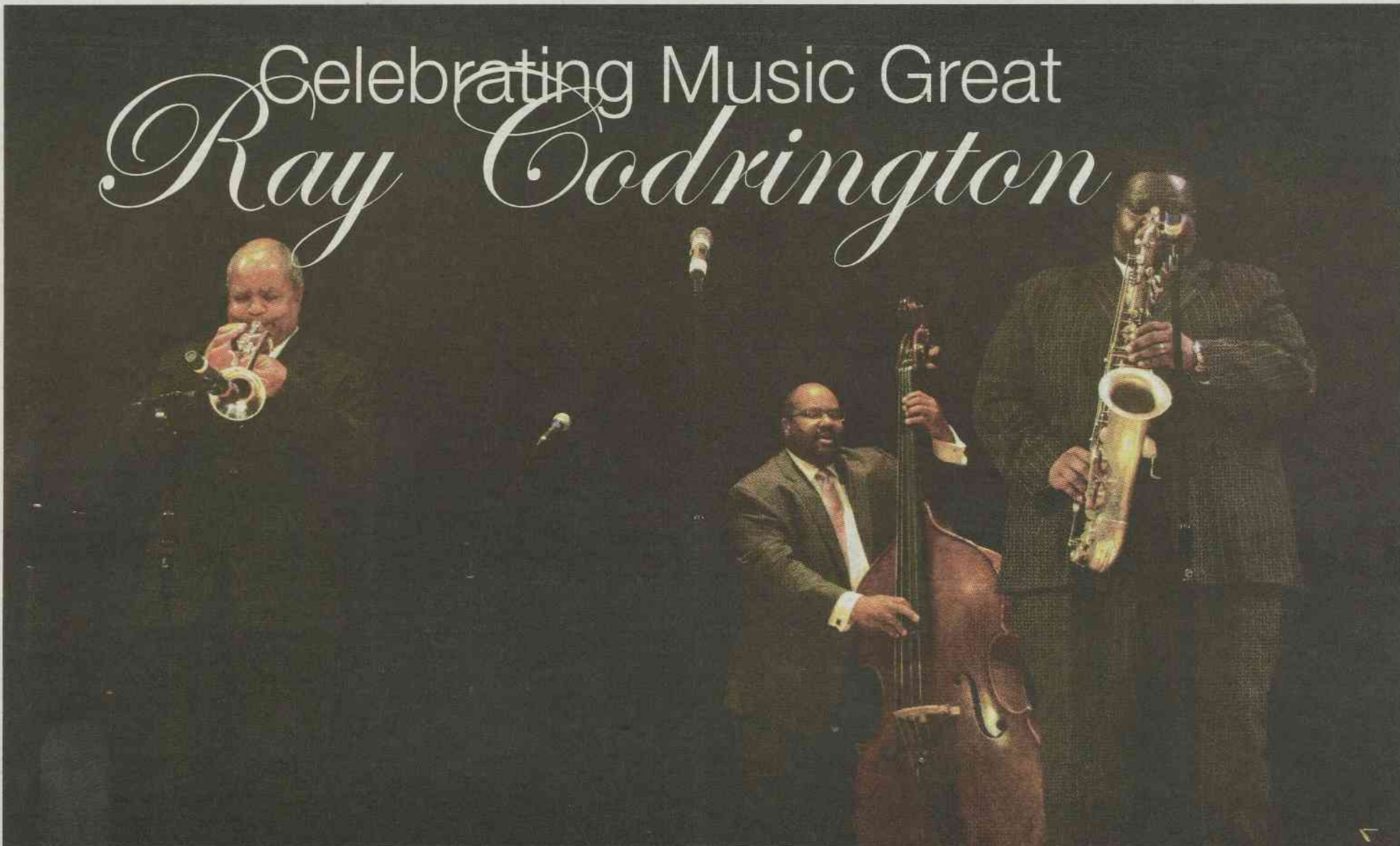


Celebrating Music Great *Ray Codrington*



Voice photo by Jennifer Lucas

The John Brown Quintet members from left Ray Codrington on Trumpet, John Brown on Bass, and Brian Miller on Saxophone perform at The Ray Codrington Jazz Series "Ray's Jazzy Birthday!" event hosted by WFSS Radio Station on Oct. 21 at the Seabrook Auditorium.

A night of *Jazz* comes to FSU

by Jalynn Jones
Voice Staff Writer

October 21 in the Seabrook Auditorium 91.9 WFSS hosted a show celebrating Fayetteville's very own Ray Codrington's birthday. "Ray's Jazzy Birthday" was the first production of a 365Jazz project series entitled "Ray Codrington's Jazz Series." 91.9 WFSS hosted this show to bring an authentic jazz experience to young people and public school students in jazz programs. Phenomenal selections from The Tony Thompson Trio and The John Brown Quintet featuring Ray Codrington had the audience swaying and singing along.

The bands paid respects to jazz legends like Miles Davis and Kenny Garrett which received standing ovations.

The host of the show and WFSS Development Director, Kimberley Darden, stressed that the 365Jazz project encourages young people to enjoy the experience and gain education in jazz music all year round. The production also partners with other organizations that provide funds to assist the public school Jazz programs around Cumberland County.

There were many people in attendance, mixed with families, couples, staff and ironically very few students. Although "Ray's Jazzy Birthday" hon-

ored jazz legend Ray Codrington, it also aimed to raise awareness of jazz as a vital part of America's heritage among young people. Unfortunately, many young people do not realize the close relationship jazz has with mainstream music that is popular today.

Just like young adults, jazz is spontaneous. One performer, John Brown, used jazz to show young people how closely jazz is related to other popular genres. He performs selections by Biggie Smalls and Ray Charles. Ms. Darden stated, jazz is the "only art form that was created right here in America." According to our conversation, a lot of modern music and movies include jazz

samples. Listening is not the issue, it's the fact that many people are not educated about jazz heritage and its importance.

Toward the end of the show, Ms. Darden informed the audience of the first lecture of the Jazz Lecture series that was held in the Telecommunications building Oct. 27th. Dr. Willie Lockett spoke about the "Roll of the Bass" at the free lecture, students are encouraged to attend. "Ray's Jazzy Birthday" Celebration was well received and all are encouraged to attend the upcoming parts of the series held on Dec. 10, April 21, 2012, and June 23, 2012.

Upcoming Dates for 365Jazz Project / The Ray Codrington Jazz Series

- December 10- WFSS 34th Birthday Party
- April 21- Jazz Appreciation Month
- June 23 -Summer Jazz