



## *The Sunshine Jazz Organization, Inc.*

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **The Sunshine Jazz Concert Series Presents**

### ***THE LENARD RUTLEDGE QUINTET!***

**Sunday, January 22nd, 2017**

### **DECEMBER 2016**

**MIAMI, FL** – SJO kicks off the new year with more South Florida world class Jazz! Our monthly Concert Series, presented at Miami Shores Country Club every fourth Sunday, is always a “musical high” and January’s artists will be no exception. SJO proudly presents Jazz vocalist extraordinaire, LeNard Rutledge, along with his fabulous quartet: Michael Orta on Piano, Nicky Orta - Bass, James Cotmon – Drums, and Jean Caze - Trumpet. The world class ensemble will take the stage at 6:00pm.



LeNard Rutledge, born and raised in Miami, Florida where there are only a handful of truly great jazz vocalists, is usually compared, aptly, to the legendary Lou Rawls. Like Rawls, Rutledge's classy elegance is often permeated by the raw passion of his church choir work. In fact, Rutledge still sings with the choir at The Church of The Incarnation. Rutledge began not as a vocalist but as a percussionist, playing in the marching and concert band at Miami Central Senior High, and later earning his income while attending Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He began his vocal career in 1997, when he was asked to join the famed Melton Mustafa

Orchestra after returning to Miami. LeNard was the featured vocalist for Melton Mustafa for seven years. In 2002, Rutledge was introduced to the music director of The Van Dyke Café', Don Wilner, who immediately recognized his talent and began giving him regular performance dates. LeNard has shared the stage with a number of highly respectable jazz artists such as: Wycliffe Gordon, Kenny Drew Jr., Dee Dee Bridgewater, Kirk Whalum, Marion Meadows and the late George Duke.

Please join us on Sunday, January 22nd from 6:00pm-9:00pm at Miami Shores Country Club, 10000 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores, FL 33138. Gen Admission \$20. /SJO Members \$15. **Become a new SJO member or renew at the door and admission is FREE!** MSCC features Cash Bar/Full Menu/Free Parking. INFO: SJO (954)554-1800; MSCC (305)795-2360.

### ***\*SAVE THE DATES\****

*Saturday & Sunday, Jan 14th-15th, The SJO sponsors Art Deco Weekend on Miami Beach featuring:  
1/14: The SJO Allstars & Oriente 8PM-11PM, 1/15: The JECC Bootcamp Jazz Ensemble 2PM-5PM.  
Sunday, Feb.26<sup>th</sup> ~ The SJO Concert Series at MSCC presents The Joey Gilmore Blues Band!*

*SJO programming is presented with support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.*

Sunshine Jazz Organization Events Are ADA Compliant.

[www.sunshinejazz.org](http://www.sunshinejazz.org), [www.facebook.com/SunshineJazzOrg](http://www.facebook.com/SunshineJazzOrg)

