



The Sunshine Jazz Organization, Inc.

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Press Release

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Sunshine Jazz Organization Celebrates Our 30th Season!

Special Guests Dr. Lonnie Smith and Lou Donaldson

Saturday, October 1st, 2016

AUGUST 2016

MIAMI, FL – The Sunshine Jazz Organization will celebrate our 30th anniversary in style, with fantastic world class Jazz in a ballroom filled with family and friends, cool cats and a lot of joy. The gala evening at Miami Shores Country Club will feature performances by not one, but two award-winning Jazz legends! NEA Jazz Masters and longtime SJO friends, Dr. Lonnie Smith and Mr. Lou Donaldson will join us as we celebrate the achievements garnered over these past 29 seasons and create plans for keeping South Florida's Jazz alive and thriving into our 30th season and beyond. We are so appreciative for their participation and for all of our esteemed musicians that inspire us every day through the beauty they create, making our world a better place.

Buffalo, N.Y. native, Dr. Lonnie Smith was immersed in gospel, blues and jazz at an early age. For over five decades he's been an unparalleled musician, composer, performer and recording artist, featured on over 70 albums. Early collaborations with George Benson in NYC established them as innovators and then Lonnie moved on to record for Columbia Records as a leader—*Finger Lickin' Good*—in 1966. Shortly thereafter he joined with saxophonist Lou Donaldson, appearing on several epic Blue Note LPs including the million-seller, *Alligator Boogaloo*. Blue Note then offered the organist a contract, producing soul jazz classics *Think!*, *Turning Point*, *Move Your Hand*, *Drives* and *Live at Club Mozambique*. With a world-wide fan-base of all ages he is widely considered a legend, musical icon and the most creative jazz organist alive. Dr. Smith was named a 2017 NEA Jazz Master and was recently inducted into the South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame.

Legendary bandleader, composer and alto saxophonist, “Sweet Poppa” Lou Donaldson, has an illustrious history. From North Carolina, he was introduced to bop music during his time in the Navy in 1945. Some of Donaldson's first jazz recordings were with bop emissaries Milt Jackson and Thelonious Monk in 1952, and in 1953 with trumpet virtuoso Clifford Brown, and Philly Joe Jones. He played with trumpeter Blue Mitchell, pianist Horace Silver and drummer Art Blakey, and was a member of Blakey's Quintet appearing on albums including two recorded at Birdland in February 1954, “Night at Birdland”. He has recorded in bop, hard bop, and soul jazz genres and, in 2012, he was inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame and named a 2013 NEA Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts, United States' highest honor in jazz music.

The “SJO” has been promoting Jazz awareness, education and performances since 1986 through our diverse, year-round programming. As a Miami-based non-profit entity, we produce opportunities for all ages to experience the beauty and importance of America's precious, indigenous music...JAZZ! This celebration is made possible through the support of our members, our sponsors and you! Please join us on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 7:00pm-11:00pm at Miami Shores Country Club, 10000 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores, FL 33138. General Admission is \$50. /SJO Members \$40. MSCC features a Full Dinner Menu/Cash Bar/Free Parking. Reservations are recommended. Info: SJO (305)693-2594, (954)554-1800; MSCC (305)795-2360.



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.

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