



Tidewater Arts Outreach
Sharing the healing power of the arts.

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JAZZ NOTABLES TEAM UP FOR JAN. 19 HOUSE CONCERT

Laura Martier, Jimmy Masters and John Toomey perform to benefit Tidewater Arts Outreach

NORFOLK, Va. – (January 2008) – Three accomplished jazz artists are coming together to perform at a house concert in Norfolk’s Larchmont neighborhood on Jan. 19 at 8 pm. The concert features singer Laura Martier, pianist John Toomey and bassist Jimmy Masters who will present their exceptional blend of smooth and sophisticated jazz music, a true American art form. The event benefits Tidewater Arts Outreach, a local nonprofit that matches performing and visual artists with special needs populations in area facilities, hospitals, shelters and other dependent care programs.

Martier, Masters and Toomey all have achieved recognition individually for their considerable musical talents and their abilities to so beautifully and accurately capture the essence and syncopations of this challenging musical genre.

“John, Laura and Jimmy all are excellent artists on their own,” said MaryAnn Toboz, Tidewater Arts Outreach executive director. “When you put them together, the result is absolutely fabulous. We are thrilled to have this extraordinary trio share their music with our supporters in an intimate setting. There will be a gleaming baby grand, candelabra and concert seating. It’s a fantastic way to raise awareness and funds to support our mission of bringing music and arts to under-served populations.”

The house concert is being hosted by John and Mary Jane Hall at their riverfront home in the Larchmont neighborhood of Norfolk. The concert is open to the public and begins at 8 pm; tickets are \$25 and only 50 will be sold. The trio will play two sets; wine and refreshments will add to the evening’s enjoyment. For ticket information, call 410-4010, visit www.TWartsoutreach.org or email TWartsoutreach@cox.net. Payment must accompany all reservations.

Tidewater Arts Outreach is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 to bring music and arts to hospitals, retirement homes, rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters and other facilities throughout Hampton Roads. These performances and programs promote human interaction, happiness and healing for people who have limited access to the arts due to health, economic or social circumstances. In 2007, more than 4,000 people were reached through 161 Tidewater Arts Outreach programs. Tidewater Arts Outreach supports the spirit of empathy and caring in the music and arts community, and more than 200 artists have participated in its programs. For more information, visit TWartsoutreach.org.

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Additional information about Laura Martier, John Toomey and Jimmy Masters:

Laura Martier has developed her craft in Los Angeles, where she worked in studios, on commercials and on film soundtracks. Following her move to coastal North Carolina in the early '90's she began exploring the great American song book, singing jazz standards and developing her own interpretations. She has recorded two well-received projects, one in the early 90's with guitarist Woody Beckner that featured a select listing of jazz standards, the other recorded in 2001 for the VSOJAZ Records label. "Intersections" proved to be an ideal calling card, earning her new fans and the opportunity to perform regularly throughout the Outer Banks and Southeastern and Central Virginia.

John Toomey chairs the Music Department at Old Dominion University. He has toured internationally and has performed at some of the world's most prestigious jazz clubs and festivals. He was previously the music director and keyboardist for legendary trumpeter Maynard Ferguson. John performed, toured and recorded with Maxx Jazz recording artist jazz vocalist Rene Marie. He has played the Jazz Standard in NYC w/ famed vocalist Mark Murphy and also has performed and recorded with The Uptown Jazz Vocal Quartet. Recent releases include "Intersection" with Laura Martier, "Smile" with vocalist Lisanne Lyons, and "Refraction" featuring original compositions performed by The John Toomey Trio. John is an award-winning composer of music for film on networks including the History Channel and the Discovery Channel.

Jimmy Masters has been playing music professionally for 37 years. His studies include time spent at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, and private study with jazz bassist Rufus Reid. A sampling of his work includes performances with guitarist Stephen Bennett, Bill & Pam Gurley, Woody Beckner, Herb Ellis and John Abercrombie and jazz vocalist Kurt Elling. He has recorded with Stephen Bennett, Bill & Pam Gurley, vocalist Laura Martier, Glenn Wilson, and John Toomey and for National Public Television & NPR. He is executive producer of two well-received recordings on the VSOJAZ Records label, *Intersection*, featuring Laura Martier, and *You Inspire Me*, by Diane Hubka, and also is Executive Producer of *Jazz for Hope*, featuring his group The Jazz Police and Laura Martier.