



The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)
 Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 7:30PM
 Saint Peter's Church—54th Street & Lexington Avenue

Bill Easley on Duke, Sax, and Jazz

Bill Easley, whose wonderful saxophone playing added a great deal to Antoinette Montague's holiday party/concert in December 2009, will be our guest speaker in February. He was born into a musical family; at age 13, he began playing with his parents at country clubs, dances, and nightclubs in and around his hometown of Olean, NY. He moved to New York City, was drafted into the army, and played with the 9th Army Band in Fairbanks Alaska.



In 1968, Easley joined the George Benson Quartet and toured with them, playing at many legendary jazz spots. In the mid 1970s, Easley first toured with the Duke Ellington Orchestra under the direction of Mercer Ellington. In January of 1980 Bill moved back to New York City, and played in several Broadway shows.

In addition to his extensive discography as a sideman, he also has five recordings as a leader; *Wind Inventions*, *First Call*, *Easley Said*, *Business Man's Bounce*, and *Hearing Voices*. His arsenal of woodwind instruments includes; tenor, alto, and soprano saxophones, clarinet and bass clarinet, flute, alto flute, and piccolo.

Photo Credit Chi Modu



Celebrate Duke's 111th birthday and the 50th anniversary of TDES with us

Save the date: April 28, 2010, at 8PM. Buy your tickets now for our 50th anniversary concert with the Christian McBride Quintet.

See page 5 for information about tickets and seating

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