

# Spectrum

FRANKFORT ARTS FOUNDATION

## Brooks Giles III coming to KSU Thursday

BY PATRICIA VANSANT

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Since becoming an internationally acclaimed saxophonist and bandleader, Brooks Giles III has led musical groups around the world to strike a balance between art and entertainment. Thursday's special Frankfort Arts Foundation concert, "Brooks Giles III & Friends," lives up to its billing.

Giles will perform at 7 p.m. in the Carl H. Smith Auditorium in Bradford Hall on the Kentucky State University campus as part of the Frankfort Arts Foundation season series. Tickets cost \$10 and will be available at the door or in advance at Nature's Way Health Foods. For information, call 502-330-2773 or email [faf@dcf.net](mailto:faf@dcf.net).

"Brooks' last performance here was hugely popular," said Sheila Burton, former president of the Frankfort Arts Foundation and chair of the Kings Center Board. "It was truly an outpouring of love and community pride, particularly from those of us who knew him as a kid. It's inspiring to our young folk to see someone from our little village achieve the national spotlight."

### 'Quintessential saxophonist'

Giles is the quintessential saxophonist. "Whether we're performing an original composition, a classic Blues tune or a gem from the Great American Songbook, our mission is to make sure that the music is interesting, passionate and grooving at all times," said Giles.

"We want the audience to really feel the spirit of the music and express themselves with handclaps, finger snaps and toe taps, if that's what they choose to do. We always perform for the love of the music and for the people who honor us by coming out to listen."

"It's not that we just enjoy listening to several different styles of music but that we enjoy playing different styles of music at the

highest level possible and to the best of our abilities."

"Brooks Giles III & Friends" is comprised entirely of musicians Giles has performed with over the past 25 years.

Bassist Andy Woodson and Giles met while students at The Ohio State University. They performed regularly in the mid 1980s as part of a popular Jazz Fusion group in Columbus, Ohio, called "Dr. Bombay." In 1986 the group appeared as part of KSU's homecoming festivities.

Guitarist Hui Cox and drummer George Gray became band mates and close friends of Giles during the early 1990s, while they were all living and performing in New York City. Their long musical relationship continues to flourish to this day.

"The one thing we all have in common is our love and respect for a multitude of musical genres," says Giles about the musicians assembled for this FAF concert.

### Frankfort native

Giles was raised in Frankfort. He is the son of Brooks Giles Jr. and Gloria Wilson Giles. He began playing the tenor saxophone at age 10. A few years later he began singing with the St. John A.M.E. youth choir.

His mother, a classically trained vocalist, pianist and organist, guided his musical studies while his uncle, Vance Wilson, a professional saxophonist in Phila-

delphia, became his first saxophone mentor. The Kentucky State University bands provided inspiration to Giles, as well.

At Franklin County High School in the 1980s, he led the marching band as drum major and performed in the school's jazz and concert bands.

After high school he started performing professionally and went on to study music education at The Ohio State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. He moved to New York City in 1988.

Once in the "Big Apple," Giles

**WHAT:** Brooks Giles III

**WHERE:** Bradford Hall at KSU

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. Thursday

**ADMISSION:** \$10 at the door

earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New School of Social Research and a Master of Fine Arts from The Aaron Copland School of Music of Queens College.

He studied with virtuoso bass guitarist Rael Wesley Grant and with jazz greats Reggie Workman, Junior Mance, Cecil McBee and Donald Byrd who encouraged him to continue his studies at Queens College with legendary composer and saxophonist Jimmy Heath.

### Taught in New York

Giles taught school in New York City for a period, and then he went out on his own to perform with his ensemble, The Brooks Giles Quartet, along with other groups. He has performed in the United States, Chile, Thailand, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Korea and Myanmar/Burma.

Giles has released two CDs as a leader, 2002's "Somewhere On Earth, The Bangkok Sessions" along with his most recent release, "Romance de Los Andes" which features The Panchito Aranda Trio and was recorded in Santiago, Chile.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, Giles can be seen in writer/director Woody Allen's film "Sweet & Low Down," starring Sean Penn and Uma Thurman. He also plays the role of "B" in the DVD of the Gregory Charles Royal play "It's A Hard Bop Life," and he performs on the soundtrack.

These days Giles continues to take his music to various parts of the world while performing and living in Seattle. To learn more about Brooks Giles III you can visit his website: [www.brooks-giles.com](http://www.brooks-giles.com)

Mark Hedden, a fellow band member at FCHS and owner of Nature's Way Health Foods, has kept up with Giles over the years.

"Brooks is a fantastic musician, super talented and a great friend," said Hedden. "I hope people come to the concert and experience his artistic brilliance on the sax. This is a rare opportunity for our community and a great way to kick off the Derby."

Frankfort native Brooks Giles III, an acclaimed saxophonist and band leader, will perform 7 p.m. Thursday in Bradford Hall at Kentucky State University. Tickets are \$10 at the door. (photo submitted)

### 'Art Smart' continues thru November

"Art Smart" is the title of 2013 Frankfort Arts Foundation season series. The season features an arts and cultural series including 14 educational programs of community master classes at KSU and programs in the schools as part of the FAF Artists-In-The Schools Program.

Coming events include: Star Bands May 7; No Tools Loaned May 24; All Things New Aug. 10; Frankfort's Finest Flavors Sept. 10; "Someone To Watch Over Me," a Benefit for Frankfort's Homeless Citizens with pianist Keith McAliley Sept. 27.

Also, "Overcoming Obstacles & Dealing With Adversity" with motivational speaker Corey Hicks Oct. 4; "Classically Black II" with pianist Richard C. Alston Oct. 25; concert pianists Jae Won Kim and Mark Tollefsen Nov. 1; Benefit for Veterans & Wounded Heroes with Chosen 24/7 Nov. 10; and "A Look At Classical Ballet & Dance," by the Lexington Ballet Nov. 16.

Most event tickets are \$10 and will be sold in advance at Nature's Way Health Foods or at the door. Contact the foundation at 502-330-2773 or [faf@dcf.net](mailto:faf@dcf.net) for season tickets and information.

The Frankfort Arts Foundation is a nonprofit community arts organization. The FAF's mission is to promote cultural enrichment through artistic and educational endeavors by presenting the performing, visual, literary and culinary arts.

