WISCONSIN UNION THEATER ANNOUNCES IMANI WINDS, A GRAMMY-NOMINATED WIND QUINTET

The Grammy-nominated Imani Winds will open the Wisconsin Union Theater Season on Friday, September 28th at 8PM in Mills Hall. Tickets are $25 for the General Public, $21 for Memorial Union Members, Faculty and Staff, and $14 for Youth under 18. As always, tickets for UW Madison students are only $10 with valid ID. Call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787), buy online, or purchase in person at the Campus Arts Ticketing box office in Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave.

Their performance will include both classical and original pieces, including works commissioned by the group. They will play Jeff Scott’s “Startin’ Sumthing,” Jason Moran’s “Cane,” as well as works from the group’s flautist, Valeria Coleman, “Suite: Portraits of Josephine Baker,” and “Tzigane.” Then, in line with the night’s theme of “West Meets East,” the group will also
perform Igor Stravinsky’s “Rite of Spring,” and Gene Kavadlo’s arrangement of Romanian folk “Klezmer Dances.”

Through the years, Imani Winds have collaborated with various musicians to push the boundaries both of their repertoire and style. They now play music as diverse as classical ballet and tango, but they are also committed to new compositions. To that end, the ensemble has developed their Legacy Commissioning Project, dedicated to developing and premiering new works. Lucid Culture says that, “The Imani Winds are on a mission to create a repertoire for wind ensembles that rivals what string quartets have to choose from.”

Imani Winds has been met with great acclaim. Joseph Dalton of the Albany Times-Union describes them as having “exuberant spirit”; Joan Reinthaler of the Washington Post says they have the “ability to get into the heart of each piece's cultural core and to communicate the joy of making music together”; and Tulsa World’s James D. Watts calls them, “a formidable bunch, each capable of great expressiveness in their playing.”

Motivating young musicians of color is one the group’s main goals, and they recognized early on that a group made up entirely of musicians of color could be an inspiration for young musicians. In 2010, the ensemble opened its first annual Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival, designed to bring together young instrumentalists for a week of “intense music exploration.” Now in its third year, the festival, through its master classes, guest artists, workshops and performances will, the ensemble's members hope, continue to add to the “cultural fabric of Lincoln Center.”

This performance is sponsored by the Wisconsin Union Directorate Performing Arts Committee and is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin. Other sponsors include the Union Theater Endowment Fund, Wisconsin Public radio and WORT, 89.9 FM.