FACULTY RECITAL

“For the Piano - Classical and Jazz Connections”

Willis Delony, piano

Thursday, November 3, 2016     |    7:30 p.m.    |   LSU Recital Hall

LOVE PURPLE. LIVE GOLD.

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In a career spanning over three decades, pianist WILLIS DELONY has won acclaim as one of the nation's leading classical/jazz crossover artists. His concert explorations of the two musical worlds are showcased in a series of solo piano recordings on the Centaur label. A New World A’ Comin’ — Classical and Jazz Connections was released in 2001. Double Dance — Classical and Jazz Connections II was released in 2008, while the final installment of the series, Out of Character — Classical and Jazz Connections III, was released in October 2014. Previous album credits include a recording of sonatas by Samuel Barber and Sergei Prokofiev, also on the Centaur label, and a jazz album entitled Civilized Conversations, featuring Delony and bassist Bill Grimes. He collaborated with bassoonist William Ludwig on the Mark Records release, Rhapsody in Bassoon, which features the world premiere recording of André Previn's Sonata for Bassoon and Piano.

Delony has appeared as piano soloist, guest pianist/arranger or conductor with orchestras throughout the United States as well as orchestras in Canada, the former Soviet Union and China. As a solo and collaborative recitalist, he has performed classical and jazz concerts throughout the U.S. – including a solo recital at Carnegie Hall (October, 2014) – as well as France, Germany, Mexico and Brazil. He has performed with many of the nation's leading jazz artists, and is co-host/pianist for Louisiana State University's popular concert series Hot Summer Nights – Cool Jazz. His pops orchestra arrangements have been performed throughout the U.S. and Canada, including over 50 scores written for the Minneapolis-based jazz vocal quintet Five By Design, with whom he has recorded two albums. He has worked for many years with Baton Rouge producer/sound engineer Joey Decker of Disk Productions, co-creating dozens of award-winning commercial soundtracks for clients nationwide. He collaborates regularly with leading contemporary composers, having recently premiered the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra by Stephen Dankner with the LSU Symphony Orchestra. He has recorded and performed solo works by Paris-based American composer Joseph Makholm, as well as solo piano works by jazz composer Les Hooper. In January 2017, he will premiere Greg Yasinitsky's Concerto for Jazz Piano and Orchestra with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra.

Delony is the Virginia Martin Howard Professor of Piano and Professor of Jazz Studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he has been a member of the School of Music faculty since 2000. From 1986-2000 he served on the music faculty at Southeastern Louisiana University and is a former member of the music faculty at Delta State University. He is a past recipient of an Artist Fellowship awarded by the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and in May of 2012 received the Edith Kirkpatrick Arts Leadership Award given by the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra.

**PROGRAM**

**Pour le piano**

1. Prelude
2. Sarabande
3. Toccata

**Preludes for Piano**

- Prelude XIX in A Major
- Prelude XVI in G-sharp Minor
- Prelude XIII in G-flat Major
- Prelude XXII in G Major

**INTERMISSION**

**Sonata No. 2**

I. Presto martellato
II. Adagio
III. Vivace spiritoso

**Selections in “Mixed Company”**

- *Butterfly Room*  
  - A Flower is a Lovesome Thing

- *Barcarolle*, op. 60

**Claude Debussy**  
(1862-1918)

**Bill Dobbins**  
(b. 1947)

**Norman Dello Joio**  
(1913-2008)

**Willis Delony**  
(b. 1957)

**Billy Strayhorn**  
(1915-1967)

**Frederic Chopin**  
(1810-1849)
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