

FULTON MUSIC ASSOCIATION
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NEWS RELEASE

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JAZZ VOCALIST MARK MURPHY HEADLINES
SEPT. 26 'MURPHY FAMILY EVENT' CONCERT IN FULTON

FULTON, NY - Fultonian Mark Murphy, world-renowned jazz singer, will perform in concert with his jazz trio and his family at the Murphy Family Event, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at the G. Ray Bodley High School auditorium, it was announced by Steve Chirello, president of the Fulton Music Association (FMA).

“The FMA is thrilled to be able to bring this giant among jazz musicians back to Fulton for this concert with his family,” Chirello said. “ He’s a six-time Grammy nominee who has enjoyed a prolific 40-year recording career, with over 40 releases to date. He’ll play with his jazz trio for the first half of the concert, then his brother, Dwight ‘Doc’ Murphy, Doc’s son, Mark Murphy of the group Vanaver Caravan and Work O’ the Weavers and talented musical cousins— including pianist/vocalist Alan Howe— will perform in the second half.”

Legendary composer Alec Wilder described Murphy as follows: “I was quite literally amazed. Mark’s musicianship, range, diction, inventiveness and incredible rhythmic sense are all of a piece and all marvelous.”

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Stephen Holden described a recent New York City performance of Murphy’s in the Jan. 18 New York Times: “The persona behind Mr. Murphy[s] free-form singing is his theatrical incarnation of a late-’50s-to-early-’60s hipster who stubbornly goes his own way.”

Murphy was raised in Fulton where he sang in the church choir, said Carol Fox, FMA vice president. He began piano lessons at age seven and his uncle introduced him to jazz through the recordings of pianist Art Tatum. In his teens, Murphy sang with his brother’s dance band, then went on to study acting and music at Syracuse University. He moved to New York City, where he appeared with the Filbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company and performed in amateur contests at the legendary Apollo Theater.

It was Sammy Davis, Jr. who first discovered Murphy in 1953 at a Syracuse jam session, Fox said. “Impressed with his talent, Davis invited him to his show that night where he asked Mark to join him on stage. Davis was later responsible for getting Murphy on the ‘Tonight Show’ with Steve Allen. It was

Allen's composition, 'This Could Be the Start of Something Big' that Murphy recorded a hit rendition of in 1959.

Murphy continues to tour internationally year around, appearing at festivals, concert, jazz clubs, and on television programs throughout the U.S., Europe, Australia, and Japan. According to his web site, www.markmurphy.com, he is slated to follow the Fulton concert with

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performances at Iridium in NY City, Oct. 9-12.

Tickets for the Sept. 26 Fulton concert are \$20 each for reserved and \$15 and \$10 for non-reserved tickets. For more information, contact Fox at (315) 591-3392.

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