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**JIMMY MCGRUFF, MASTER OF THE HAMMOND B-3 ORGAN,
WILL PERFORM AT RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

(Mahwah) – Jazz at the Berrie Center presents “Master of the Organ Jam,” Jimmy McGriff and His All-stars on Saturday, May 7 at 8 p.m. in the Sharp Theater on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Considered the all-time giant of the Hammond B-3, organ master Jimmy McGriff is know as one of the “bluesiest” to come out of Philadelphia, the capital of the jazz organ world. His recording of Ray Charles’ “I’ve Got A Woman” was a top five R&B hit and a jukebox staple of the ‘60s. His All-stars are drummer Don Williams, a long-time member of McGriff’s touring band, guitarist Geary Moore and tenor saxophonist Jerry Weldon, known for his work with the Harry Connick, Jr. Big Band.

Jimmy McGriff studied at Juilliard in New York City and at Philadelphia’s Combe College of Music. His music is steeped in blues and gospel. Blues has been the backbone of most of the major jazz organists, but throughout his recording career, McGriff has stuck closer to the blues than most of them. After a stint in law enforcement, he turned his focus to the organ and studied at Combe and Juilliard, as well as privately with Jimmy Smith, “Groove” Holmes, Milt Buckner and classical organist Sonny Gatewood. In 1962, while performing in Trenton, New Jersey, a scout from a record label called Jell was struck with the organist’s arrangement of “I’ve Got a Woman” and offered him a contract. As McGriff’s single was taking off, Sue Records in New York purchased the master and it became a hit, peaking at No. 5 on Billboard’s

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R&B chart and at No. 20 on the pop list. With that and such subsequent Sue label singles as “All About My Girl,” “M.G. Blues,” and “Bump De Bump,” the organist staked out his own musical turf.

Tickets for “Master of the Organ Jam” are \$21 for adults, \$18 for senior citizens and \$12 for youth. The Sharp Theater is located at the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts on the Ramapo College campus. For more information call 201.684.7844.

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