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**VALERY PONOMAREV AND ALUMNI OF THE JAZZ MESSENGERS
SALUTE ART BLAKEY**

(Mahwah) – Jazz at The Berrie Center presents “Our Father Who Art Blakey,” a tribute to the late legendary drummer Saturday, March 15, 8 p.m. in the Sharp Theater on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey.

The performance features Valery Ponomarev, a Russian trumpeter discovered by Blakey in the mid-70s along with a group of Messenger alumni. In addition to Ponomarev, the band includes Bobby Watson on alto sax, Dave Schnitter on tenor sax, Ronnie Mathews on piano, Jerome Jennings on drums and Curtis Lundy on bass.

Ponomarev joined Blakey with the Jazz Messengers, a band whose legacy is not only its music, but also its reputation as a proving ground for several generations of jazz musicians. After four years and eleven albums with the band, Ponomarev set out on his own, ushering in a young Wynton Marsalis to replace him.

Tickets for “Our Father Who Art Blakey” are \$26, \$23 and \$20 for adults, \$15 for children under 17, and a five percent discount for senior citizens and members of the New Jersey Jazz Society and WBGO Radio. The Sharp Theater is located in the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts on the Ramapo College campus. For more information call 201.684.7844.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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