Earth Day Celebration

A Jazz Concert for God's Creation

Saturday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church hosts an evening of jazz music especially designed to honor Earth Day. This family friendly event features saxophonist Jeff Antoniuk with The Jazz Update (Wade Beach – piano, Tom Baldwin – bass, and Tony Martucci – drums) playing some of the most moving music written to celebrate the beauty and majesty of planet Earth.

eMail Ticket Requests to: events@saintmarkpresby.org

Concerts & Events: 301-530-1735 x15

Website: www.saintmarkpresby.org

Tickets are $15 in advance; and $17 at the door.

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

10701 Old Georgetown Road
Rockville, MD 20852

Jazz Artists Play Earth Day Celebration - More Info

Antoniuk is not the first bandleader to celebrate Earth Day with music. Decades ago Paul Winter was inspired by the sounds of whales and wolves and wove them into his music. His landmark albums suggest the importance of stewardship in protecting the earth and its creatures.

An award winning composer and performer, Antoniuk attended grade school in Nigeria and graduated from the famed jazz program at North Texas University with two master's degrees. He teaches at Towson State University. About his playing, Washington Post music critic Mike Joyce wrote: "*...Style and substance - what a concept!*" Stellar musicians accompany him in this concert including Northern Virginians pianist **Wade Beach** and drummer **Tony Martucci**, and Maryland Bassist **Tom Baldwin**.

One of the tunes featured is Charles Lloyd's "Forest Flower." A "tree hugger" of the best kind, Lloyd lived in Big Sur for much of his life, composing music that was spiritual and spirited. He made history as the first major jazz artist to take jazz music behind the Iron Curtain to the former Soviet Union.

Also on the program is "On the Trail," by Ferde Grofe. Written as a movement in the orchestral suite, "Grand Canyon," the piece was used in a 1933 cowboy film and recorded as a jazz tune by Joe Henderson.

Antoniuk and his group pay tribute to Winter by performing his theme song "Icarus," (a Ralph Towner composition) along with originals like West African influenced "Global Village" and the reggae to swing tune, "Rain." The latter tunes preview the Jazz Update's forthcoming CD, slated for release this summer.

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church was established in 1960 and has since grown to over 350 active members serving the local and global community through mission. They offer concerts and lectures to the community. Saint Mark seeks to be an open and inclusive community of Christian faith pursuing the love of God and neighbor, while honoring the gifts of all people. They welcome everyone regardless of race, class, marital status, ability, or sexual orientation who seek to grow more deeply in their relationship with God and serve others in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Saint Mark is ecumenical in spirit and share a common hope for mission and worship with all Christians. Their desire is to be a grace-filled community where spiritual growth and service come together in creative balance.