

The Kresge Eminent Artist Award

Beginning in 2008, The Kresge Foundation honors each year an exceptional artist living and working in Metropolitan Detroit whose influential body of work, contributions to their art form, and demonstrated commitment to the Detroit cultural community are widely recognized. The Eminent Artist Award, which includes a \$50,000 prize, acknowledges artistic innovation and rewards integrity, depth of vision, and singularity of purpose as judged by the Kresge Eminent Artist Panel.

The Eminent Artist Award together with the Kresge Artist Fellowships and Kresge Arts Support constitute Kresge Arts in Detroit, a coordinated effort to showcase and support Metropolitan Detroit's tri-county arts and cultural community, Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. Kresge Arts in Detroit is one facet of The Kresge Foundation's Detroit Program, a comprehensive five-part community-development framework intended to strengthen the long-term economic, social and cultural fabric of the City of Detroit and surrounding area. The College for Creative Studies administers the Kresge Eminent Artist Award on behalf of the Kresge Foundation.

Charles McGee: 2008 Kresge Eminent Artist



"Considered by his fellow artists, curators, collectors, teachers and students as the benchmark for artistic excellence, Charles McGee's distinguished visual arts career spans six decades and encompasses the kind of doing that astounds in its quality and volume. His work has been celebrated in hundreds of exhibitions from Detroit to New York to Bangkok; he has been a teacher and mentor to thousands of young artists; he has founded galleries and arts organizations, creating opportunities for others to share their work and ideas; his work has been commissioned and collected by institutions and individuals around the world; he has advised the State of Michigan, the City of Detroit and our arts institutions on countless cultural initiatives; and he has done it all with humility, reverence and a sense of wonder at the power and triumph of art.

'The creative mind,' McGee has written, 'continues always to test the parameters of conventional knowledge, forever in pursuit of new vistas.' His extraordinary life in art is a model of continuity and change; his unerring dedication to his practice and community serves as an example for all of us to mark our own trail, one that will awaken us to new vistas and the freedom that art bestows." – Michelle Perron, Director, Kresge Arts in Detroit

A Letter of Thanks

The College for Creative Studies (CCS) is proud to partner with The Kresge Foundation to administer the Kresge Eminent Artist Award. CCS shares with Kresge the view that artists are a critical force in the revitalization of the region. We salute Kresge for making the arts a part of its strategy to achieve a better Detroit. We thank Kresge for the opportunity to reinforce the College's mission of nurturing creativity by helping to recognize and support artists who create innovative work and demonstrate a strong commitment to their community.

Each year, the Kresge Eminent Artist Award reminds us of how much creative talent resides in the Detroit region and how high the level of that talent is. No one could be more deserving of the award than Marcus Belgrave, a great artist who has achieved acclaim on the world stage while making remarkable contributions to the cultural life of his hometown. His extraordinary career sets an example for all aspiring artists and for everyone who loves and celebrates Detroit. CCS congratulates him.

The 2009 Kresge Eminent Artist was selected by an independent panel of five influential members of Detroit's artistic community: Lynn Crawford, writer and editor of the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit Journal; Ian Ding, percussionist and founding member of New Music Detroit; Aku Kadogo, faculty member and director of the Black Theatre Program at Wayne State University; Anne Parsons, president and CEO of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; and poet and educator, George Tysh. Kresge Arts in Detroit is grateful to the panel for sharing their expertise and for selecting from among Detroit's talented cultural producers such a worthy candidate.

The Kresge Foundation established Kresge Arts in Detroit to support and encourage the artists who enrich our lives. Marcus Belgrave has entertained and enlightened us for decades while inspiring new generations of musicians. This award is a way of saying thanks to him.

Richard L. Rogers
President
College for Creative Studies

Michelle Perron
Director, Kresge Arts in Detroit
College for Creative Studies

Kresge Arts in Detroit – Advisory Council

KRESGE ARTS IN DETROIT Kresge Arts in Detroit is supported by the guidance and expertise of a 19-person volunteer advisory council, made up of members of the Metropolitan Detroit cultural community. The council selects review panels, nominates candidates for the Kresge Eminent Artist Award, and provides external oversight to Kresge Arts in Detroit.

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About The Kresge Foundation



The Kresge Foundation is a \$2.8 billion private, national foundation that supports communities by building the capacity of nonprofit organizations in six fields: health, the environment, arts and culture, education, human services and community development.

In partnership with grantees, Kresge seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations by creating access and opportunity in underserved communities, improving the health of low-income people, supporting artistic expression, assisting in the revitalization

of Detroit, and advancing methods for dealing with global climate change. In 2008, the foundation approved 342 grants totaling \$181 million.

In June 2007, the foundation embarked upon a multi-year expansion of its grantmaking to better address society's pressing issues. Central to this expansion are nine values, which now serve as the centerpiece of its grantmaking criteria. The values aim to advance low-income opportunity, promote community impact in ways most needed by residents, cultivate innovation and risk taking, support interdisciplinary solutions, foster environmental sustainability, and encourage diversity in board governance. For more information, visit www.kresge.org.

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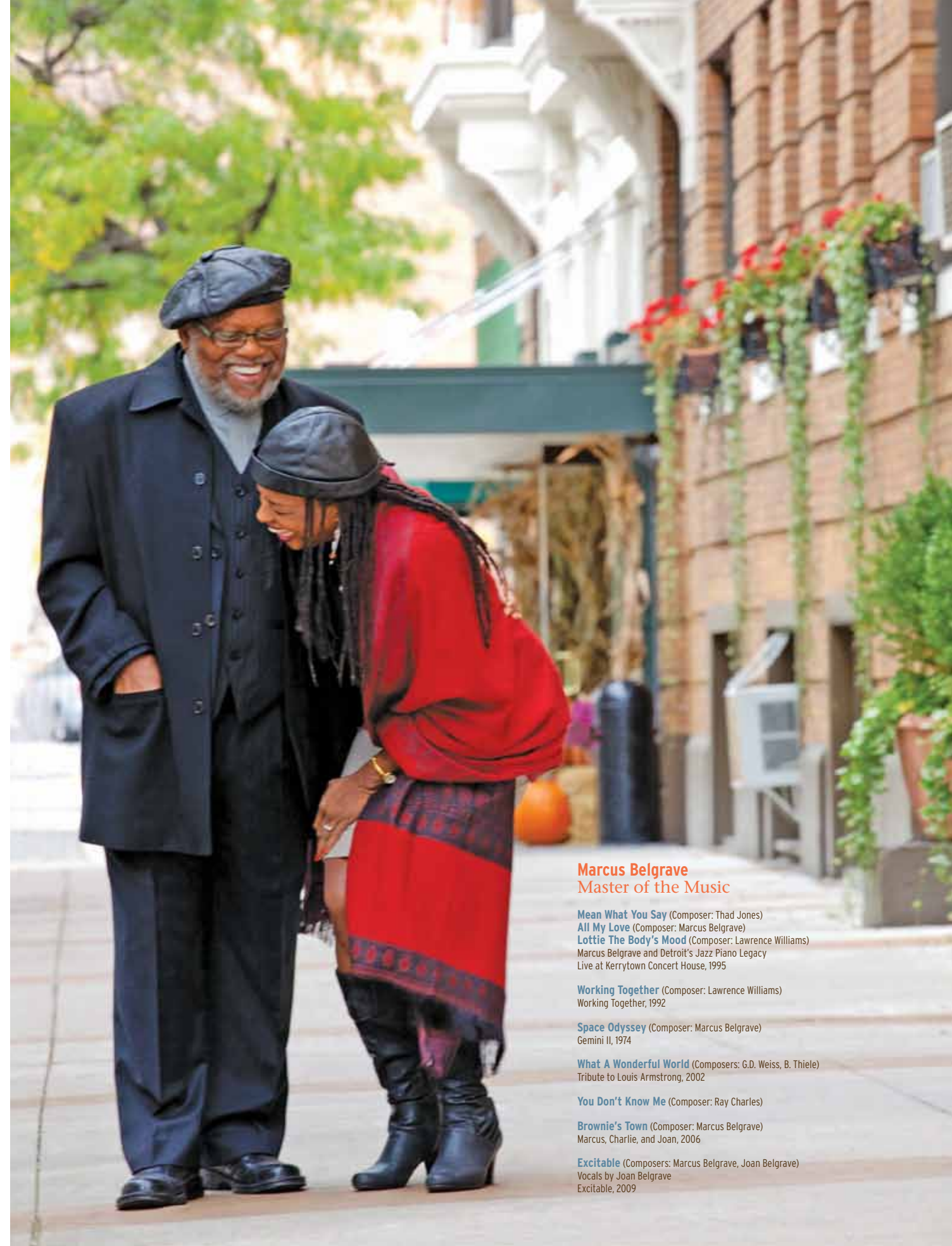
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Marcus Belgrave Master of the Music

Mean What You Say (Composer: Thad Jones)
All My Love (Composer: Marcus Belgrave)
Lottie The Body's Mood (Composer: Lawrence Williams)
Marcus Belgrave and Detroit's Jazz Piano Legacy
Live at Kerrytown Concert House, 1995

Working Together (Composer: Lawrence Williams)
Working Together, 1992

Space Odyssey (Composer: Marcus Belgrave)
Gemini II, 1974

What A Wonderful World (Composers: G.D. Weiss, B. Thiele)
Tribute to Louis Armstrong, 2002

You Don't Know Me (Composer: Ray Charles)

Brownie's Town (Composer: Marcus Belgrave)
Marcus, Charlie, and Joan, 2006

Excitable (Composers: Marcus Belgrave, Joan Belgrave)
Vocals by Joan Belgrave
Excitable, 2009