

ERIC BYRD TRIO

It has been a stellar, 20-plus-year career for The Eric Byrd Trio and it would appear they are just getting started:

They are winners of The Maryland State Arts Council's \$10k Independent Artist Award (IAA) for notable artistic achievement.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan bestowed a prestigious **Governor's Citation** upon the Trio, "in recognition and celebration of 20 years delighting audiences across the globe."

Their last recording "Twenty" won the 2022 Washington Area Music Award (Wammy) Jazz Recording of the Year.

And they are a part of the prestigious **Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster** .

For over twenty years, The Eric Byrd Trio (EBT) have traveled the world as enthusiastic ambassadors of jazz. Rooted in swing and bebop, The Trio also embraces gospel and the blues as core elements of their expansive performance style. Their body of work spans seven unique studio and live recordings on which they shine as a Trio and as collaborators with an expanded 8-piece ensemble, they call The Eric Byrd Trio: Brother Ray Band, in tribute to The Genius of Soul icon Ray Charles. On each recording, they take a rigorous, modern approach to standards as well as original compositions, playing with great acuity within the broad and rich jazz tradition.

They also belong to the **Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster**, which is a listing of Maryland-based performing artists who are experienced, organized, and professional. Artists who are appointed to the Touring Roster have been selected through a peer review process in which they are rated on artistic merit and on a demonstrated history of successful touring engagements. The **Maryland Touring Grant** is available to eligible Maryland non-profit organizations that may apply for funding to help defray costs associated with presenting artists listed on the Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster

Collectively, The Trio has played with trumpeters Wynton Marsalis, Terrell Stafford and Randy Brecker, jazz guitarists Charlie Byrd and Mike Stern, jazz saxophonists Bob Berg, Buck Hill, David “Fathead” Newman, Tim Warfield and Cecil Payne, jazz pianists George Colligan and Kenny Drew, Jr., jazz saxophonists and flautists Sonny Fortune and Gary Thomas, be-bop jazz trumpeter, flugelhornist, flautist, and saxophonist Ira Sullivan, jazz steel pan player Othello Molineaux, jazz vibraphonist Warren Wolf, gospel harpist Jeff Majors, jazz vocalists Vanessa Rubin and Rebecca Parris, gospel vocalist Yolanda Adams, and Cuban American singer/songwriter Jon Secada.

All are educators with advanced degrees in Music History, African American Music, and Jazz Performance. They frequently give clinics on music history, jazz, and the relationship between the spirituals/gospel, blues, and jazz. Because of their immense knowledge of music, commitment to music education, and ability to teach diverse and international audiences, they have been sponsored by the United States Embassy as Kennedy Center/U.S. State Department Jazz Ambassadors touring South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Eastern & Western Europe, and the Middle East. The Trio has also delighted audiences across the globe at the historic Montreux Jazz Festival and in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dubai, Estonia, Honduras, Italy, Peru, Scotland, and Trinidad and Tobago.