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Mon & Tue

DEC 13 & 14

7:30 pm

Pavilion

Charenée Wade

Just Friends Jazz Series



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We are pleased to partner with the Lied Center of Kansas to present the *Just Friends Jazz Series*.

**There will be no intermission during this performance.
Selections will be announced from the stage.**

Charenée Wade is not one to hold back or let fear stand in her way. The first artist ever to enter two Thelonious Monk Vocal competitions, she walked away from the second one in 2010 with instant buzz and second place to her new friend Cecilé McLorin Salvant. Now is the time for Wade's star to rise. Known for her expert vocal improvisational ability and her seriously swinging groove, Charenée Wade evokes a classic jazz sound akin to Betty Carter and Sarah Vaughan, two of her musical touchstones. On her latest CD as a leader, *Offering: The Music of Gil Scott-Heron and Brian Jackson*, she pays tribute to another inspiration, the socially conscious poet and musician Gil Scott-Heron, and confirms that she too plans to use her artist platform thoughtfully. The first full-length album tribute to Scott-Heron and his musical collaborator Brian Jackson by a woman artist, *Offering* is arresting in just how timely Scott-Heron's messages are today and how perfectly Wade delivers them through her savvy arrangements and intimate jazz interpretations.

While she has earned many accolades—first runner-up in New York's Jazzmobile Vocal competition; a participant in Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead program; a feature on NPR's *Song Travels*; a starring role in the off-Broadway show *Café Society* and in Jazz at Lincoln Center's Salute to Betty Carter—she may surprise people with this authentic tour de force concert tonight.

In addition to being a skilled and powerful vocalist, Wade is a composer, arranger and educator who received her degree from the Manhattan School of Music. Her credits include Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead Program, where she performed her original music at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; being one of the talented four chosen for the Dianne Reeves Young Artist Workshop at Carnegie Hall; First Runner-Up in the Jazzmobile Vocal Competition; and being selected for the JAS Academy Summer Sessions (200709) directed by Christian McBride. She has performed and recorded with a diverse array of musicians, including Bobby Sanabria, Terri Lynn Carrington, Rufus Reid, Aaron Diehl, Eric Reed, Jonathan Blake, Lonnie Plaxico, Matt Wilson, Stefon Harris, Cecil Bridgewater, Alvester Garnett and Tia Fuller, among many others.

Wade is currently a professor at the Aaron Copland School of Music, City College and with the Jazzmobile Workshop program. She teaches master classes, workshops and clinics all over the world and was an esteemed judge for the 2010 Jazzmobile Vocal Competition, alongside Dr. Billy Taylor and Grady Tate. She tours internationally with her working quartet and has graced the stages of such illustrious venues and festivals as Ronnie Scott's, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Detroit Jazz Festival, the San Javier Jazz Festival, A Love Supreme Festival and the Akbank Jazz Festival in Istanbul.

