

MUSICIAN AND COMPOSER

HORACE ALEXANDER YOUNG

named Chair of Santa Fe University of Art and Design's Contemporary Music Program

Horace Alexander Young, a jazz musician and former educator at Texas Southern University, has joined Santa Fe University of Art and Design (SFUAD) as chair of the university's Contemporary Music Department. Dr. Steven Paxton, who has chaired the department since 2003, will be continuing as a full-time faculty member, concentrating on choral music, composition and music theory.

"We were extremely fortunate to find Horace during our search process, and we know that under his leadership our unique program will continue to grow in size, quality and breadth," said Paxton.

In Young's role at Texas Southern University, first as visiting associate professor of Jazz Studies and later as interim director of Jazz Studies, he conducted the award-winning Jazz Experience Big Band and served as the musical director of the Joe Sample Jazz Orchestra.

"It was inspiring to watch such a great artist of such overwhelming popularity give so much of the last two years of his life to the betterment of the future of young jazz musicians," said Young, speaking of the late Joe Sample. "A lot of what I learned from him has shaped the way I am working with students at SFUAD. I am encouraging them to pursue their own voice and originality, with an understanding of where they stand in the timeline of the tradition and the art form."

Acoustic Contemporary Jazz, Young's first solo album, was released on the Pacific Coast Jazz label in 2008 to positive reviews. Over the course of his career, Young has performed in

19 countries and across five of the seven continents. He has also recorded and toured with a wide range of artists. In the blues arena, he has worked with artists such as Sam "Lightnin'" Hopkins and B.B. King; in the R&B world, with Gerald Alston, Anita Baker, Regina Belle, Johnny Kemp and The Spinners. He has also worked with urban/rap artists Scarface and Mista Madd and with the jazz musicians Jonathan Butler, Betty Carter, McCoy Tyner and Nancy Wilson. In 1993, Young was invited to conduct the National Symphony of South Africa for a televised concert to honor the South African-born Abdullah Ibrahim (formerly known as "Dollar Brand"). In so doing, Young became the first African-American to conduct an orchestra in that country.

"Welcoming Horace Alexander Young to lead the Contemporary Music Department is a great evolution of our program, which began almost 20 years ago," said Debra Terval, Interim Provost at SFUAD. "Horace brings his wealth of live concert, touring and educational expertise to this new role, and we are confident that these professional experiences will influence and inspire SFUAD music students."

Young holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Texas Southern University and an MA from Washington State University. In addition to performing and recording with artists all over the world, he authored the book, **Improvising Jazz Flute** (1990, G. Schirmer Publishers) and has bylined articles in journals such as *Flute Talk*, *American Music Teacher*, *Flute Focus* and *Gig Magazine*. **S**