

September 26, 2009

Jazz Masters Fellowships
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Room 703
Washington, DC 20506-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

With much joy and pride I submit support for the nomination of pianist Hal Schaefer whose stylistic sound and jazz conception is solely his. A reference to his distinguished credentials and constellation of exceptional high merit activities with jazz combos and ensembles plus solo concerts performances testify to his imagination, fertile improvisations and long term dedication.

His harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic sensibilities, and use of space, represents an acute, abundant musicianship. He is a pivotal model of power beyond imitation. He represents a proven jazz master – a vital singular artist who has never promoted himself.

His nomination for a candidacy – if procrastinated will represent a tragic loss of respect and responsibility by the NEA and the jazz community.

As an aside, early on I served on the Jazz Master Fellowship panel. I am very familiar with the program's objectives. It is an honor to nominate Hall Schaefer. He clearly fits the criteria and is truly worthy of the recognition.

Sincerely,



Dr. Herb Wong
Past-President, IAJE