



# MILES GRIFFITH

Jazz Vocalist and Composer

Monday October 25, 2010  
Evergreen Presbyterian Church  
7:30PM

Performing with  
**Michael Jefry Stevens**, piano  
**Jonathan Wires**, bass  
**Renardo Ward**, drums

Pieces will be announced by the artist

*Miles Griffith bio:*

# Miles Griffith

## Jazz Vocalist and Composer

**Miles Griffith's** fearless approach to music has helped him to emerge as a serious contender on the modern jazz scene. Adept in any context, his organic style is adventurous, whimsical, fiery, heart-felt, and always on the cutting edge. Griffith seamlessly weaves together a potpourri of styles illuminating the “down home” fun missing in much of current vocal jazz.

Miles Griffith's non-traditional use of the voice as a percussive instrument, combined with an uncanny harmonic sense, has made him a prime choice for many musicians. He's been a member of T.S. Monk's Septet, James Williams' ICU and Jack Walrath's Masters of Suspense. In addition, Griffith has collaborated with such revered ensembles as the Jon Hendricks' Explosion, Jimmy Heath's Big Band, Roy Hargrove Big Band, the Stanley Cowell Quintet and the Bill Saxton Quartet. In 1994, he played the lead role of “Jesse” in Wynton Marsalis' celebrated *Blood on the Fields*, a commissioned jazz oratorio, which premiered at the Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. Griffith also participated on the recording, which was released by Sony Music in 1997 in conjunction with the Pulitzer and Grammy Award winning world tour.

Griffith has been a jazz vocal educator for 18 years. In 2005, he received the new Vocal Jazz Instructor position at Columbia University. Griffith has also taught at the New School for Jazz and

Contemporary Music in New York, Jazzinty in Novo Mesto, Slovenia, the Plesni Dance School in Izola, Slovenia, and the Groningen Conservatore in the Netherlands.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Miles Griffith's musical roots emanate from the Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, A.M.E. and Yoruba ministries. He attributes his percussive vocal style, however, to his Trinidadian roots. Griffith's professional performance career began at the age of six, and his first major gig was doing extra work in *One Trick Pony*, Paul Simon's biographical movie. At age 11, he became a member of the esteemed Boys Choir of Harlem, and he was later accepted into New York's prestigious LaGuardia High School of Music and the Performing Arts, where his concentration was classical voice. Griffith continued his musical education at Long Island University and Queens College, where he received a Masters degree in vocal performance under the direction of Jimmy Heath and Sir Roland Hanna.

