

## *Bert Ligon & Craig Butterfield*

BERT LIGON is director of jazz studies at the University of South Carolina. He toured with the Maynard Ferguson Orchestra, and has performed with Chris Potter, Red Rodney, Randy Brecker, Marion McPartland, Mel Torme, Dianne Schuur, Dianne Reeves, and others. Ligon has published several original compositions for big band, jazz string, and steel drum ensembles. He composed extensively in the Radio/TV/film industry receiving many awards including national PBS awards and an EMMY nomination. Ligon has been president of the South Carolina IAJE and chair of the jazz committee of the South Carolina Band Directors Association.

Ligon has presented several clinics and concerts at IAJE, ASTA, and SCMEA conferences. He has taught jazz improvisation, guitar, piano, conducted jazz string orchestras at Suzuki Institute and the Mark O'Connor Fiddle conferences, and Christian Howes' Creative Strings Workshop.

At USC, Ligon coordinates the jazz combos and big bands, jazz strings, teaches jazz theory, jazz improvisation, arranging, and applied jazz lessons. Ligon plays piano, guitar, third base.

*Left photo*



CRAIG BUTTERFIELD is a bassist, composer, and arranger. Comfortable in many styles of music, Mr. Butterfield has toured extensively as a jazz artist as well as a classical soloist and clinician. During 2004 and 2005, Craig toured with the legendary jazz trumpet player Maynard Ferguson. As a member of Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau band, he performed in some of the most famous venues in the world, including the Blue Note in New York, Ronnie Scott's in London, the Kungstradgarden in Sweden, and the Bangkok Cultural Arts center as a special guest of the King of Thailand. A week at Ronnie Scott's in London in August 2005 was recorded for a forthcoming live CD. Craig has been active in the studio as well, appearing on several jazz CDs as both a performer and as a producer. In the classical field, Craig Butterfield has given master classes and recitals as a soloist in several universities. He has been invited twice to perform recitals at the semiannual International Society of Bassists convention. His many compositions and arrangements include works for bass quartet, jazz string ensemble, solo double bass, and percussion ensemble. At USC, Butterfield works with the jazz combos, jazz strings teaches jazz improvisation, applied bass, and works with strings methods classes. *Right photo*



## *Sharon Rae North*

SHARON RAE NORTH, of Metro Atlanta, has been influenced by artists such as Nancy Wilson, Dionne Warwick, Frank Sinatra, O.C. Smith, Little Anthony and James Brown, Jimmy Smith, and Charlie Parker. Singing jazz and standards, Sharon tours throughout the south and has worked with talented musicians such as Jerry "Louie" Poindexter, veteran keyboard player for the "Godfather of Soul", James Brown and Clarence "Doctor Bob" Ross, the current saxophone player and back-up singer for the Isley Brothers and music programmer for Chaka Khan, En Vogue, New Edition and many others.

In 1999, Sharon performed "Get Here" at New York's famed Apollo Theater, and at an event in 2003 she sang a duet with recording artist Cherelle, who recorded the 80's hit "Saturday Love" with Alexander O'Neal. That same year she also began sitting in occasionally at "jam sessions" with the Atlanta Federation of Musicians union. She has also sat or have been invited to sit in with several of Atlanta's premier jazz bands, including the Mose Davis Trio, Northside, The Henley Varner Band and others. Sharon worked with Derwin Daniels, who recorded several CDs, including a Christmas CD in 2002 entitled "Holiday House", on which she sang "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas". The song received airplay in various regions of the country, including the Midwest and Southwest. She returned to the studio in 2005 to complete her own Christmas CD.