



# Then and Now

## SCC Enhances Morgan's Musical Journey

Music is my passion and my calling, which probably comes as no surprise to all you folks out there that I have gotten to know over the years. I was born into a musical family and some of my earliest memories are from traveling the state with my dad and his three sisters as they performed at venues big and small. I remember sitting beside my dad's bass amplifier as I began to understand bass lines, in addition to watching magical things happen with my mom at the piano. Since then, my extended musical "family" and experience has grown tremendously, and for that, I will be forever thankful.

From those early years until today, I have been so fortunate to have the opportunity to obtain a music degree from OSU as well as perform in a vast array of venues both here in the States as well as internationally. All of these experiences have informed my journey as a musician, and one key lesson I've learned is the critical need for local venues in which musicians get the chance to practice their craft, while simultaneously giving the community access to culture they might not otherwise have the chance to see.

This is really the impetus for this article, to emphasize the need for such places...and in particular the need for the Stillwater Community Center. The intersection of 9th and Duck St, is an essential intersection of community and culture in our fantastic town. The SCC holds a very special place in my heart, as it is where I have rehearsed and performed with the Stillwater Jazz Band for the last 13 years. Without the SCC, the richness of my personal and musical life would have been tremendously diminished.

I realize I am preaching to the choir for all of us who already treasure the SCC as a cultural gem, but more importantly, I hope I am illuminating what a precious resource this venue is to Stillwater and the surrounding

communities. With so many performance and cultural spaces located inside the rustic charm of the SCC, there is something there that will accommodate nearly any talent and or artistic outlet. The staff is highly supportive of local arts and will do everything they can to help make events happen. There's only one catch, YOU need to be there...and there's a great opportunity coming up very soon.

Thursday, May 4th at 7pm The Stillwater Jazz band will be hosting Steve Wilkerson and Andrea Baker in concert! A jazz masterclass will be held from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Admission is FREE and open to all ages!

Steve Wilkerson, a saxophone and clarinet virtuoso, has performed with Count Basie, The Temptations, Barbra Streisand, Tony Bennett and many more. Andrea Baker, his wife, is an accomplished jazz singer and guitarist and has been called the female Frank Sinatra. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in 2005.

Thank you for your interest and support of the SCC and local arts!



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The Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of Stillwater Community Center strive to provide supplemental resources for the Stillwater Community Center to ensure its accessibility, affordability and sustainability for its use by residents and visitors of Stillwater and surrounding area. Visit [www.sccfriends.com](http://www.sccfriends.com) for more information.

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