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## JAVON JACKSON

Our world is constantly and continuously evolving as the echoes and shadows of yesterday irresistibly and proleptically take on characteristics of an eventuality called today, today which ultimately assumes the role of tomorrow, changing things and people, reflecting the reality that nothing ever remains the same forever other than the miraculous process of birth.

Because of this birth, we are all a part of a world, as were our forefathers, filled with varying personalities, abilities, aspirations, accomplishments, fulfilled and unfulfilled dreams, wisdom, and eventual direct sense perception sometimes referred to as experience.

Javon Jackson is one of these off springs from out of the West ... Denver to be exact. Years ago when I first went there with a Rhythm 'n' Blues group, this name and person did not exist. But lo and behold, he does exist today and in a way that's highly significant. Though there existed myriad avenues from which he could have chosen, he chose music, and jazz in particular, as his way of life. But with the votive determination of Herman Melville's Captain Ahab. With each victory, the insatiable appetite of his creativity always led him to a new field of battle. It's his relentless and peerless pursuit that have brought him here today to be recognized as who he has iconically become, to the delight of so many within the appreciative and voluminous folds of his music.

I personally watched him grow from the neophyte he was while a part of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. Slowly, patiently, methodically, consequentially, meaningfully moving ahead by the light of his imagination, emerging today as one of our foremost saxophonists and a part of a superior cognoscenti, adding his own creative and meaningful 'stitches' to the fabric of jazz. To be sure, the future will always have an indistinguishable face, but Javon Jackson will without fail give it a face of his own creative making. All of you gathered here today have irresistibly become a part of his generous musical universe. Yes, the future, shamelessly disrobes here today on the campus of Howard University in the presence of all, revealing every part of its metaphoric being which includes, Javon Jackson.

To understand Javon, one does not have to pursue epistemology, or the likes of Milton, D.H. Lawrence, or Nietzsche; He goes creatively and intently, with all that represents *him*, directly to the heart. He is yet another miracle of immutable time -- time that ticks at the same rate for everyone, yet has fueled his intent with an abundance of talent and ability that permit him to turn water into wine, and with a rocket ship that will take him anywhere he chooses to creatively go. We vicariously go with him as the copious strains of his never-ceasing, ever creative

mind reaches the deepest grotto of our awaiting hearts.

Javon Jackson, thank you for being who you are and for choosing your wonderful musical direction, bringing you ever close to us.

Benny Golson  
Saxophonist, composer, educator