

# Performance

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Singer Olivia Duhon will receive the 2009 Legacy Tribute Award at this year's Jazz Hall of Fame gala.

JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

## The inductees

This year's honorees, in addition to Duhon, are:

**Jazz:** Wayman Tisdale, who began his acclaimed career as a bassist, songwriter and music producer after retiring from a stellar career in collegiate and professional basketball. Tisdale died earlier this year after a battle with bone cancer.

**Blues:** Guitarist Steve Pryor, a

mainstay of the Tulsa music scene for many years.

**Gospel:** Stephen Wiley, whose 1985 "Bible Break" was the first full-length Christian rap album.

**Lifetime Achievement:** Western swing pioneer Bob Wills, whose mix of jazz, country, blues and swing music was perfected during his years performing at the Cain's Ballroom.

**Spirit:** Former Tulsa World entertainment writer John Wooley, who will receive the Maxine Cissel Horner Spirit of Community Excellence Award.

Duhon, Pryor and Wiley will perform as part of the evening, along with nationally known saxophonist Tom Braxton, members of Rockin' Acoustic Circus, and vocalist Brenda Johnson and the Jazz Rhapsody Trio.

# Awarded for a passion

A Jazz Hall of Fame inductee found her love early

BY JAMES D. WATTS JR.  
World Scene Writer

Olivia Duhon found the musical love of her life at the movies. "I was always a fan of movie musicals," she said, "and hearing songs by people like George Gershwin and Cole Porter, it was like this light bulb went off in my head — that this was music I just loved."

That love of the Great American Songbook soon led Duhon to discover some of the great jazz vocalists who took pop standards to new levels of expressions — singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilson, Blossom Dearie and Sarah Vaughan.

The lessons Duhon has learned — from immersing herself in the works of great jazz singers and studying in the jazz program at the University of Tulsa — and the way she has put what's she learned into action in performances around Tulsa have earned Duhon the 2009 Legacy Tribute Award from the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame.

Duhon will receive the award as part of the Jazz Hall's 2009 Gala Induction Ceremony Wednesday at the Jazz Depot, 111 E. First St.

Duhon said being told that she would be receiving the award — a prize first awarded to Wayman Tisdale in 2002 — "just took my breath away."

"It's an incredible honor," she said. "And it's really humbling, just to be considered with all these great people that I've looked up to."

Duhon is a native of Louisiana, growing up in Lake Charles, a town not far from the Louisiana-Texas border. She came to Tulsa when her family relocated to the area when Duhon was still in high school.

"I was one of those kids who sang practically since birth," she said, laughing. "I know my family has a lot of cassette tapes of me singing songs that I wrote, as well as many, many versions of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow.'"

When she enrolled at the University of Tulsa, Duhon's stated major was musical theater — a nod to her love of the sort of musicals that had got her hooked. But then she learned about the school's jazz program, led by Ver-

non Howard.

**OKLAHOMA JAZZ HALL OF FAME 2009 INDUCTION**

**When:** 6 p.m. reception. 7 p.m. banquet. 8 p.m. Awards ceremony, Wednesday Oct. 21

**Where:** Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, 111 E. First St.

**Tickets:** \$100. Call 281-8600, or online at [tulsaworld.com/mytix](http://tulsaworld.com/mytix).

Duhon has performed several times as part of the Jazz Hall of Fame's regular Sunday concert series, including being part of its summer "Wild Women of Oklahoma Jazz" shows. She also appears often at Ciao on Brookside — she'll be performing there on Halloween — and she performs at private functions.

Duhon doesn't have a regular group of musicians to accompany her, preferring to work with as wide a range of performers as possible.

"I love the nuances each different person brings to a show, or even to an individual song," she said. "And it's always fun to mix things up a bit."

She does, however, have some things that are starting to become regular parts of her shows — like the Antonio Jobim tune "Dindi."

"I just loved the feeling I got the first time I heard that song," Duhon said. "People are often surprised when they ask me about artists I like and I say Jobim, because I guess a lot of singers don't gravitate to his music that way instrumentalists do."

"But now, I guess that 'Dindi' is becoming a signature tune for me. I recently did a set at Ciao, with the Scott McQuade Trio, and 'Dindi' was one of the first things I did. As things were winding down, (Ciao owner) Kathleen Kennedy came over and said, 'You've got to sing that song again.' And I have some fans who always request it."

"So it's a good thing I love that song."

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# Voice of C-3PO touts sound of 'Star Wars'

BY JAMES D. WATTS JR.  
World Scene Writer

Only two people have been involved with every aspect of the "Star Wars" saga — the six films, the animated spin-offs, the live shows.

And one of them never wanted to be a part of it in the first place.

"I never was much of a fan of science fiction," said Anthony Daniels, whose voice on the phone from England sounds very much like a confident and serene relative of the gold-skinned android C-3PO he has portrayed in media ranging from films to cereal boxes.

"In fact, the only science-fiction film I had ever seen was '2001: A Space Odyssey,' and I went to the theater manager to demand my money back," he said, chuckling. "So it was really rather against my will that I agreed to go down this particular road that was 'Star Wars.' And now, (creator) George Lucas and myself are the only two who've been involved throughout the whole thing."

That includes the latest incarnation of the "Star Wars" empire — "Star Wars: In Concert," a multimedia event that combines a live orchestra and chorus with a special film presentation that links together the six "Star Wars" films that will be projected onto a three-story tall, high-definition LED screen.

Daniels will be on hand to serve as the narrator for the concert — and again, he confessed, it took him a little while to warm up to the idea.

"I remember seeing an early print of the original film without the music, so I understand how much a real character in the film is the music of John Williams," said Daniels, speaking of the Academy Award-winning composer who came to fame with his scores for "Star Wars."

"It was my thinking that if you are going to have a concert to celebrate John Williams and his music, don't have distractions," Daniels said. "Just play the music and let audiences hear for themselves what symphonic music is all about. John is such a marvelous



Anthony Daniels stands in front of the orchestra with C-3PO on-screen in a scene from "Star Wars: In Concert." Courtesy Lucasfilm LTD

## Exhibit of 'Star Wars' memorabilia part of show

The show that is "Star Wars: In Concert" won't be confined to the main hall of the BOK Center. This traveling extravaganza also includes an exhibit of "Star Wars" memorabilia — costumes, props, production art work, special behind-the-scenes videos — much of which has never been seen outside of George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch.

"It's something I very much encourage people to make time for — to see the exhibits," said Anthony Daniels, who played the android C-3PO in the "Star Wars" films and their myriad spin-offs.

"For one thing, you can see things that I've been wearing for 30 years or more, because there is a C-3PO costume," he said, laughing.

Other objects on display will be a Darth Vader costume, props including the blasters some characters carried, pages from John Williams' hand-written score for "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace," and a full-size replica of C-3PO's robotic sidekick, R2-D2.

Which is only appropriate, since the "Star Wars" saga was, in one way, the story of those two metallic characters.

"That was something George Lucas said early on, that it was the story of the droids," Daniels said. "C-3PO and R2-D2 were sort of representatives of the common man, the downtrodden, who were the witnesses to what all these larger-than-life people were doing."

composer, he doesn't need to have pictures shown with his music. His music creates pictures.

"Needless to say," Daniels said, with a dry chuckle in his voice,

"they took no notice of my suggestions whatsoever."

But then Daniels was shown what the finished product of "Star Wars: The Concert" would be, and

## STAR WARS: IN CONCERT

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

**Where:** BOK Center

**Tickets:** \$35-\$75. 866-726-5287 or [tulsaworld.com/bokcenteritx](http://tulsaworld.com/bokcenteritx)

his attitude changed.

"Then I understood," he said. "It was so much more than just a concert with film clips. It's truly a thing unto itself. The scale and generosity of the sound and the technical aspects — it's just enormous. It's way beyond the sum of its parts."

Because Williams' scores for "Star Wars" make use of specific, recurring themes that are associated with characters in the story — what the musos in the crowd would call "leitmotifs" — the film that accompanies "Star Wars: The Concert" takes a similar tack.

"What the people at Lucasfilms have done — very cleverly, I think — is to make the film a kind of tapestry on those themes," Daniels said. "By weaving together bits from all six films, you get a completely different feel than you would from a linear film."

"Then it's my job, as the narrator, to tell the story and take you into a wider world. It does sort of bring me full circle, I suppose, because in the first film C-3PO says he isn't very good at telling stories. And now, here I am, however many years later, going around America telling the story of 'Star Wars.'"

## 'A nice character'

Daniels originally set out on a much different path — first as a member of BBC Radio Drama, then with England's National Theatre. He was performing in a production of Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" when he got the call to try out for what was described to him as a "low budget sci-fi flick."

"I first turned down the interview with George, because I felt I would just be wasting his time," Daniels said. "But he was insistent, and when I saw the sketches for the costume, I became intrigued."

At first, Lucas wanted to preserve the illusion that both C-3PO and R2-D2 were completely mechanical. But that quickly was abandoned, as Daniels' personality became such a part of the C-3PO character.

"I grew to be quite fond of him," Daniels said. "If he wasn't a nice character, I doubt I would have stayed with him. But C-3PO has become something of a force for good."

And while Daniels has continued to work in films and television, he keeps returning to the character that made him famous.

"We're about to embark on another series of the 'Clone Wars,' which has become a hugely popular series," he said. "And now I'm traveling around country with this concert show, which is kind of like being in a traveling gospel show, given the fervor these stories create in people."

"But I'm very proud to be a part of this."

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