

## The Brick Street Quartet performing at Friday Nights at Milepost 89



Special to The Clinton Courier

*Backwater will play at the July 19 installment of Friday Nights at Milepost 89 at the Clinton Visitor Center. Pictured (l to r) are Martin Pace, vocals; David Sterling, drums; Tabitha Newton, vocals; Bob Bernard, guitar and banjo; Mark McCann, guitar; and Mario Sanchez, guitar and bass.*

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The Friday, September 20, performance of Friday Nights at Milepost 89 will feature The Brick Street Quartet, a group of three current and one retired Mississippi College music professors.

The group was founded in 2010 as a trio and expanded to a quartet about two years ago. Members of the quartet include Tyler Kemp, piano; Michael Rushing, drums; Ben Williams, bass; and Jimmy Sclater, clarinet. The quartet has played for school, church and music club functions around the Central Mississippi area.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Friday Nights at Milepost 89 is every third Friday of the month at 7 p.m. inside the Clinton Visitor Center. Admission to each performance is at least eighty-nine cents.

The quartet's repertoire includes old jazz standards, Broadway show tunes, and New Orleans style melodies. Listeners might expect to hear tunes such as "Secret Love," "What a Wonderful World," "Almost Like Being in Love,"

and "St. James Infirmary."

Tyler Kemp, an accomplished pianist and music director, has become an essential part of musical life in and around Jackson. Kemp joined the faculty of Mississippi College in 2014 as faculty accompanist and instructor of collaborative piano. He gives recitals regularly with students, faculty, and guest artists, as well as works with the opera theatre and musical theatre. In the community, he serves as music director at Bellwether Church and is a frequent performer with the Mississippi Opera. He is a founding member of NEW JXN, a new music ensemble based in Jackson.

James Sclater, a Mobile, Alabama, native, taught at Mississippi College from 1970 until 2010. He played clarinet for twenty-nine years in the Mis-

issippi Symphony Orchestra and later with MC colleague Angela Willoughby in the duo LYRICAS. He has won

several music composition awards from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and several national music composition contests. Other honors include induction into the Mississippi Music Hall of Fame in 2014. In March 2018, he was honored by the City of Clinton for his contributions to music as a Walk of Honorees recipient. He has written works for chorus, vocal solo, band, orchestra, chamber ensembles, and opera and for several Mississippi ETV productions.

Benjamin Williams is a composer in central Mississippi and an associate professor of music theory and composition at Mississippi College. Raised in Northeast Ohio, Williams earned degrees in music composition from

The University of Akron (B.M. and M.M.) and The Ohio State University (D.M.A.). Williams also performs chamber music locally with the Mockingbird Trio and NEW JXN.

Michael Rushing is an associate professor of music at Mississippi College. He holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in piano performance from Mississippi College and a D.M.A. in piano pedagogy from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Rushing oversees the master of music in piano pedagogy program and directs the Taylor School at Mississippi College, the university's community music program. He joined the Brick Street Trio in 2010.

The Visitor Center is located at 1300 Pinehaven Road. To get there, take the Clinton exit at Milepost 89 on the Natchez Trace Parkway and turn left onto Pinehaven Road; or, from I-20, take Exit 36 and turn north onto Springridge Road, which becomes Pinehaven Road. For more details, call 601-924-2221.

