



## September 2008

Steve Wilson

The Rubin Museum's "Harlem in the Himalayas" Friday night concert series, produced in association with The National Jazz Museum in Harlem, offers listeners the extremely rare opportunity to hear music in a totally acoustic setting. The absence of microphones, amplifiers and monitors in the state-of-the-art auditorium configured as an intimate nightclub, was particularly rewarding during the performance of the Steve Wilson Quartet (Aug 1st). Wilson, a triple threat on alto and soprano saxophones and flute, possesses a beautiful full tone on each of his instruments and the lack of amplification enhanced, rather than diminished, their presence in the room. Accompanied by the consummately skilled rhythm section of pianist Bruce Barth, bassist Ed Howard and drummer Rodney Green, Wilson wove his sound through the music in a manner that was spellbinding in its nuance and attentiveness to dynamics. Playing predominantly alto on his first set the saxophonist showed himself to be equally excellent as both an original composer and inventive interpreter of the jazz repertory, alternating his own pieces "The Epicurean," "Grace" and "Tortola" with Strayhorn's "Isfahan" and Gillespie's "Woody 'n You." On the second set, which began with Chick Corea's "You're Everything," Wilson paid homage to the museum's regional artistic focus, stretching out intensely on soprano for Coltrane's "India," before hardbopping out with his own "Blues For Marcus." *Russ Musto, All About Jazz*