WILLIS DELONY

In a performing career spanning over four decades, pianist Willis Delony has won acclaim as a leading classical/jazz crossover artist. His innovative concert explorations of the two musical worlds are showcased in a series of solo piano recordings on the Centaur label. *A New World A' Comin' – Classical and Jazz Connections* was released in 2001. *Double Dance – Classical and Jazz Connections II* was released in 2008. *Out of Character – Classical and Jazz Connections III,* was released in October 2014. Also part of the series is an independent release from 2018 entitled *Butterfly Room – Connections for Solo Piano*. The project continues with *Between the Notes*, which was released by Centaur in 2021. His most recent recording is a double album on Centaur Records with violinist Joana Genova featuring the Four Sonatas for Violin and Piano by Stephen Dankner. His newest jazz album, *Standards and Improvisations – the Music of Joe Makholm*, is set for a spring, 2026 release on the Centaur label.

Delony has appeared as piano soloist, chamber musician, jazz performer, and guest pianist/arranger or conductor with orchestras throughout the United States as well as orchestras in Canada, the former Soviet Union and China. As a solo and collaborative recitalist, he has performed classical and jazz concerts throughout the U.S. as well as France, Germany, the former Soviet Union, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil and Argentina. He is also an active jazz composer/arranger whose scores have been performed by orchestras throughout the U.S. and Canada. He collaborates regularly with leading contemporary composers, with notable premieres that include the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra by Stephen Dankner with the LSU Symphony Orchestra and Greg Yasinitsky's Jazz Concerto for Piano and Orchestra with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, which was awarded *The American Prize* in composition in 2018. He recently premiered his own jazz piano concerto, *Ebbs and Flows – Fantasy for Piano, Winds, Vibraphone and Double Bass* with the LSU Wind Ensemble.

Delony is the Boyd Professor of Piano and Jazz Studies in the School of Music at Louisiana State University, where he has been a member of the music faculty since 2000. He is a past recipient of an Artist Fellowship awarded by the Louisiana Division of the Arts, as well as the Edith Kirkpatrick Arts Leadership Award given by the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. He received the LSU Distinguished Faculty Award in 2019 and was named the SEC Professor of the Year for LSU in 2020. He was recently inducted into the *Steinway and Sons Teachers Hall of* Fame, recognizing his contributions in both classical and jazz piano.