

Studying dance

Tyner knows a thing or two about dance, as well.

"When I was a teenager, I affiliated myself with a dance school. I studied dance," he recalls. "At the school they needed some male dancers, so I said, 'Let me find out what this is about.' I didn't study tap I studied African dancing but a lot of people were interested in tap. It's a very rhythmic concept tapping. It's definitely part of the African-American experience and the American experience as well.

"So I connected with Savion right away. He sort of brought back some wonderful memories. It has a lot to do with the music jazz and tap just go together.

"It's a beautiful thing. I found out that dance and jazz music are like bedfellows they're so wonderful when they're coordinated."

Throughout his long career, Tyner has recorded more than 80 albums in his own name, including his latest CD, simply titled "The McCoy Tyner Quartet," which he released late last year to launch his own record label McCoy Tyner Music.

The next album from the new label is slated for release in the fall, a CD/DVD package which not only features Tyner and the rhythm section of bassist Ron Carter and Woodstock drummer Jack DeJohnette, but also an array of special guest guitarists Marc Ribot, Derek Trucks, John Scofield and Bill Frisell, as well as banjo pioneer Bela Fleck.

But Tyner doesn't spend a lot of time planning his next musical moves. "I take it one step at a time. I don't want to get too far ahead of myself," he says. "I enjoy each day, and every day is different. I learn that way. I appreciate the moment.

"You have to improvise," he adds. "I think that's what I do best."

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The McCoy Tyner Trio

With: Savion Glover

When: 8 p.m. Friday

Where: The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany

Tickets: \$36; seniors \$32; children \$18

Info: 473-1845; <http://www.theegg.org>

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