

2023 | 24 SEASON

SEP 2023 — MAY 2024



SFJAZZ



SFJAZZ Center concert photos in this catalog were taken by Drew Altizer, Jay Blakesberg, Scott Chernis, Michael Darius, Ronald Davis, Bill Evans, Richard Gelfand, Grason Littles, Rick Swig, and Ian Young.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear SFJAZZ Community,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2023-24 Season at SFJAZZ. This has been a year of milestones: celebrating the 10TH Anniversary of the SFJAZZ Center; entering the 40TH year of the organization; and celebrating the founder of SFJAZZ, Randall Kline, in his final year as Executive Artistic Director.

As SFJAZZ launches a Strategic Plan to help guide the organization in the coming years, we have underscored our commitment to continued growth and evolution in the following areas: diversity, equity, inclusion and access to ensure new and diverse audiences get to enjoy this incredible art; a healthy and supportive internal culture to allow us to attract and retain the highest caliber talent; a focus on the communities with whom we engage; and continued development and delivery of SFJAZZ content globally through digital channels.

We invite you to join us on this journey as we work to set an example for arts organizations around the world. Enjoy the wonderful and range of artists we are presenting this season, and help support our extensive education programs as we work to create the next generation of jazz artists and fans.

We so appreciate SFJAZZ members and our supporters who help us continue to grow, innovate, and share our love for the music.

Enjoy our 2023-24 season offerings!

Greg Stern • SFJAZZ Chief Executive Officer



WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 SEASON



Dear Music Lovers,

I write this, my last letter of welcome to our 11th season in the wondrous SFJAZZ Center, with mixed emotions. I am stepping down in the coming months and I want to thank you all — musicians, SFJAZZ members, staff, patrons, volunteers, press — for your contributions to the journey that has resulted in the SFJAZZ Center: a vital place in the cultural life of San Francisco, with resonance throughout the world of jazz. SFJAZZ's launch in June of 1983 was a 2-day community festival at Herbst Theatre, just up the street from where the Center now stands at the corner of Franklin and Fell Streets. At that time, the idea of what we have become was not even a dream.

As we neared the opening of the Center in January 2013, I was often asked how it felt to see SFJAZZ's vision of a dedicated building for jazz finally come to life: "You must be very proud." The reply then was, "Yes, it will be a great accomplishment for us, but I can give you a better answer in 3 to 5 years." The creation of the SFJAZZ Center was a risk — was it possible to create a cultural institution, for jazz, here in San Francisco? Now, after 10 years at the Center and in our 40th year as an organization, I can now assuredly reply, yes!

We are proud to present to you the SFJAZZ Center's 11th Season. The schedule is full of "only-at-SFJAZZ" experiences that we hope will inspire you. I would like to give particular thanks to the Artistic department of SFJAZZ: Jeanette Wong, Ross Eustis, Kevin Tomlinson, Diego Munguia, and Samantha Hale, led by Director of Programming Lilly Schwartz, who has been by my side for 9 years. They are responsible for what you see and hear on our stages.

We all have built a community center that has been generously received by San Franciscans and jazz fans, and we don't intend to stand still. Our values of openness, looking forward, presenting the highest levels of art, and community-building are the foundation for our growth. I look forward to the next chapter of SFJAZZ. Thank you for your support. We are here because of you, and we look forward to continuing to grow with you.

See you at the Center!

Randall Kline • SFJAZZ Founder & Executive Artistic Director

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



“SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE IS A JAZZ DREAM TEAM.”

– SF CHRONICLE



Celebrating its 20th year, the SFJAZZ Collective is a one-of-a-kind ensemble composed of some of the most creative and acclaimed improvisers, composers and bandleaders in jazz. The Ensemble aims to celebrate and renew the jazz tradition, with each member composing a new work for the band annually as well as arranging standards by modern masters, embodying SFJAZZ’s commitment to jazz as a living, ever-relevant art form.

Every fall, the Collective participates in a residency at the SFJAZZ Center, which provides time for intensive rehearsals to workshop the season’s new compositions along with leading education and community engagement activities. The residency concludes with four nights of concerts in SFJAZZ Center’s Miner Auditorium, which are recorded for the album release. Over the past two decades, the SFJAZZ Collective members have written and recorded 117 new arrangements and 133 original compositions.

Since its inception, the ensemble has featured an all-star cast of musicians, including founding musical director Joshua Redman; the late vibraphone legend Bobby Hutcherson; saxophonists Joe Lovano and Mark Turner; trumpeters Nicholas Payton, Dave Douglas and Avishai Cohen; pianist Renee Rosnes; drummers Brian Blade, Obed Calvaire, and Eric Harland. In addition to the Collective’s own expansive compositions, the musicians have arranged, performed and recorded the music of Ornette Coleman (2004), John Coltrane (2005), Thelonious Monk (2007), Wayne Shorter (2008), McCoy Tyner (2009), Stevie Wonder (2011), Chick Corea (2013), Joe Henderson (2014), Miles Davis (2016), Antônio Carlos Jobim (2018), Sly & the Family Stone (2019), and other singular artists.

The current line up includes music director and tenor saxophonist **Chris Potter**, tenor saxophonist **David Sánchez**, trumpeter **Mike Rodriguez**, vibraphonist **Warren Wolf**, pianist **Edward Simon**, bassist **Matt Brewer** and drummer **Kendrick Scott**.

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE:
20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Nov 1-5 MINER AUDITORIUM

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE:
PAST & PRESENT MEMBERS
SEP 7-10 JHL

▶ Learn more on pages 23 & 46



“JAZZ’S PREMIER ALL-STAR BAND ... IT’S A SUPERBRAIN FOR WHAT SERIOUS JAZZ SOUNDS LIKE NOW.”

– THE NEW YORK TIMES



SEPTEMBER



LIZZ WRIGHT

OPENING WEEK

9|7-10 Lizz Wright
9|7-10 SFJAZZ Collective: Past & Present Members JHL

9|8 Ledisi Sings Nina DAVIES
9|9 Shakti: 50TH Anniversary Tour DAVIES

9|12-14 Van Morrison
9|14-16 Amendola vs. Blades vs. Baptista vs. Skerik JHL

TRADITIONS IN TRANSITION

9|21 Joshua Redman Quintet
9|22 Donny McCaslin Quartet/ Mark Guiliana Beat Music
9|23 Jamie Cullum
9|24 Christian McBride's New Jawn

GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

9|21 Hotplate: Smith Dobson Plays Keith Jarrett's *Shades* JHL
9|22 Connie Han JHL
9|23 American Patchwork Quartet JHL
9|24 Amina Figarova JHL

9|28-10|1 Goldings, Bernstein, Stewart Organ Trio JHL

9|29-30 The Manhattan Transfer

OCTOBER



LILA DOWNS

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA

10|1-2 Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra w/ Wynton Marsalis

GUITAR WEEK

10|6 Molly Miller JHL
10|7 Jonathan Kreisberg Quartet JHL
10|8 Dan Wilson & Bruce Forman JHL

DISNEY 100TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

10|7 When You Wish Upon a Star

THELONIOUS MONK'S BIRTHDAY

10|10 T.S. Monk: Monk On Monk

THELONIOUS MONK FESTIVAL

10|12 Aaron Bennett Trio Plays *Thelonious In Action* JHL
10|13 RJAM Side-By-Side: Thelonious Monk Tribute JHL
10|14 Larry Vuckovich Trio Plays Thelonious Monk JHL
10|15 John Schott: 'Round Midnight Reconsidered JHL

SING, SING, SING I

10|12 Veronica Swift
10|13 Carminho
10|14 Shemekia Copeland
10|15 Gretchen Parlato & Lionel Loueke

10|15 Lila Downs' Día de los Muertos: Al Chile PARAMOUNT

10|18 Anoushka Shankar HERBST

2023 | 24 SEASON

AT-A-GLANCE



MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO

ELIANE ELIAS

10|19 Eliane Elias
10|20-22 Eliane Elias Quartet

NEW SOUNDS

10|27 Aneesa Strings JHL
10|28-29 Theon Cross JHL

MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO

10|27-29 Meshell Ndegeocello

HALLOWEEN SILENT FILM AT GRACE CATHEDRAL

10|30 Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde GRACE

NOVEMBER



SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE

11|1 Listening Party w/ SFJAZZ Collective
11|2-5 SFJAZZ Collective

11|9-12 Claudia Villela JHL

GLOBAL GREATS

11|16-18 Abdullah Ibrahim Trio
11|19 Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain & Edgar Meyer w/ Rakesh Chaurasia

BOUNDARY PUSHERS

11|16 Steven Lugerner & SLUGish Ensemble JHL
11|17 Ben Goldberg JHL
11|18 The Sumi Tonooka Trio featuring Alchemy Sound Project JHL
11|19 Raffi Garabedian JHL

DJANGO FESTIVAL ALLSTARS

11|24-26 Dorado Schmitt and Sons

PINK MARTINI

11|28-12|3 Pink Martini Featuring China Forbes

DECEMBER



MONSIEUR PERINÉ

SPEND THE HOLIDAYS WITH SFJAZZ

12|9 Etienne Charles: Creole Christmas
12|14 The Klezmatics
12|15 Spanish Harlem Orchestra
12|16 Adam Shulman Trio Plays *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
12|17 The Marcus Shelby New Orchestra

HOLIDAYS AT SFJAZZ

12|8 Matt Wilson's Christmas Tree-O JHL
Tres Souls JHL
12|9 Jonathan Dely Plays Wynton Marsalis' *Crescent City Christmas Card* JHL
12|15 Halie Loren: *Many Times, Many Ways* JHL
George Cole Plays Nat King Cole's *The Magic of Christmas* JHL

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH SFJAZZ

12|28-31 Monsieur Periné

JANUARY



CHRIS BOTTI

1|4-7 Ms. Lisa Fischer w/ Ranky Tanky

CHRIS BOTTI

1|9-14 Chris Botti

SING, SING, SING II

1|18 Amelie Anna Sings Amy Winehouse's *Back to Black* JHL
1|19 Jo Harrop JHL
1|20-21 Nicolas Bearde Sings Burt Bacharach JHL

SFJAZZ RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: JULIAN LAGE

1|18 Julian Lage, Solo Guitar
1|19 Julian Lage: Rude Ruth
1|20 Julian Lage Quartet: Music of Keith Jarrett
1|21 Julian Lage Quartet: Jim Hall Tribute

STRINGS

1|25 Rubin Kodheli JHL
1|26 Paolo Angeli JHL
1|27 Zach Brock JHL
1|28 Kurt Ribak: Jazz & Country JHL

FEBRUARY



CHUCHO VALDÉS & IRAKERE 50

SFJAZZ RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: KENNY BARRON

1|31 Listening Party w/ Kenny Barron
2|1 Kenny Barron Trio
2|2 Kenny Barron Quintet
2|3 Kenny Barron: Brazilian Explorations
2|4 Kenny Barron: Freely Improvised Music
2|1-2 James Francis Trio JHL

SFJAZZ RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: HOWARD WILEY

2|3-4 Howard Wiley: Saturday Night to Sunday Morning JHL
2|8-11 Johnathan Blake's Pentad JHL

VALENTINE'S WEEK

2|14 Martin Luther The Real McCoy: Tribute to Sade

VALENTINE'S WEEK

2|15 Hotplate: Marina Crouse Sings Eydie Gormé's *Amor* JHL
2|16 Danielle Wertz JHL
2|17-18 Loston Harris JHL

CHUCHO VALDÉS & IRAKERE: 50TH ANNIVERSARY

2|15-18 Chucho Valdés & Irakere 50

SING, SING, SING II

2|22 Kandace Springs
2|23-25 Dianne Reeves

2|29-3|3 Noise Pop at SFJAZZ JHL

MARCH



BRANFORD MARSALIS

2|29-3|3 Branford Marsalis

SFJAZZ RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: BRANDEE YOUNGER

3|6 Listening Party w/ Brandee Younger
3|7-8 Brandee Younger: Brand New Life
3|9-10 Brandee Younger: Alice Coltrane Tribute

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

3|7 Lisa Hilton JHL
3|8 Caroline Davis JHL
3|9 Katie Thiroux: Mothers of the Music JHL
3|10 Pamela Rose: Blues Is a Woman JHL
3|21 Hotplate: Christina Galisatus Plays Joni Mitchell's *Court & Spark* JHL
Jacqui Naylor JHL

3|14-17 Marcus Miller

SFJAZZ RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: HOWARD WILEY

3|23 Howard Wiley: California Love

3|24 Red Baraat: Festival of Colors

CONNECTIONS

3|28 Natalie Cressman & Ian Faquini JHL
3|29 Rodriguez Brothers JHL
3|30-31 Ethan Iverson Trio JHL

SFJAZZ RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: RAVI COLTRANE

3|28 Ravi Coltrane Electric Trio & Coltraxx
3|29 Ravi Coltrane: Pharoah Sanders Tribute
3|30-31 Ravi Coltrane: Cosmic Music w/ Special Guests

APRIL



HIROMI: SONICWONDER

BIRDS & BALLS OPERA

4|5-7 *Birds & Balls*

HIROMI: SONICWONDER

4|11-14 Hiromi: Sonicwonder

JOE HENDERSON FESTIVAL

4|18 Ranzel Merritt Plays Joe Henderson's *Inner Urge* JHL
4|19 RJAM Side-By-Side: Joe Henderson Tribute JHL
4|20 Lori Bell Quartet JHL
4|21 Michael Zilber Plays Music of Joe Henderson JHL

JOHN SCOFIELD

4|25-26 John Scofield Trio
4|27-28 Lettuce w/ special guest John Scofield

SOUTH AFRICA FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION

4|25 Derek Gripper JHL
4|26 Tumi Mogorosi JHL
4|27 Melanie Scholtz & Aaron Rimbui Ensemble: Miriam Makeba Tribute JHL
4|28 McCoy Mrubata JHL

MAY



SAMARA JOY

STEVEN BERNSTEIN

5|9-10 Steven Bernstein: Sex Mob JHL
5|11-12 Steven Bernstein: Millennial Territory Orchestra West JHL

SAMARA JOY

5|16-19 Samara Joy

BAY AREA KEYS

5|16 N.T.B. (Nature of the Beast) Plays Herbie Hancock's *Head Hunters* JHL
5|17 Gaea Schell JHL
5|18 Todd Cochran JHL
5|19 Telemakus JHL

DAVE HOLLAND

5|23 Dave Holland & Kris Davis
5|24 Dave Holland New Quartet
5|25 Dave Holland Trio
5|26 Dave Holland

5|23-26 Emmet Cohen Trio JHL

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JHL | JOE HENDERSON LAB
PARAMOUNT | PARAMOUNT THEATRE
GRACE | GRACE CATHEDRAL
DAVIES | DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

All shows in Robert N. Miner Auditorium, unless otherwise noted. All programs are subject to change.

The SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director program was established to give today's most innovative and influential musicians the chance to curate exclusive programming at the SFJAZZ Center, often featuring world premiere projects and unprecedented collaborations between world-renowned artists.

Every two years, SFJAZZ selects a new group of forward-thinking musicians to participate in the program. Notable world premieres have included pianist Jason Moran's pairing of jazz and live skateboarding, guitarist Bill Frisell's adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's *The Kentucky Derby is Decadent and Depraved* featuring actor Tim Robbins, drummer Eric Harland's Voyager band paired with live video gamers, an extensively revised presentation of trumpeter Terence Blanchard's fully-staged opera *Champion: An Opera in Jazz*, and Rosanne Cash's first-ever concerts devoted to Johnny Cash's music in collaboration with Ry Cooder.

PREVIOUS RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTORS:

2013-2014

Regina Carter	John Santos
Bill Frisell	Miguel Zenón
Jason Moran	

2014-2016

Terence Blanchard	Zakir Hussain
Eric Harland	Esperanza Spalding

2016-2018

Christian McBride	Vijay Iyer
Rosanne Cash	Mary Stallings

2018-2020

Laurie Anderson	Chucho Valdés
Dianne Reeves	Joe Lovano
Marcus Shelby	

2021-2023

Ambrose Akinmusire	Chris Potter
Terri Lyne Carrington	Soweto Kinch
Anat Cohen	

JULIAN LAGE

1|18-21

“ANY OF THESE NIGHTS POSES
A QUESTION: *WHAT IF?* *WHAT*
ARE THE POSSIBILITIES?”



ABOUT JULIAN

Santa Rosa-born guitarist Julian Lage has emerged as a stunningly accomplished creative force in modern music. At just 35, he's recorded 15 albums as a leader and for his inaugural week, performs solo and with a series of scintillating ensembles.

SHOW DATES

1|18 **JULIAN LAGE, SOLO GUITAR**
1|19 **JULIAN LAGE: RUDE RUTH**
W/ MARGARET GLASPY, JORGE ROEDER & DAVE KING
1|20 **JULIAN LAGE QUARTET: MUSIC OF KEITH JARRETT**
W/ JORGE ROEDER, DAVE KING & SPECIAL GUEST
1|21 **JULIAN LAGE QUARTET: JIM HALL TRIBUTE**
W/ JOE LOVANO, SCOTT COLLEY & JOEY BARON

▶ SEE PAGE 31

KENNY BARRON

2|1-4



“ONE NOTE CAN CHANGE AND MAKE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.”

ABOUT KENNY

A 2010 NEA Jazz Master and eleven-time GRAMMY nominee, Barron has helped define and extend the jazz piano tradition since the 1960s. He's brings a wide range of current projects from his working trio to the music of Brazil and more.

SHOW DATES

1|31 **LISTENING PARTY W/ KENNY BARRON**
2|1 **KENNY BARRON TRIO**
W/ KIYOSHI KITAGAWA & JOHNATHAN BLAKE
2|2 **KENNY BARRON QUINTET**
W/ DAYNA STEPHENS, MIKE RODRIGUEZ, KIYOSHI KITAGAWA & JOHNATHAN BLAKE
2|3 **KENNY BARRON: BRAZILIAN EXPLORATIONS**
W/ ANNE DRUMMOND, NIKARA WARREN, JOHN PATITUCCI, RAFAEL BARATA & VALTINHO ANASTACIO
2|4 **KENNY BARRON: FREELY IMPROVISED MUSIC**
W/ JEN SHYU, KALIA VANDEVER, JOHN PATITUCCI & LESLEY MOK

▶ SEE PAGE 32

HOWARD WILEY

2|3-4 & 3|23



“I LIKE TO BRING THAT SHOW
ELEMENT, THAT SOUL ELEMENT.
I PLAY FOR THE PEOPLE.”

ABOUT HOWARD

Having been mentored by Bay Area great Jules Broussard, Howard Wiley is a Berkeley-born saxophonist and composer, well known as both a bandleader and collaborator. He brings two diverse programs to both the Joe Henderson Lab and the Miner Auditorium.

SHOW DATES

2|3-4 **HOWARD WILEY: SATURDAY NIGHT TO SUNDAY MORNING**
W/ WYCLIFFE GORDON, DAMIEN SNEED & DARRELL GREEN **JHL**
3|23 **HOWARD WILEY: CALIFORNIA LOVE**
W/ JUBU SMITH, LJ HOLOMAN, ERIC SMITH, DANTE ROBERSON & SPECIAL GUESTS

▶ SEE PAGE 33

BRANDEE YOUNGER

3|7-10

“... A MERGER OF WORLDS. I DON'T
KEEP IT GENRE SPECIFIC;
I MIX IT ALL TOGETHER.”



ABOUT BRANDEE

Carrying on and expanding the tradition of pioneering jazz harpists Dorothy Ashby and Alice Coltrane, the acclaimed harpist and composer Brandee Younger honors their visionary work with her four nights as Resident Artistic Director.

SHOW DATES

3|6 **LISTENING PARTY W/ BRANDEE YOUNGER**
3|7-8 **BRANDEE YOUNGER: BRAND NEW LIFE**
W/ RASHAAN CARTER, MAKAYA MCCRAVEN, STRING ENSEMBLE & SPECIAL GUESTS
3|20 **BRANDEE YOUNGER: ALICE COLTRANE TRIBUTE**
W/ RASHAAN CARTER, MAKAYA MCCRAVEN, STRINGS & SPECIAL GUESTS

▶ SEE PAGE 37

RAVI COLTRANE

3|28-31



“I THINK EVERY TIME I'M ON STAGE,
(JOHN & ALICE) ARE KIND OF
CLOSE TO THE SURFACE.”

ABOUT RAVI

An artist occupying a singular niche in modern jazz, Ravi Coltrane has established a sound and concepts that stand undeniably on their own, extending far beyond the shadow of his iconic name. His week brings a diverse array of projects.

SHOW DATES

3|28 **RAVI COLTRANE ELECTRIC BAND & COLTRAXX**
3|29 **RAVI COLTRANE COLTRAXX: PHAROAH SANDERS TRIBUTE**
W/ JOE LOVANO, TOMOKI SANDERS, DAVID VIRELLES, DEZRON DOUGLAS, & JOHNATHAN BLAKE
3|30-31 **RAVI COLTRANE: COSMIC MUSIC W/ SPECIAL GUESTS**
FEATURING THE MUSIC OF JOHN & ALICE COLTRANE

▶ SEE PAGE 39

Unlimited Possibilities:

Introducing 5 New Resident Artistic Directors at SFJAZZ

BY RICHARD SCHEININ

It's a pretty simple proposal that SFJAZZ makes every two years to a group of top-flight — and happily surprised — musicians.

It goes something like this: “What would you say if we handed you a blank slate — if you could dream up two weeks’ worth of programs? Think big,” goes the pitch. “What have you always wanted to do, but never seriously considered, because it seemed too complicated, too costly, too crazy over-the-top?”

Those who say, “I’m in!” become Resident Artistic Directors (known colloquially as RADs) at SFJAZZ, designing two weeks of shows over the course of two seasons. This year’s incoming class of RADs includes NEA Jazz Master Kenny Barron, among the most venerated pianists of the past six decades; saxophonist Ravi Coltrane, heir to the legacy of his parents John and Alice; guitarist Julian Lage, who merges jazz and blues with “a kind of sun-dappled Americana,” as the *New York Times* once put it; saxophonist Howard Wiley, an extravagantly exciting bandleader who grew up in the East Bay and still calls it home; and GRAMMY-nominated harpist Brandee Younger, who is extending the lineage of harpists Dorothy Ashby and Alice Coltrane.

“I’m used to operating from a realistic place of scarcity,” Younger says with a laugh. “But if they tell me I can bring my band, and have special guests and have a string ensemble — bring it on!”

Since the RAD program was inaugurated a decade ago, many of the most forward-looking musicians

in the business have answered the call. Laurie Anderson’s shows included The Drones at Grace Cathedral, where she leaned six of her late husband Lou Reed’s guitars against a phalanx of amplifiers, turning the reverberant church into a sonic bath. Then there was trumpeter Terence Blanchard, who staged his opera *Champion* at the SFJAZZ Center when he was just getting his toes wet as an operatic composer. (*Champion*, which tells the story of boxer Emile Griffith, a heavyweight champ and closeted gay man, is being staged this spring at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.) Perhaps most memorably, pianist Jason Moran — who grew up skateboarding in Houston — innocently asked if a half-pipe might be installed in front of the stage so that some of San Francisco’s best skateboarders could drop by to “jam” with his band. To his amazement, SFJAZZ said “yes,” and the four sold-out shows have gone down in the history books — one-of-a-kind events that merged music and motion.

We invited the incoming RADs to talk about their plans for the 2022–23 season.

Julian Lage

(January 18-21, Miner Auditorium)

The guitarist, who grew up in Santa Rosa, is an astonishing talent. He performed with Carlos Santana at age 9, recorded with vibraphonist Gary Burton at age 12, and joined the faculty of the Stanford Jazz Workshop at age 15.

Now in his 30s, Lage remains very much the questing creative artist: “Any of these nights,” he says of his residency, “poses a question: *What if?* What are the possibilities?”

Night One finds him alone onstage, playing both acoustic and electric instruments.

His model for solo performance is pianist Keith Jarrett, who he remembers seeing as a kid at SFJAZZ. “Keith is the master. You watch him and think, ‘How lucky are we to get an insight into his world? What’s he going to do next?’ I’m not putting myself in that category, but I’m chomping at the bit to play this solo show.”

Night Two unites Lage with the superb singer-songwriter Margaret Glaspy, his wife, with whom he has performed since they were students at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Their band (with bassist Jorge Roeder and drummer Dave King) is called Rude Ruth, and “the genius of the songs we play — their poetry and their emotional force — is 100 percent Margaret. It’s real life. It gets deep. It’s — your partner!”

Roeder and King are part of Lage’s working trio, which he calls “risky and adventurous and also seductive and melodic.” On Night Three, they will become a quartet, when a guest pianist joins them to perform compositions by Keith Jarrett. Lage says, “Keith has always been able to reference the oldest parts of jazz, and then, in a flash, pivot to



become futuristic and exploratory, figuring out the ‘What if?’”

The residency concludes with a show inspired by the late guitarist Jim Hall, with whom Lage performed often: “Jim was and remains kind of a hub for a lot of creative musicians.” Lage has chosen three other Hall alumni for this all-star show: saxophonist Joe Lovano, bassist Scott Colley, and drummer Joey Baron. “They are pillars of Jim’s approach — rooted in deep listening, always responsive, and playing with a shared sense of humor. We’re a Jim Hall crew, honoring our friend.”

Kenny Barron

(February 1-4, Miner Auditorium)



Stan Getz regarded Barron as a treasure, as did Dizzy Gillespie. The pianist brings a certain *feel* to any situation — elegant, confident, and swinging. He is among the most beloved figures in jazz.

Night One features his trio with bassist Kiyoshi Kitagawa (who has played with the pianist for 20 years) and drummer Johnathan Blake (who joined up a decade ago). Piano trios hold a vaunted place in the annals of jazz, and this group is among the finest. Its music ranges from supersonic bebop to time-stopping ballads and Barron’s own exquisite compositions.

On Night Two, the trio becomes a quintet with the addition of tenor saxophonist Dayna Stephens (an East Bay native) and trumpeter Mike Rodriguez (of the SFJAZZ Collective). “They blend so well,” Barron says. “They breathe together — it just happens naturally, so there’s

a chemistry to this band. It’s prone to swinging and just having fun.”

On Night Three, Barron explores his love of Brazilian music, which dates to his time with Gillespie in the early ’60s: “With Dizzy, we played *Desafinado* and *One Note Samba* (by Antônio Carlos Jobim). That was my introduction.” But not long after, while performing in San Francisco with Yusef Lateef, he turned on the radio and discovered Sérgio Mendes. He was mesmerized. Later, he visited Brazil and was struck by “the *feeling*, the rhythms, and also the harmonies sometimes are so subtle. One note can change and make all the difference in the world.”

His band will include bassist John Patitucci (“he can play anything”), drummer Rafael Barata, percussionist Valtinho Anastacio, flutist Anne Drummond (a multi-instrumentalist who studied piano with Barron years ago), and vibraphonist Nikara Warren (who happens to be his granddaughter).

Barron, who turns 80 in June, often puts the spotlight on younger musicians — and especially on women instrumentalists “who were kind of hidden when I was coming up. I think it’s very important to change that.”

His final performance will be devoted to pure improvisation — inventing music from scratch. His bandmates will be Jen Shyu, the award-winning multi-instrumentalist, composer, and dancer; drummer Lesley Mok; and trombonist Kalia Vandever. Recently, at the New School in Manhattan, they gave a performance that “felt very new for me,” Barron says. “Jen started on a note and we just took off. It went through a variety of moods and tempos, just listening to each other, and sometimes it was very dreamy, and sometimes more agitated. And in San Francisco, I’m bringing a bassist” — Patitucci — “to add another dimension. I think this will be a special show.”

Howard Wiley

(February 3 & 4, Joe Henderson Lab; March 23, Miner Auditorium)

Three decades ago, as a teenager on the Bay Area scene, tenor saxophonist Howard Wiley played with some incredible musicians: pianist Ed Kelly, drummer Donald Bailey, and saxophonists Jules Broussard and Bishop Norman Williams. “I came through the regional school,” he says, “and, man, the swing was *thick*. I’m a church boy, and I could hear it: The jazz was grooving the same way the music grooved on Sunday morning. The music had the same seasonings, like Big Mama’s sweet potato pie.”

Now in his early 40s, Oakland-bred Wiley dedicates his residency to the Bay Area sound: “I want the audience to have a greater sense of pride about our area,” he says. “People always talk about these other scenes — Philly, Detroit,



Chicago — but, no, we’ve had it here and always have. When I was coming up, you’d see the most compelling jazz here. It’s the reason why Count Basie moved to Oakland in the ’50s. Man, when Herbie Hancock came out here in the ’70s and started the Headhunters — that’s a Bay Area band!”

Wiley’s first two shows will be titled “Saturday Night to Sunday Morning.” You can expect the music to draw inspiration from the aforementioned spices: “We’ll be playing the kind of stuff we played in the clubs late on Saturday night and in church the next morning. Because the church thing is so strong in jazz; you hear it in Stanley Turrentine, in Arnett Cobb. It’s a *thing* — the soulful side of the swing, and the jazzy part of the church.” His band includes trombone great Wycliffe Gordon, pianist/vocalist Damien Sneed, bassist Aneesa Strings, and drummer Darrell Green.

↳ Continued on page 61

**MEMBERS-ONLY
OPENING NIGHT
CELEBRATION**

THU, SEP 7

Kick off the 2023-24 Season with an exciting week of concerts at the SFJAZZ Center with vocalist Lizz Wright in Miner Auditorium, and past and present members of the SFJAZZ Collective performing in a jam style session in solo, duo, and trio settings. Members enjoy complimentary wine and more as we continue to celebrate the organization's 40TH Anniversary!

Opening Week
**LIZZ
WRIGHT**
9|7-10



With an instrument described by *The New York Times* as a “sumptuously earthy, which commands strict and often spine-tingling attention,” the Georgia native first gained attention delivering Swing Era standards associated with Billie Holiday. Since her 2003 debut album *Salt*, Wright’s music has evolved to embrace soul and R&B, steeped in the gospel of her childhood. A quartet of albums on the Verve label concluding with the gospel-infused *Fellowship* from 2010, established Wright as a major artist whose reach wasn’t bound by the limits of any one genre. Additionally, Wright has been continually working in varying settings with several sublimely talented women including drummer Terri Lyne Carrington’s GRAMMY-winning Mosaic Project. After Wright’s GRAMMY-nominated 2015 Concord Records album *Freedom & Surrender* and the 2017 follow-up *Grace*, her newest venture is the establishment of her own label, Blues & Greens Records, and its debut release, 2022’s live date *Holding Space*.

“LIZZ WRIGHT IS CELEBRATED FOR ONE THING IN PARTICULAR: HER SUMPTUOUSLY EARTHY VOICE, WHICH COMMANDS STRICT AND OFTEN SPINE-TINGLING ATTENTION.”
- THE NEW YORK TIMES

THU, SEP 7 • 7:30PM	FRI, SEP 8 • 7:30PM	SAT, SEP 9 • 7:30PM	SUN, SEP 10 • 7PM
\$35-110 MEMBERS ONLY	\$30-105 FRIDAYS LIVE (🍷)	\$35-110	\$30-105

OPENING WEEK
SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE: PAST & PRESENT MEMBERS
THU, SEP 7 • 7&8:30 FRI, SEP 8 • 7&8:30 SAT, SEP 9 • 7&8:30 SUN, SEP 10 • 6&7:30



Nina Simone Tribute
**LEDISI SINGS NINA
W/ ORCHESTRA**

9|8 **DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

For this exclusive night at Davies, R&B diva Ledisi returns with her sparkling tribute to the High Priestess of Soul, Nina Simone, backed by a full orchestra — a salute captured on her GRAMMY-nominated 2021 Listen Back album *Ledisi Sings Nina* and broadcast on PBS.

“[LEDISI SINGS NINA] SHOWCASES BOTH THE DIVERSITY AND DEPTH OF SIMONE’S MUSICIANSHIP AND THE BREATHTAKING RANGE AND REACH OF LEDISI’S OWN VOICE.”
- THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRI, SEP 8 • 8PM
\$55-160

AMENDOLA VS. BLADES + 2
AMENDOLA VS. BLADES VS. BAPTISTA VS. SKERIK
THU, SEP 14 • 7&8:30 FRI, SEP 15 • 7&8:30



50TH Anniversary Tour
SHAKTI
JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, ZAKIR HUSSAIN,
SHANKAR MAHADEVAN, GANESH
RAJAGOPALAN & V. SELVAGANESH

9|9 **DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

The collaboration of instrumentalist legends John McLaughlin and Zakir Hussain that defined the idea of “global fusion” in the mid-1970s celebrates 50 years of musical alchemy and the new album *This Moment* with this historic performance at Davies Symphony Hall. For this stop on their U.S. tour, their first in 16 years, the iconic duo is joined by renowned vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan, and percussionist V. Selvaganesh, the son of original Shakti percussion great T.H. Vinayakram.

SAT, SEPT 9 • 8PM
\$50-175
ALMOST SOLD-OUT!

SAT, SEP 16 • 7&8:30



Living Legend
**VAN
MORRISON**

9|12-14

A multiple GRAMMY winner and 1993 inductee into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Van Morrison is the definition of a living musical legend — a master storyteller and a mystical, enigmatic figure whose unforgettable songs have become part of the cultural fabric.

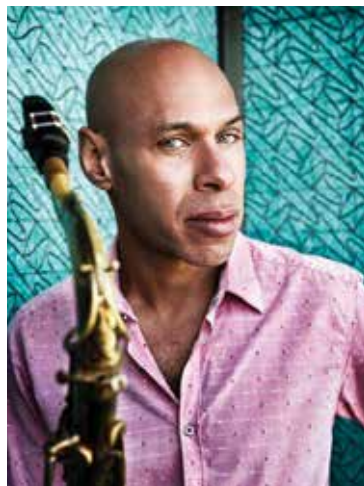
TUE-THU, SEP 12-14 • 7:30PM
\$250
SOLD-OUT!

JOE HENDERSON LAB
SEE PAGE 46

TRADITIONS
IN
TRANSITION

SEPTEMBER 21-24

The jazz tradition is an ever-evolving continuum, simultaneously honoring the past while building the future. The remarkable lineup of artists featured this week exemplifies this spirit of renewal and reflection, imbuing their music with a cutting-edge vitality.



Where Are We

**JOSHUA REDMAN
QUINTET**

W/ GABRIELLE CAVASSA,
BRIAN BLADE, AARON
PARKS, & JOE SANDERS

9|21

Saxophone great Redman debuts a new quintet featuring an all-star cast of players with whom he's shaped the contemporary jazz scene for some three decades, along with a more recent connection in vocalist Gabrielle Cavassa. They perform music from Redman's masterful 2023 album *Where Are We*.

THU, SEP 21 • 7:30PM
\$35-105



Beyond Jazz

**DONNY
McCASLIN
QUARTET/
MARK GUILIANA
BEAT MUSIC**

9|22

A double bill featuring saxophonist McCaslin's innovative quartet and the exciting electro-acoustic group led by master drummer Guiliana. Both considered among the most visionary artists and leaders in modern jazz, they are also known for their GRAMMY-winning work on David Bowie's *Blackstar*.

FRI, SEP 22 • 7:30PM
\$25-75 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Superstar Pianist and Singer

JAMIE CULLUM

9|23

A master showman and a commanding jazz artist, Jamie Cullum leaves no doubt about jazz's ability to reach the widest audience. Moving effortlessly from television studios and stadiums to concert halls and nightclubs, the pianist, vocalist, and live-wire bandleader is the UK's best-selling jazz artist of all time. He makes his SFJAZZ debut in our 40TH Anniversary year with a repertoire ranging from Gershwin, Duke Ellington, and Billie Holiday to Rihanna and Radiohead.

SAT, SEP 23 • 7:30PM
\$35-125



GRAMMY-Nominated Quartet

**CHRISTIAN
McBRIDE'S
NEW JAWN**

W/ JOSH EVANS,
MARCUS STRICKLAND
& NASHEET WAITS

9|24

The standard-bearing bassist in modern jazz returns with New Jawn, performing music from his 2023 release *Prime*. Echoing the two horns/no piano lineup of the classic Ornette Coleman quartet, the band is composed of some of the most forward-thinking artists on today's scene.

SUN, SEP 24 • 7PM
\$35-105



10-Time GRAMMY-Winning Group

THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER
50TH ANNIVERSARY & FINAL WORLD TOUR

9|29-30

10-time GRAMMY winners The Manhattan Transfer celebrate the close of a monumental five-decade career. From their 1975 breakthrough single "Operator" to the smash "Birdland" and into the 21st century, the Transfer has made an indelible contribution to vocal jazz. Founded by Tim Hauser in 1972, the four-part harmony group originally featured Janis Siegel, Alan Paul, and Laurel Massé. Cheryl Bentyn replaced Massé in 1979, and Trist Curless took over for Hauser following his passing in 2014. Last year, in anticipation of the group's golden anniversary and international farewell tour, the foursome released *Fifty*, a consistently swinging album that earned another GRAMMY Nomination and made it abundantly clear that no one is going to take the place of The Manhattan Transfer.

"THE GENRE'S MOST
IMPORTANT KEEPERS
OF THE FLAME"

- THE NEW
YORK TIMES

FRI, SEP 29 • 7:30PM
\$50-150 FRIDAYS LIVE (↻)

SAT, SEP 30 • 3&7:30PM
\$50-150



Iconic Big Band

**JAZZ AT LINCOLN
CENTER ORCHESTRA**
W/ WYNTON MARSALIS

10|1-2

A 2011 NEA Jazz Master, iconic trumpeter Wynton Marsalis returns with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for his first performances since receiving the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award. From his debut with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers to his current role as Artistic Director of JALC, Marsalis is a Pulitzer Prize winner and nine-time GRAMMY winner. Since 1988, he has led this virtuoso ensemble that remains the finest large group in jazz.

SUN, OCT 1 • 7PM
\$60-150 MEMBERS ONLY

MON, OCT 2 • 7:30PM
\$60-150



Disney 100th Anniversary Tribute

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR

W/ SEAN MASON, KIM NALLEY & SASHA DOBSON

10|7

Marking the centennial of Walt Disney launching his eponymous animation studio, “When You Wish Upon a Star” infuses the Disney canon with a fresh jolt of jazz energy.

Performed by the National Jazz Museum in Harlem’s newly created house quintet led by pianist Mason, the show features a pair of vocalists with deep Bay Area ties. Nalley and Dobson’s distinctive, contrasting sounds offer a wide-angle take on beloved songs from Disney classics from *Snow White*, *Lady and the Tramp* and *Mary Poppins* to *The Jungle Book* and *Toy Story*.

(This production is not affiliated with, sponsored, or authorized by The Walt Disney Company.)

SAT, OCT 7 • 7:30PM

\$25-65



Monk’s Birthday Celebration

T.S. MONK: MONK ON MONK

10|10

Our yearly birthday salute to Thelonious Monk can’t get any closer to the source than this, as we welcome Monk’s son, drummer T.S. Monk, celebrating the legacy of his father with this large ensemble tribute inspired by Monk Sr.’s legendary 1959 Town Hall concert. Originally conceived for his father’s 80th birthday, this project employs an expansion of Monk’s sextet to a 10-piece ensemble and features a range of material from standards like “Round Midnight” and “Crepuscle with Nellie” to lesser-known material like “Two Timer” and more.

“T.S. MONK MAY BE HIS FATHER’S SON,
BUT HE’S HIS OWN MAN AS WELL”

- LOS ANGELES TIMES

TUE, OCT 10 • 7:30PM

\$25-65 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Vocal mastery is the focus of this week, showcasing a group of singular artists spanning genre and geography from pan-global takes on American jazz and the Southern soul of the blues to the roots of the Portuguese fado tradition with international influences.



TransGenre

VERONICA SWIFT

10|12

The buzz-worthy young vocalist set the jazz world on fire after her second-place finish at the 2015 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. She made her recording debut at age 9 with saxophonist Richie Cole, and has shared stages with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Chris Botti, Jon Hendricks, Paquito D’Rivera, Esperanza Spalding, and Joe Lovano. She returns with music from her new Mack Avenue session, *TransGenre*.

THU, OCT 12 • 7:30PM

\$35-95



Fado Legacy

CARMINHO

10|13

“The brightest young star in the firmament” (*London Jazz News*), Carminho is heiress to the fado legacy as the daughter of world-renowned fadista Teresa Siqueira. An innovator whose work incorporates influences from Brazil and points beyond, she performs music from her new Warner Music album, the self-produced *Portuguesa* — a release that expands upon her skills as a composer while it shines a new light on timeless fado classics.

FRI, OCT 13 • 7:30PM

\$30-85 FRIDAYS LIVE (🎟)



Blues Diva

SHEMEKIA COPELAND

10|14

Daughter of the late great Texas guitarist Johnny Copeland and one of the most creative voices defining the blues today, Shemekia Copeland has earned a string of honors since her 1998 debut *Turn Up the Heat*. The GRAMMY nominee and *DownBeat* Critics Poll Blues Artist of the Year brings music from across her expansive career, including material from her latest Alligator Records release *Done Come Too Far*.

SAT, OCT 14 • 7:30PM

\$25-65



Lean In

GRETCHEN PARLATO & LIONEL LOUEKE

10|15

This collaborative project between the acclaimed singer and former SFJAZZ Collective member and the innovative guitarist, bandleader, and longtime musical partner of Herbie Hancock has been years in the making. They perform material from their new Edition Records duo album *Lean In*. Parlato and Loueke are, in the guitarist’s words, “musical soulmates” devoted to experimentation and ascension.

SUN, OCT 15 • 7PM

\$25-65 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Day of the Dead Celebration

LILA DOWNS DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

DOS CORAZONES

10 | 15 **PARAMOUNT THEATRE**

GRAMMY and Latin GRAMMY-winning vocalist Lila Downs is one of the most celebrated singers of her generation. She brings a special night of music to the Paramount, celebrating Día de los Muertos, Mexico's Day of the Dead, featuring folklorico dancing, stunning visual projections and more. A native of Oaxaca, Downs built a career bridging cultures and languages, blending a deep passion for the traditions of her homeland with an ingrained wanderlust. She made her major label debut with 1999's jazz-informed *La Sandunga*, and her contributions to the Oscar™ winning score for 2002 Frida Kahlo biopic *Frida* elevated her status to that of a major international star. With 13 albums to her credit, Downs is known worldwide as a global ambassador for Mexico's folkloric traditions and champion for the preservation of native Mexican culture.

“LILA DOWNS MIXES TRADITIONAL MEXICAN GENRES WITH A STRONG FEMINIST PULSE.”

- NPR

SUN, OCT 15 • 7PM
\$40-115 **MEMBERS SAVE 25%**



Sitar Legacy

ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

10 | 18 **HERBST THEATRE**

“One of improvised music's great players” (*DownBeat*), the daughter of legendary sitar master Ravi Shankar was raised straddling East and West, moving between London, Delhi, and California. The nine-time GRAMMY-nominated sitarist performs music from her career, captured on her latest album, the 2022 live recording *Between Us*. An artist whose career extends beyond Indian classical music, Shankar has forged a singular identity, collaborating with an array of artists from jazz icon Herbie Hancock and violinist Joshua Bell to the DJ duo Thievery Corporation and Asian Underground pioneer Karsh Kale. Combining myriad global influences with the melodic sophistication of northern India, Shankar takes the latest bold step in a world music legacy.

WED, OCT 18 • 8PM
\$50-115



Brazilian Pianist & Vocalist

ELIANE ELIAS

10 | 19-22

“MIRROR MIRROR IS AN ALBUM OF EFFORTLESS VIRTUOSITY RIFE WITH A VIBRANT, IN-THE-MOMENT ENERGY”

- ALL MUSIC

ELIANE ELIAS: SOLO & DUO W/ MARC JOHNSON

“Eliane Elias does more for hemispheric unity than the Organization of American States” (*People*). A superlative pianist and evocative singer who combines the sensuous melodicism of Brazil with the harmonic sophistication of New York City, São Paulo—born Eliane Elias returns for an intimate evening of solo piano and duos with bass virtuoso Marc Johnson, a longtime Elias collaborator and partner known for his work with jazz legend Bill Evans.

THU, OCT 19 • 7:30PM
\$25-85 **MEMBERS SAVE 25%**

ELIANE ELIAS QUARTET MUSIC FROM QUIETUDE & MIRROR MIRROR

Musically traveling from the masters of jazz piano to the shimmering rhythms of Brazil, pianist, singer, and composer Eliane Elias and an all-star quartet perform sumptuous versions of songs from Elias' two most recent Candid albums. The 2021 GRAMMY winner for Best Latin Jazz Album, *Mirror Mirror* was Elias' first piano-only album in over 25 years and a summit meeting with piano giants Chucho Valdés and the late Chick Corea. 2022's *Quietude* showcases the other side of Elias' talents, focused on classic Brazilian compositions by artists including Dorival Caymmi and Antônio Carlos Jobim.

FRI, OCT 20 • 7:30PM
\$30-90 **FRIDAYS LIVE (☺)**

SAT, OCT 21 • 7:30PM
\$30-105

SUN, OCT 22 • 7PM
\$30-90



The Omnichord Real Book

MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO W/ SPECIAL GUESTS

10|27-29

Returning after a magical, sold-out reunion on the Miner stage with pianist Jason Moran during the 2022-23 Season, GRAMMY-winning bassist, singer, and songwriter Meshell Ndegeocello brings music from her 2023 Blue Note debut *The Omnichord Real Book*, with Special Guests. Ndegeocello built a career as an uncompromising artist whose deliriously funky and soulful work is a powerful commentary on race, gender issues, and LGBTQ+ rights.

“THE WORLD NEEDS MORE MUSICIANS LIKE HER: CREATIVELY RESTLESS AND AMBITIOUS.”

- NPR MUSIC

FRI, OCT 27 • 7:30PM

\$30-105
FRIDAYS LIVE (•)

SAT, OCT 28 • 7&9:30PM

\$35-115

SUN, OCT 29 • 7PM

\$30-105



Halloween Silent Film Classic

DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE W/ DOROTHY PAPADAKOS, ORGAN

10|30 GRACE CATHEDRAL

The sacred space of Grace Cathedral will transform into a grand movie palace for a Halloween screening of John S. Robertson's 1920 adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson novella of a doctor wrestling with split identities, starring John Barrymore and featuring a live score performed by organist and composer Dorothy Papadakos. This performance will take full advantage of Grace's pipe organ, a historic instrument installed in 1934.

MON, OCT 30 • 7PM

\$25-35



All-Star Resident Ensemble

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

11|2-5

Founded by SFJAZZ in 2004, the SFJAZZ Collective is an all-star ensemble and composer's workshop, celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2024. To commemorate two decades as a working ensemble, the supergroup will perform a landmark Anniversary program that both honors the history of the group and looks ahead to its future. Saluting the legendary tribute artists whose work has been honored over 20 years as well as the world-class composers who have worked within the ensemble, the band will revisit original compositions and arrangements from its innovative repertoire, updated and reimagined. Additionally, they will emphasize the spirit of their name by collectively composing a new suite dedicated to and inspired by their history.

▶ [LEARN MORE ABOUT SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE'S 20-YEAR HISTORY ON PAGES 6 & 7](#)

**LISTENING PARTY WITH
SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE**
WED, NOV 1 • 7:30PM
\$15 PUBLIC | FREE FOR MEMBERS

THU, NOV 2 • 7:30PM

\$25-85 MEMBERS SAVE 25%

FRI, NOV 3 • 7:30PM

\$25-85 MEMBERS SAVE 25%
FRIDAYS LIVE (••)

SAT, NOV 4 • 7:30PM

\$30-95 MEMBERS SAVE 25%

SUN, NOV 5 • 2PM

\$25-85 MEMBERS SAVE 25%

CHRIS POTTER MUSIC DIRECTOR,
TENOR & SOPRANO SAXOPHONES

DAVID SÁNCHEZ TENOR SAXOPHONE

MIKE RODRIGUEZ TRUMPET

WARREN WOLF VIBRAPHONE

EDWARD SIMON PIANO

MATT BREWER BASS

KENDRICK SCOTT DRUMS

JOE HENDERSON LAB

▶ SEE PAGE 48

NEW SOUNDS

ANEESA STRINGS

FRI, OCT 27 • 7&8:30

THEON CROSS

SAT, OCT 28 • 7&8:30

THEON CROSS

SUN, OCT 29 • 6&7:30

BRAZIL BY THE BAY

CLAUDIA VILLELA

THU, NOV 9 • 7&8:30

FRI, NOV 10 • 7&8:30

SAT, NOV 11 • 7&8:30

SUN, NOV 12 • 6&7:30

JOE HENDERSON LAB

▶ SEE PAGE 48



South African Legend

ABDULLAH IBRAHIM TRIO

11|16-18

Nelson Mandela described Cape Town—born piano legend and 2019 NEA Jazz Master **Abdullah Ibrahim** as “South Africa’s Mozart.” He returns with the current incarnation of his superb trio. A performer, composer and outspoken chronicler of South Africa’s struggle with apartheid, Ibrahim is at truly global figure in jazz, whose music has always been a mixture of influences from jazz and classical to gospel and traditional African music. Since his auspicious beginning as a protégé of Duke Ellington, a staggering 50-album career followed, finding Ibrahim recording in settings ranging from solo to orchestral music and soundtrack work.

“A LIFETIME OF DREAMS AND RESISTANCE AT THE PIANO”

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

THU, NOV 16 • 7:30PM

\$30-95

FRI, NOV 17 • 7:30PM

\$30-95

SAT, NOV 18 • 7:30PM

\$30-115

SUN, NOV 19 • 3&7PM

\$45-125

JOE HENDERSON LAB

SEE PAGE 48

BOUNDARY PUSHERS

STEVEN LUGERNER
& SLUGISH ENSEMBLE

THU, NOV 16 • 7&8:30

BEN GOLDBERG

FRI, NOV 17 • 7&8:30

ALCHEMY SOUND PROJECT

SAT, NOV 18 • 7&8:30

RAFFI GARABEDIAN

SUN, NOV 19 • 6&7:30



As We Speak

BÉLA FLECK, ZAKIR HUSSAIN & EDGAR MEYER W/ RAKESH CHAURASIA

11|19

“Beyond category” is what Duke Ellington used to call musicians who were simply the best at what they do. That’s certainly the case for Béla Fleck, Edgar Meyer and Zakir Hussain” (NPR Music). Tabla master and 2017 SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award winner Hussain, 14-time GRAMMY-winning banjoist Fleck, and bassist and MacArthur “Genius Grant” recipient Meyer reunite to celebrate the release of their new album *As We Speak*.



Django Festival AllStars

DORADO SCHMITT AND SONS SAMSON & AMATI W/ LUDOVIC BEIER

11|24-26

“A premier acolyte of the brilliant guitarist Django Reinhardt” (*Variety*), no one has done more to ignite interest in the legacy of the jazz guitar pioneer than dazzling French guitarist and violinist **Dorado Schmitt**. Born to Roma parents near the German border in Lorraine, he’s been the leading figure on the international scene for nearly three decades and represents the art form at its highest level. He is joined for this week by his sons **Samson and Amati Schmitt**, young guitar greats who represent the future of the jazz manouche tradition, as well as the brilliant jazz accordionist **Ludovic Beier**, a longtime member of Schmitt’s AllStars ensemble.

“MR. SCHMITT HAS THE SPRINGY PHRASING AND EFFUSIVE FLOW OF A DJANGOLOIST;
HE’S CLEARLY BORN TO THE STYLE.”

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRI, NOV 24 • 7:30PM

\$30-85 MEMBERS SAVE 25%

SAT, NOV 25 • 7:30PM

\$35-95

SUN, NOV 26 • 3&7PM

\$30-95

25% OFF SELECT CONCERTS

Members enjoy discounts on concerts throughout the year

SFJAZZ MEMBERSHIP

SFJAZZ.ORG/JOIN



Cosmopolitan Holiday Music

PINK MARTINI FEATURING CHINA FORBES

11|28-12|3

With the combined power of a dozen musicians and fronted by the dynamic vocalist China Forbes, the self-described “little orchestra” is known for their rollicking cross-genre mix of classical, jazz, and old-fashioned pop. In what has become an SFJAZZ tradition, they return with their infectiously joyous, dance-friendly takes on classic holiday music to make your season swing. Formed in 1994 by pianist Thomas Lauderdale in Portland, Oregon, the group has built a monstrous fan base through performances in settings ranging from the Cannes Film Festival and the Grand Opening of Los Angeles’ Walt Disney Concert Hall, to late-night television with David Letterman, Conan O’Brien, Jay Leno, and Jools Holland. Most recently, they released a pair of EPs recorded in conjunction with Portland pianist/singer Jimmie Herrod and vocalist Edna Vazquez.

**“IMPRESSIVE AT EVERY MUSICIAN’S STATION,
THIS ENSEMBLE PRODUCES MUSIC
THAT’S CHARMING AND ELEGANT.”**

- VARIETY

TUE-THU, NOV 28-30 • 7:30PM
\$65-195

FRI, DEC 1 • 7:30PM
\$70-205 **FRIDAYS LIVE** (🎶)

SAT, DEC 2 • 2&7:30PM
\$70-205

SUN, DEC 3 • 2&7PM
\$70-205



Caribbean Holiday

ETIENNE CHARLES: CREOLE CHRISTMAS

12|9

“One of jazz’s more ambitious soloists and composers” (*NY Times*), the former SFJAZZ Collective trumpeter meshes a profound knowledge of the jazz tradition with the Creole influence of his Trinidad upbringing, performing holiday classics from his 2015 album *Creole Christmas*.

SAT, DEC 9 • 7:30PM
\$25-75 **MEMBERS SAVE 25%**



Happy Joyous Hanukkah

THE KLEZMATICS

12|14

“Among the greatest bands on the planet” (*Time Out New York*), the GRAMMY-winning Jewish klezmer superstars return to celebrate the Festival of Light, performing seasonal music from their timeless album *Happy Joyous Hanukkah* that set lyrics by the late Woody Guthrie to their delightful original compositions. Formed in New York’s East Village in 1986, the Klezmatics led the current resurgence of the klezmer tradition.

THU, DEC 14 • 7:30PM
\$25-85



Salsa Navidad

SPANISH HARLEM ORCHESTRA

12|15

Founded by veteran pianist Oscar Hernández and dedicated to the classic, dance-inducing New York City *salsa dura* sound, the 3-time GRAMMY-winning Spanish Harlem Orchestra sparks a holiday conflagration with salsa-fied Christmas standards and patented rhythmic panache.

FRI, DEC 15 • 7:30PM
\$30-95 **DANCE FLOOR FRIDAYS LIVE** (🎶)



Charles Schulz’s 1965 Holiday Classic

ADAM SHULMAN TRIO PLAYS A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

W/ JOHN WIITALA & JAMES GALLAGHER

12|16

A creative force on the San Francisco jazz scene, pianist **Shulman** reprises his tribute to Bay Area jazz legend Vince Guaraldi and his beloved soundtrack to Charles Schulz’s 1965 holiday classic *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, backed by his superb trio.

SAT, DEC 16 • 2&7:30PM
\$45-105



Holiday Music & Black Spirituals

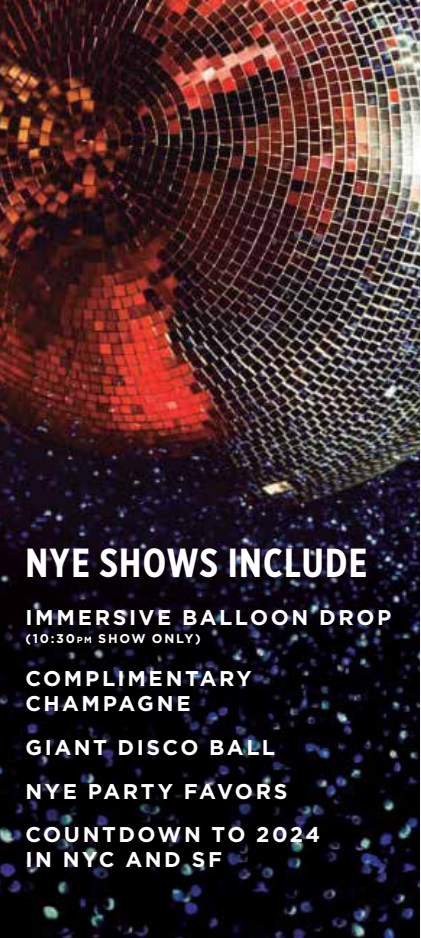
THE MARCUS SHELBY NEW ORCHESTRA

PLAYS DUKE ELLINGTON’S *NUTCRACKER SUITE*
FEATURING TIFFANY AUSTIN

12|17

Bassist and composer Shelby’s New Orchestra featuring vocalist Tiffany Austin performs Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn’s *Harlem Nutcracker Suite* and more, featuring original arrangements of holiday music and black spirituals.

SUN, DEC 17 • 7PM
\$45-105



NYE SHOWS INCLUDE
IMMERSIVE BALLOON DROP
(10:30PM SHOW ONLY)
COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE
GIANT DISCO BALL
NYE PARTY FAVORS
COUNTDOWN TO 2024
IN NYC AND SF

Tropical New Year's
MONSIEUR PERINÉ
12|28-31



“One of the most exciting emerging artists in Latin music” (*LA Weekly*), the 2015 Latin GRAMMY winner for Best New Artist brings their singular hybrid that merges the simmering French jazz manouche style of Django Reinhardt with dance-inspiring Latin American rhythms to ring in the New Year.

Formed a decade ago in Bogotá, Colombia, by singer Catalina García and guitarists Santiago Prieto and Jairo Alfonso, the band has cultivated a fervent following by blending the spirit of 1930s music with the joyous and sophisticated sounds of contemporary Latin American pop.

“ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING EMERGING ARTISTS IN LATIN MUSIC”

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

THU, DEC 28 • 7:30PM	FRI, DEC 29 • 7:30PM	SAT, DEC 30 • 7:30PM	SUN, DEC 31 • 8&10:30
\$30-85 DANCE FLOOR	\$30-85 DANCE FLOOR	\$35-95 DANCE FLOOR	\$45-120 DANCE FLOOR
MEMBERS SAVE 25%	MEMBERS SAVE 25%	MEMBERS SAVE 25%	MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Gullah Grooves
MS. LISA FISCHER
W/ RANKY TANKY
1|4-7

Two-time GRAMMY winner Lisa Fischer joins Gullah groovemasters Ranky Tanky for an incendiary reprise of their sold-out 2022 residency. Known far and wide for her powerhouse vocals and prominent role in director Morgan Neville’s Oscar-winning 2013 music documentary *20 Feet From Stardom*, Fischer won a GRAMMY for her #1 charting R&B single “How Can I Ease the Pain” and has toured for over two decades with the Rolling Stones, Luther Vandross, and others. With a name translating as “get funky!” in the Geechee language, this band of native South Carolinians mixes jazz, gospel, funk, and R&B with the spirituals and gutbucket blues that mark the low-country musical traditions of the Gullah people.

“THE STUNNING POWER AND SUPPLENESS OF HER VOICE SPARKS THE SOUL, A FLAME THAT BURNS LONG AFTER SHE’S LEFT THE STAGE.”

- POPMATTERS

THU, JAN 4 • 7:30PM	FRI, JAN 5 • 7:30PM	SAT, JAN 6 • 7:30PM	SUN, JAN 7 • 7PM
\$30-95 MEMBERS SAVE 25%	\$30-95 FRIDAYS LIVE (🎶)	\$35-105	\$30-95



Trumpet Superstar
CHRIS BOTTI
 1|9-14

Chris Botti, the world's biggest-selling jazz instrumentalist, was never the same after hearing Miles Davis' version of "My Funny Valentine" when he was 12. A subtle trumpeter with a uniquely expressive sound, fluent phrasing and sense of space, Botti became a masterly musician equally at home in the realms of jazz and pop. He honed his craft performing and recording with stars like Sting, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, and Frank Sinatra, and his newest album, *Impressions*, was a GRAMMY winner for Best Instrumental Pop Album, featuring guests including Herbie Hancock and Vince Gill. Our multi-night runs with Botti have become an early-year tradition, and always sell out, so get your tickets early!

"MR. BOTTI'S WORK FUNCTIONS BOTH ON THE LEVEL OF FLICKERING INTIMACY AND THUNDERING GRANDIOSITY. HE'S ADEPT AT EXUDING HUMAN WARMTH ON A SWEEPING SCALE."

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

TUE-THU, JAN 9-11 • 7:30PM
 \$55-140

FRI, JAN 12 • 7:30PM
 \$75-175

SAT, JAN 13 • 3&7:30PM
 \$75-175

SUN, JAN 14 • 3&7PM
 \$55-175

JOE HENDERSON LAB
 ▶ SEE PAGE 49

SING, SING, SING I
HOTPLATE: AMELIE ANNA
 SINGS AMY WINEHOUSE'S *BACK TO BLACK*
 THU, JAN 18 • 7&8:30

JO HARROP
 FRI, JAN 19 • 7&8:30

NICOLAS BEARDE SINGS BURT BACHARACH
 SAT, JAN 20 • 7&8:30 SUN, JAN 21 • 6&7:30

SFJAZZ

RESIDENT
 ARTISTIC
 DIRECTOR

Resident Artistic Director
JULIAN LAGE
 1|18-21



"THE HIGHEST CATEGORY OF IMPROVISING MUSICIANS"

- THE NEW YORKER

Santa Rosa-born guitarist **Julian Lage** has emerged as a stunningly accomplished creative force in modern music. At just 35, he's recorded 15 albums as a leader and for his inaugural week, performs solo and with a series of scintillating ensembles.



JULIAN LAGE, SOLO GUITAR

Lage begins his week as Resident Artistic Director with a solo recital, showcasing the breadth of his guitar mastery in the most revealing setting — one in which his peerless musicianship is presented without restrictions, undiluted and unadorned.

THU, JAN 18 • 7:30PM
 \$25-85 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



JULIAN LAGE: RUDE RUTH
 W/ MARGARET GLASPY,
 JORGE ROEDER & DAVE KING

Formed a decade ago by Lage and Glaspy, Rude Ruth reimagines Glaspy's folk-rock compositions concerning romantic conflict with the improvisational depth of Lage's working trio with bassist Roeder and drummer King.

FRI, JAN 19 • 7:30PM
 \$25-85 MEMBERS SAVE 25%
 FRIDAYS LIVE (🎶)



JULIAN LAGE QUARTET: MUSIC OF KEITH JARRETT
 W/ JORGE ROEDER & DAVE KING

Lage honors the influence of the piano icon with his trio, joined by a special guest pianist to be announced. They keep the flame burning for Jarrett, whose performing career has now tragically come to an end.

SAT, JAN 20 • 7:30PM
 \$30-105



JULIAN LAGE QUARTET JIM HALL TRIBUTE
 W/ JOE LOVANO, SCOTT COLLEY & JOEY BARON

Lage's final night of residency is a celebration of his mentor, the late guitar legend Jim Hall, featuring an all-star quartet of jazz giants with deep ties to the 2004 NEA Jazz Master who passed away in 2013.

SUN, JAN 21 • 7PM
 \$25-95

STRINGS
RUBIN KODHELI
 THU, JAN 25 • 7&8:30

PAOLO ANGELI
 FRI, JAN 26 • 7&8:30

ZACH BROCK
 SAT, JAN 27 • 7&8:30

KURT RIBAK: JAZZ & COUNTRY
 SUN, JAN 28 • 6&7:30

JOE HENDERSON LAB
 ▶ SEE PAGE 50

SFJAZZ

RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Resident Artistic Director

KENNY BARRON

2|1-4



SFJAZZ

RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Resident Artistic Director

HOWARD WILEY

2|3-4 & 3|23



Photo Credit: Susan Mah

“THE PINNACLE OF THE JAZZ-PIANO TRADITION”

- ROLLING STONE

A 2010 NEA Jazz Master and eleven-time GRAMMY nominee, Barron has helped define and extend the jazz piano tradition since the 1960s. He brings a wide range of current projects, from his working trio to the music of Brazil and more.



KENNY BARRON TRIO

W/ KIYOSHI KITAGAWA & JOHNATHAN BLAKE

Starting his week, Barron performs with his GRAMMY-nominated working trio. Kitagawa's 27-year association with Barron and Blake's nearly twenty-year tenure have made them the finest working piano trio in jazz.

THU, FEB 1 • 7:30PM

\$30-105



KENNY BARRON QUINTET

W/ DAYNA STEPHENS, MIKE RODRIGUEZ, KIYOSHI KITAGAWA, & JOHNATHAN BLAKE

Barron expands his working trio to a quintet with SFJAZZ Collective trumpeter Mike Rodriguez and Bay Area-raised saxophonist Dayna Stephens, as heard on the 2018 Blue Note album *Concentric Circles*.

FRI, FEB 2 • 7:30PM

\$30-105
FRIDAYS LIVE (🎧)



KENNY BARRON: BRAZILIAN EXPLORATIONS

W/ ANNE DRUMMOND, NIKARA WARREN, JOHN PATITUCCI, RAFAEL BARATA & VALTINHO ANASTACIO

Barron presents the Bay Area premiere of a new sextet project embracing the music of Brazil and beyond, featuring a cast of Brazilian and American musicians.

SAT, FEB 3 • 7:30PM

\$35-110



KENNY BARRON: FREELY IMPROVISED MUSIC

W/ JEN SHYU, KALIA VANDEVER, JOHN PATITUCCI & LESLEY MOK

Barron's week closes with an evening of improvised music featuring a lineup of adventurous artists including vocalist Jen Shyu, and bass great John Patitucci.

SUN, FEB 4 • 2PM

\$30-95 MEMBERS SAVE 25%

“THE MOST PRODIGIOUS BAY AREA SAXOPHONIST OF HIS GENERATION”

- BERKELEYSIDE

Having been mentored by Bay Area great Jules Broussard, Howard Wiley is a Berkeley-born saxophonist and composer, well known as both a bandleader and collaborator. He brings two diverse programs to both the Joe Henderson Lab and the Miner Auditorium.



HOWARD WILEY: SATURDAY NIGHT TO SUNDAY MORNING

W/ WYCLIFFE GORDON, DAMIEN SNEED & DARRELL GREEN

Exploring the dichotomous connection between cutting loose on Saturday night and the repentance of Sunday morning, saxophonist and Resident Artistic Director Howard Wiley performs a program that will alternately get you out of your seat and help cleanse your soul. Wiley is joined by an all-star band including trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, organist Damien Sneed, and drummer Darrell Green.

SAT, FEB 3 • 7&8:30PM

\$25-30 JHL DANCE FLOOR

SUN, FEB 4 • 6&7:30PM

\$25-30 JHL DANCE FLOOR



HOWARD WILEY: CALIFORNIA LOVE

W/ JUBU SMITH, LJ HOLOMAN, ERIC SMITH, DANTE ROBERSON & SPECIAL GUESTS

Howard Wiley's Miner performance is a celebration of the vast and influential music culture of California, infused with soul-jazz, funk, gospel, and R&B steeped in West Coast flavor. Combining Wiley's hard-driving originals with a funkified selection of West Coast classics, this is an evening of stirring uplift and nonstop party vibes. Wiley is joined by a cadre of groovemasters including guitarist Jubu Smith, organist Lionel "LJ" Holoman, bassist Eric Smith, drummer Dante Roberson, and very Special Guests including Martin Luther McCoy and Kev Choice.

SAT, MAR 23 • 7:30PM

\$25-65 MEMBERS SAVE 25%
FRIDAYS LIVE (🎧)

LISTENING PARTY WITH
KENNY BARRON
WED, JAN 31 • 7:30PM
\$15 PUBLIC | FREE FOR MEMBERS

PUREST FORM

JAMES FRANCIES TRIO

THU, FEB 1 • 7&8:30

FRI, FEB 2 • 7&8:30

HOMeward BOUND

JOHNATHAN BLAKE'S PENTAD

THU, FEB 8 • 7&8:30

FRI, FEB 9 • 7&8:30

SAT, FEB 10 • 7&8:30

SUN, FEB 11 • 6&7:30

JOE HENDERSON LAB

SEE PAGE 50



Valentine's Day Concert

**NO ORDINARY LOVE:
TRIBUTE TO SADE
W/ MARTIN LUTHER THE REAL MCCOY**

2|14

Cherished Bay Area vocalist and SFJAZZ Collective alumnus Martin Luther McCoy brings a romantic tribute to the iconic Nigerian/British soul queen Sade with this Valentine's Day performance. Rising to international attention for his work with The Roots, Cody ChesnuTT, Dave Matthews, Jill Scott, DJ Jazzy Jeff and Zion I, McCoy dives into Sade's seductive songbook, performing gems like "No Ordinary Love" and "Sweetest Taboo."

WED, FEB 14 • 7:30PM
\$30-105



Iconic Cuban Ensemble

CHUCHO VALDÉS & IRAKERE 50

2|15-18

The most influential figure in modern Afro-Cuban jazz for more than half a century, virtuoso pianist, composer and four-time GRAMMY winner Valdés returns with Irakere 50, the new iteration of the legendary band that changed the course of Latin music in the 1970s and '80s. He was already recognized as the most formidable pianist of his generation when he launched Irakere in 1973 with a phenomenal cast that included saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera and trumpeter Arturo Sandoval. Introduced internationally by Dizzy Gillespie, the band's unprecedented synthesis of folkloric Afro-Cuban rhythms, rock, funk, R&B, and jazz opened up vast new frontiers and helped pave the way for the pervasively popular dance music known as timba.

**"A PIANIST OF IMPERIAL
COMMAND, POSSESSED
OF A DAZZLING,
DECEPTIVELY CASUAL
VIRTUOSITY"**

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

THU-FRI, FEB 15-16 • 7:30PM
\$40-115 DANCE FLOOR
FRIDAYS LIVE (↔)

SAT, FEB 17 • 7:30PM
\$45-125 DANCE FLOOR

SUN, FEB 18 • 7PM
\$40-115 DANCE FLOOR



Soul-Jazz

KANDACE SPRINGS

2|22

"A bewitching amalgam of Dusty Springfield's caliginous soulfulness and Nancy Wilson's sensual sophistication with distinct shades of Michael Jackson" (*JazzTimes*), the stunning soul jazz singer Kandace Springs presents music from her latest release, *Run Your Race: Songs For My Father*, a moving tribute to her dad, legendary Nashville singer "Scat" Springs. This is her first album of all original material, much of which was written over the last 15 years with many influences from her father. Also featured on the record is flutist Elena Pinderhughes, a Bay Area native currently touring with Herbie Hancock. Kandace will be joined in concert by master drummer Camille Gainer Jones and Oakland-born bassist Aneesa Strings, a former SFJAZZ High School All-Star known for her work with Jose James.

THU, FEB 22 • 7:30PM
\$30-85



NEA Jazz Master

**DIANNE
REEVES**

2|23-25

2018 NEA Jazz Master **Dianne Reeves** is jazz's greatest living vocalist — an artist who embodies the music's enduring values of elegance and improvisational poise. With a string of GRAMMYS, including an unprecedented three consecutive Best Jazz Vocal Performance awards and another for her contributions to George Clooney's film *Good Night and Good Luck*, she's a performer with a gift for imbuing any performance space with the intimacy of a living room. Her GRAMMY-winning Concord debut, *Beautiful Life*, melds jazz with R&B, pop, and Latin music.

**"THE MOST ADMIRED JAZZ
DIVA SINCE THE HEYDAY
OF SARAH VAUGHAN,
ELLA FITZGERALD AND
BILLIE HOLIDAY"**

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRI, FEB 23 • 7:30PM
\$50-135 **FRIDAYS LIVE (↔)**

SAT, FEB 24 • 7:30PM
\$50-135

SUN, FEB 25 • 7PM
\$40-120



An Evening With
BRANFORD MARSALIS
 2|29-3|3

NEA Jazz Master and three-time GRAMMY winning saxophonist and composer **Branford Marsalis** returns with his superlative quartet featuring pianist **Joey Calderazzo**, bassist **Eric Revis**, and drummer **Justin Faulkner**, performing music from across his expansive career and his latest Marsalis Music quartet album, *The Secret between the Shadow and the Soul*.

As the eldest musical sibling in jazz's most famous contemporary clan, Marsalis has built an illustrious career as a performer, educator, composer, label owner, and bandleader with over 30 albums to his name. Beyond jazz, Branford has worked extensively in classical and pop settings from the New York Philharmonic to tours with Sting and the Grateful Dead. His work on Broadway has garnered a Drama Desk Award and Tony nominations and his screen credits include original music composed for EMMY nominated *Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre* and the Oscar-winning 2020 film *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

THU, FEB 29 • 7:30PM	FRI, MAR 1 • 7:30PM	SAT, MAR 2 • 7:30PM	SUN, MAR 3 • 7PM
\$50-130	\$50-130	\$60-140	\$50-130

“MARSALIS STANDS AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPOSING TENOR AND SOPRANO SAXOPHONISTS IN JAZZ TODAY, THE COMPREHENSIVE NATURE OF HIS VIRTUOSITY MATCHED BY THE SUBSTANTIVE QUALITY OF HIS TUNES.”

- CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NOISE POP @ SFJAZZ
 FEB 29-MARCH 3 | TO BE ANNOUNCED IN NOV 2023



SFJAZZ
 RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Resident Artistic Director
BRANDEE YOUNGER
 3|6-10

“A STRIKINGLY GIFTED PERFORMER”
 - ALL MUSIC GUIDE

Carrying on and expanding the tradition of pioneering jazz harpists Dorothy Ashby and Alice Coltrane, the acclaimed harpist and composer Brandee Younger honors their visionary work with her four nights as Resident Artistic Director.



BRANDEE YOUNGER: BRAND NEW LIFE
 W/ RASHAAN CARTER, MAKAYA MCCRAVEN, STRING ENSEMBLE & SPECIAL GUESTS
 Younger begins her week with two nights devoted to her 2023 Impulse! album *Brand New Life*, a shimmering collection of works written by or performed by one of her great influences, the late jazz harp pioneer Dorothy Ashby, along with original compositions dedicated to Ashby's enduring legacy. Younger is joined for these dates by her working trio of bassist Rashaan Carter and drumming phenom Makaya McCraven along with a string section and Special Guests to be named soon.

LISTENING PARTY WITH BRANDEE YOUNGER
 WED, MAR 6 • 7:30PM
 \$15 PUBLIC | FREE FOR MEMBERS

THU, MAR 7 • 7:30PM	FRI, MAR 8 • 7:30PM	SAT, MAR 9 • 7:30PM	SUN, MAR 10 • 2PM
\$25-85	\$25-85 MEMBERS SAVE 25% FRIDAYS LIVE (••)	\$30-95	\$25-85



BRANDEE YOUNGER: ALICE COLTRANE TRIBUTE
 W/ RASHAAN CARTER, MAKAYA MCCRAVEN, STRINGS & SPECIAL GUESTS
 For her final two nights of residency, Younger honors the life and music of the late harpist and jazz legend Alice Coltrane with her working trio, strings, and Special Guests. An artist chosen by Coltrane's son Ravi to perform at a series of concerts in her honor as well as her memorial in 2007, Younger carries on the adventurous spirit of her greatest influence, infusing her compositions with a 21st century vibrancy and a fearless drive for experimentation.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

LISA HILTON QUARTET
 THU, MAR 7 • 7&8:30

CAROLINE DAVIS' ALULA
 FRI, MAR 8 • 7&8:30

KATIE THIROUX: MOTHERS OF THE MUSIC
 SAT, MAR 9 • 7&8:30

PAMELA ROSE: BLUES IS A WOMAN
 SUN, MAR 10 • 6&7:30

JOE HENDERSON LAB
 ▶ SEE PAGE 51



Bass Icon

MARCUS MILLER

3|14-17

Among the greatest electric bassists in the history of the instrument, Marcus Miller is a jazz renaissance man. A two-time GRAMMY-winning producer, arranger, keyboardist, bass clarinetist, and film composer, he was instrumental to Miles Davis' resurgence in the 1980s and a collaborator with everyone from Dizzy Gillespie, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, and McCoy Tyner to Paul Simon, Aretha Franklin, and Luther Vandross. He returns to the Miner stage for the first time in nearly five years with his superb band, performing music from across his staggering career including material from his GRAMMY-nominated 2018 Blue Note album, *Laid Black*.

“MARCUS WAS THE BEST BASS PLAYER I HAD IN A LONG, LONG TIME.”

- MILES DAVIS

THU-FRI, MAR 14-15 • 7:30PM

\$30-105 FRIDAYS LIVE (☺)

SAT, MAR 16 • 7:30PM

\$40-115

SUN, MAR 17 • 7PM

\$30-105

SUN, MAR 24 • 7PM

\$30-85 DANCE FLOOR



Celebration of Holi

RED BARAAT: FESTIVAL OF COLORS

3|24

“New-breed marching-band music that’s part Punjabi wedding, part New Orleans second line, and all New York.” (*Boston Globe*). Led by percussionist Sunny Jain, the Brooklyn octet whips up a raucous mix of Indian bhangra rhythms, go-go music, jazz, hip-hop and Crescent City funk, and returns with their jubilant show “Festival of Colors”, celebrating the Hindu holiday of Holi that marks the victory of good over evil, and the arrival of spring.

SFJAZZ

RESIDENT
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

Resident Artistic Director

RAVI COLTRANE

3|28-31



**“EMBRACING JAZZ’S PAST
ONLY AS A MEANS TO
COMMUNICATE HIS OWN
MODERN-DAY VOICE.”**

- OKAYPLAYER

An artist occupying a singular space in modern jazz, Ravi Coltrane has established a sound and concepts that stand undeniably on his own, extending far beyond the weight of his iconic name. His week brings a diverse array of projects.



RAVI COLTRANE ELECTRIC TRIO & COLTRAXX

Coltrane presents a pair of cutting-edge bands — his electric trio with keyboardist Gadi Lehavi and drummer Elé Howell, and his acoustic quartet Coltraxx featuring pianist David Virelles, bassist Dezron Douglas, and drummer Johnathan Blake.

THU, MAR 28 • 7:30PM

\$40-115 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



RAVI COLTRANE: PHAROAH SANDERS TRIBUTE W/ JOE LOVANO, TOMOKI SANDERS, DAVID VIRELLES, DEZRON DOUGLAS, & JOHNATHAN BLAKE

Coltrane’s powerful acoustic quartet honors the life and legacy of the saxophonist’s lifelong friend and mentor Pharoah Sanders, joined by special guests Joe Lovano and Pharoah’s son Tomoki Sanders.

FRI, MAR 29 • 7:30PM

\$40-115 MEMBERS ONLY
FRIDAYS LIVE (☺)



RAVI COLTRANE: COSMIC MUSIC W/ SPECIAL GUESTS FEATURING THE MUSIC OF JOHN & ALICE COLTRANE

For this exclusive evening, Ravi Coltrane explores the music of his legendary parents John and Alice Coltrane joined by special guests to be announced soon, bringing his unique approach to these iconic compositions. “These performances are a serious re-examination of the singular work of both his parents, furthering his family legacy by “embracing jazz’s past only as a means to communicate his own modern-day voice.” (*Okayplayer*)

SAT, MAR 30 • 7:30PM

\$50-125

SUN, MAR 31 • 3PM

\$40-115

JOE HENDERSON LAB

▶ SEE PAGE 51

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

HOTPLATE: CHRISTINA GALISATUS
PLAYS JONI MITCHELL’S *COURT & SPARK*
THU, MAR 21 • 7&8:30

JACQUI NAYLOR
FRI, MAR 22 • 7&8:30

SAT, MAR 23 • 7&8:30

SUN, MAR 24 • 6&7:30

CONNECTIONS

**NATALIE CRESSMAN
& IAN FAQUINI**
THU, MAR 28 • 7&8:30

RODRIGUEZ BROTHERS
FRI, MAR 29 • 7&8:30

ETHAN IVERSON TRIO
SAT, MAR 30 • 7&8:30

SUN, MAR 31 • 6&7:30

JOE HENDERSON LAB

▶ SEE PAGE 52



SFJAZZ & Opera Parallèle Present

BIRDS & BALLS

4|5-7

Opera Parallèle brings together two seemingly disparate, but perfectly paired operas to create an innovative double bill exploring the nature of competition and the human desire to win, all through a comedic lens. *Birds & Balls* combines David T. Little and Royce Vavrek's bittersweet comic opera *Vinkensport*, or *The Finch Opera*, inspired by the obscure Flemish folk sport of Finch-Sitting, with *Balls*, a World Premiere by Emmy & GRAMMY winning composer Laura Karpman with a libretto by New York Times writer Gail Collins. *Balls* explores the famed 1973 tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs dubbed "The Battle of the Sexes." Featuring a live tennis match, actual commentary from the 1973 broadcast and key figures such as Larry King, Howard Cosell and even Susan B. Anthony, this new production promises to be a wildly entertaining evening!

FRI, APR 5 • 7:30PM

\$40-185 MEMBERS SAVE 25%

SAT, APR 6 • 2&7:30PM

\$50-205

SUN, APR 7 • 2PM

\$40-185

**"MS. KARPAN'S MUSIC, MELDING
IVESIAN COLLAGE WITH
CLUB-CULTURE REMIXING, MORPHED
FROM ONE VIVID SECTION TO THE
NEXT IN A DREAMLIKE FLOW."**

- THE NEW YORK TIMES



New Album Release

HIROMI'S SONICWONDER

4|11-14

No jazz pianist alive is possessed of more explosive virtuosity or thrilling unpredictability than **Hiromi**, a GRAMMY-winning artist the *All Music Guide* calls "one of the most remarkable pianists of the past half century." This season, she brings the Bay Area premiere of her groove-heavy new *Sonicwonder* quartet, featuring trumpeter **Adam O'Farrill**, bassist **Hadrien Feraud**, and drummer **Gene Coye**, celebrating the release of her new album.

The Hamamatsu, Japan, native was mentored by Chick Corea and Ahmad Jamal, signing her first record deal before graduating from Boston's Berklee College of Music. Blending a foundation in classical repertoire with a deep feeling for the jazz tradition, she's collaborated with Corea and Stanley Clarke and has led over a dozen albums. This new band will take Hiromi's boundless imagination and joyous expressiveness into new territories of exploration.

**"ONE OF JAZZ PIANO'S MOST
BRAZENLY VIRTUOSIC PLAYERS."**

- JAZZTIMES

THU, APR 11 • 7:30PM

\$30-90

FRI, APR 12 • 7:30PM

\$30-90
FRIDAYS LIVE (☺)

SAT, APR 13 • 7:30PM

\$40-115

SUN, APR 14 • 7PM

\$30-90 MEMBERS SAVE 25%

JOE HENDERSON LAB

▶ SEE PAGE 52

JOE HENDERSON FESTIVAL

HOTPLATE: RANZEL MERRITT

PLAYS JOE HENDERSON'S *INNER URGE*
THU, APR 18 • 7&8:30

RJAM SIDE-BY-SIDE:

JOE HENDERSON TRIBUTE
FRI, APR 19 • 7&8:30

LORI BELL QUARTET

PLAYS JOE HENDERSON
SAT, APR 20 • 7&8:30

MICHAEL ZILBER

PLAYS MUSIC OF JOE HENDERSON
SUN, APR 21 • 6&7:30

SOUTH AFRICA FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION

DEREK GRIPPER

THU, APR 25 • 7&8:30

TUMI MOGOROSI

FRI, APR 26 • 7&8:30

MELANIE SCHOLTZ & AARON RIMBUI

ENSEMBLE: MIRIAM MAKEBA TRIBUTE
SAT, APR 27 • 7&8:30

MCCOY MRUBATA

SUN, APR 28 • 6&7:30

JOE HENDERSON LAB

▶ SEE PAGE 52



Guitar Giant
JOHN SCOFIELD
 4 | 25-28

In an extraordinary five-decade career marked by stylistic zigs and zags, the guitar giant and 3-time GRAMMY-winner has collaborated on era-defining recordings by Charles Mingus and Miles Davis and released over four-dozen albums.

“A MODERN-JAZZ AVATAR OF THE ELECTRIC GUITAR”
 - THE NEW YORKER



JOHN SCOFIELD TRIO
 FEATURING VICENTE ARCHER AND NASHEET WAITS
 The latest version of Scofield’s supercharged trio makes its SFJAZZ debut featuring bassist Vicente Archer, a veteran of work with Robert Glasper, Nicholas Payton, and Scofield’s own Combo ’66 project, along with new collaborator Nasheet Waits, a master drummer known far and wide as part of piano great Jason Moran’s GRAMMY-winning Bandwagon trio and bass king Christian McBride’s New Jawn.

THU, APR 25 • 7:30PM
\$30-105

FRI, APR 26 • 7:30PM
\$30-105 FRIDAYS LIVE (☺)

SAT, APR 27 • 7&9:30PM
\$45-105 DANCE FLOOR

SUN, APR 28 • 7PM
\$45-105 DANCE FLOOR



LETTUCE W/ SPECIAL GUEST JOHN SCOFIELD
 The long-running relationship between guitar icon **John Scofield** and the all-star jam band **Lettuce** is built on a deep and abiding love of funk, forged when Scofield appeared on the band’s 2002 debut *Outta Here* and cemented by drummer Adam Deitch supplying his bone-deep grooves to Scofield’s *Überjam* and *Up All Night*. They reunite for these two nights during Scofield’s week in a welcome reprise of the scorching performances from the 2018-19 Season.



GRAMMY-Winning Singer
SAMARA JOY
 5 | 16-19

Still in her early 20s, Samara Joy is setting the music world ablaze, and she returns following her triumphant SFJAZZ debut during the 40TH San Francisco Jazz Festival. Joy’s 2022 Verve Records debut *Linger Awhile* earned her two well-deserved GRAMMY wins, for Best Jazz Vocal Album and Best New Artist — the first time a jazz musician has won the prestigious newcomer’s award since Esperanza Spalding over a decade ago. She has introduced legions of fans to the Great American Songbook through her TikTok account and released *Linger Awhile* to rapturous acclaim. It’s not an accident that Joy was signed to Verve Records — the label built specifically around Ella Fitzgerald — since the young singer is clearly on the path to continue the tradition of the First Lady of Song and conquer new worlds along the way.

“THE CLOSE PRECISION AND FROTHY POWER OF HER VOICE STAND OUT IMMEDIATELY, AND SO DOES THE DEPTH OF HER COMFORT WITHIN THE JAZZ TRADITION.”
 - THE NEW YORK TIMES

THU, MAY 16 • 7:30PM
\$40-115

FRI, MAY 17 • 7:30PM
\$40-115 FRIDAYS LIVE (☺)

SAT, MAY 18 • 7:30PM
\$40-125 MEMBERS ONLY

SUN, MAY 19 • 7PM
\$40-115



“ONE OF THE MOST VERSATILE
BASSISTS IN JAZZ.”
- LOS ANGELES TIMES

Legendary Bassist

DAVE HOLLAND

5 | 23-26

Among the most versatile and prolific bassist/composers in jazz history, **Dave Holland** showcases his boundless versatility with four exciting performances in duo, trio, and quartet settings.



DAVE HOLLAND & KRIS DAVIS DUO

Inspired interplay is a given as the bass legend begins his week in an intimate duo performance with the visionary artist Kris Davis, “a gifted pianist exploring the range of her instrument, with no boundaries” (*PopMatters*).

THU, MAY 23 • 7:30PM
\$25-85 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



DAVE HOLLAND NEW QUARTET

W/ KRIS DAVIS, JALEEL SHAW AND NASHEET WAITS
The iconic bassist’s second night features the Bay Area premiere of his new quartet of masters, each an established bandleader and composer, including alto saxophonist Jaleel Shaw, pianist Kris Davis, and drummer Nasheet Waits.

FRI, MAY 24 • 7:30PM
\$30-105



DAVE HOLLAND TRIO

W/ KEVIN EUBANKS & ERIC HARLAND
This all-star trio of jazz heavyweights performs material from Holland’s latest album, 2019’s *Another Land*, featuring the searing, soulful guitar work of Kevin Eubanks along with the percussive fire of rhythmic genius Eric Harland.

SAT, MAY 25 • 7:30PM
\$40-115



CROSSCURRENTS TRIO

W/ DAVE HOLLAND, CHRIS POTTER & ZAKIR HUSSAIN
This historic convergence of instrumental giants returns for Holland’s residency, showcasing the singular telepathy they’ve forged over the last seven years and memorialized on their 2019 Edition Records debut *Good Hope*.

SUN, MAY 26 • 7PM
\$40-115

UPTOWN IN ORBIT
EMMET COHEN TRIO
THU, MAY 23 • 7&8:30

FRI, MAY 24 • 7&8:30

SAT, MAY 25 • 7&8:30

SUN, MAY 26 • 6&7:30

JOE HENDERSON LAB
▶ SEE PAGE 53



Named for the late, legendary saxophonist and San Francisco resident Joe Henderson, who had a long & memorable history with SFJAZZ.

“AS OPEN AS
THE GENRE IT
CELEBRATES.”

-NATE CHINEN
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Veronica Swift, Photo by Richard Gelfand.



Joe Henderson performed over a dozen times at SFJAZZ in various settings, including a 1993 tribute night entitled “We Love Joe.”

The 120-seat Joe Henderson Lab is a flexible and energetic performance space where the audience can get up-close and experience live music from some of the most exciting and cutting-edge artists in an intimate setting. From dance floor shows to seated concerts, the Lab features Bay Area’s best musicians, internationally renowned artists, and today’s rising stars.

Joe Henderson was a major proponent for jazz education during his time in the Bay Area, and therefore the room rightfully is host to many education classes, as well as the rehearsal space for both the award-winning SFJAZZ High School All-Stars and the Monday Night Band community ensemble.

INTIMATE | OPEN | EDUCATIONAL

OPENING WEEK

As part of the SFJAZZ Collective's 20th Anniversary celebration, we open our 2023-24 Season in JHL with an impressive roster of past and present members performing selections from their vast 200+ songbook in solo, duo and trio formats.



20th Anniversary Celebration
SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE: PAST & PRESENT MEMBERS

In celebration of the SFJAZZ Collective's 20th Anniversary, an impressive roster of past and present Collective members reunites to perform in various configurations from solo to trio in an informal, up-close and personal setting in the Joe Henderson Lab. Full lineup and more details to be announced soon. Please stay tuned!

"CONTEMPORARY JAZZ'S PREMIER ALL-STAR BAND"

-THE NEW YORK TIMES

THU, SEP 7 • 7&8:30PM

\$35 MEMBERS ONLY

FRI, SEP 8 • 7&8:30PM

\$30

SAT, SEP 9 • 7&8:30PM

\$35

SUN, SEP 10 • 6&7:30PM

\$30

"AN AUTHENTIC ORGAN TRIO WITH ALL THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF MOUNT EVEREST, AND TWICE THE COOL"

- JAZZTIMES



Master Organ Trio
GOLDINGS, BERNSTEIN, STEWART ORGAN TRIO

"One of current jazz's finest small groups" (*JazzTimes*), the telepathic trio of guitarist **Peter Bernstein**, organist **Larry Goldings**, and drummer **Bill Stewart** is the longest-lived and most virtuosic organ trio in jazz today. Over their three decades as a working band, they have taken the organ trio tradition popularized by Jimmy Smith, Jack McDuff and Larry Young in the 1960s into fresh territory, recording over a dozen masterly albums that combine roiling bebop intensity, gentle ballad work, and knotty fistfuls of funk in equal measure. Their latest release is the 2018 Pirouet album *Toy Tunes*.

THU, SEP 28 • 7&8:30PM

\$30

FRI, SEP 29 • 7&8:30PM

\$40

SAT, SEP 30 • 7&8:30PM

\$40

SUN, OCT 1 • 6&7:30PM

\$30

"THESE GUYS ARE MASTER MUSICIANS, AND THEY PUT EVERYTHING ON DISPLAY"

- JAZZTIMES

Deep Grooves

AMENDOLA VS. BLADES VS. BAPTISTA VS. SKERIK

Berkeley-based drummer, composer and bandleader **Scott Amendola** showcases his longstanding partnership with Hammond B-3 organ star **Wil Blades** for an evening of greasy grooves and head-spinning musical telepathy. *JazzTimes* summed up their 2016 debut *Greatest Hits* by saying "Two people shouldn't be allowed to have this much fun," and the duo's most recent Royal Potato Family album, 2019's *Everybody Wins*, features appearances by maverick saxophonist **Skerik** and Brazilian master percussionist **Cyro Baptista**, who join them on these dates.

THU, SEP 14 • 7&8:30PM

\$30

FRI, SEP 15 • 7&8:30PM

\$30 FRIDAYS LIVE (••)



SAT, SEP 16 • 7&8:30PM

\$35



GUITAR WEEK

The jazz guitar tradition is well represented by this lineup of concerts featuring two generations of master guitarists.



Rising Guitar Great
MOLLY MILLER

One of the most accomplished guitar players in the industry" (*Guitar*) returns with bassist Jennifer Condos and drummer Jay Bellerose, fusing blues, jazz, and rock.

FRI, OCT 6 • 7&8:30PM

\$25



Capturing Spirits
JONATHAN KREISBERG QUARTET

The guitarist returns for his first Bay Area appearance in seven years with music from his career and his most recent release, *Capturing Spirits - JKQ Live!*

SAT, OCT 7 • 7&8:30PM

\$25



Art of the Duo
DAN WILSON & BRUCE FORMAN

The first bandstand summit between veteran master Forman and rising star Wilson promises to be a guitar event for the ages.

SUN, OCT 8 • 6&7:30PM

\$25

JAZZ & ROOTS

The season's first Hotplate kicks off this week featuring stellar pianists and a night celebrating immigrants' contribution to American roots music.



100 GREATEST JAZZ ALBUMS

SMITH DOBSON
PLAYS KEITH JARRETT'S *SHADES*

The multi-instrumentalist and scion of the Bay Area's first family of jazz performs adventurous music from pianist Keith Jarrett's 1976 *Impulse!* release.

THU, SEP 21 • 7&8:30PM

\$20 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Secrets of Inanna
CONNIE HAN

"A crazy-good player," (*DownBeat*), the pianist makes her SFJAZZ debut with her empathic trio and music from her newest Mack Avenue album, *Secrets of Inanna*.

FRI, SEP 22 • 7:30&8:30PM

\$30



Immigrant Soul
AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUARTET

Reclaiming the immigrant soul of American Roots Music, APQ features Ranky Tanky co-founder Clay Ross and singer Falu Shah.

SAT, SEP 23 • 7&8:30PM

\$30



Azerbaijani Composer & Pianist
AMINA FIGAROVA

The Azerbaijan-born Figarova is one of the most celebrated pianists and composers working today. She brings her superb sextet supporting her newest release, *Joy*.

SUN, SEP 24 • 6&7:30PM

\$30

MONK FESTIVAL

Thelonious Monk's 106th birthday celebration includes a pair of superb trios, an evening-length exploration of one composition, and the next generation of jazz greats.



100 GREATEST JAZZ ALBUMS

AARON BENNETT TRIO
PLAYS *THELONIOUS IN ACTION*

The tenor saxophonist and his trio celebrate Thelonious Monk's birthday with music from Monk's 1958 Riverside live album with tenorist Johnny Griffin.

THU, OCT 12 • 7&8:30PM

\$25 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Thelonious Monk Tribute
RJAM SIDE-BY-SIDE

Faculty and students from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Roots, Jazz & American Music (RJAM) program perform in celebration of Monk's birthday.

FRI, OCT 13 • 7&8:30PM

\$10-20



Plays Thelonious Monk
LARRY VUCKOVICH TRIO

A Bay Area jazz fixture for half a century, the pianist performs an evening of Thelonious Monk masterpieces and Great American Songbook standards.

SAT, OCT 14 • 7&8:30PM

\$25



'Round Midnight Reconsidered
JOHN SCHOTT

Visionary guitarist Schott presents his six-hour meditation on Monk's classic *'Round Midnight*. Audiences can come in and out of the performance like a sound exhibition.

SUN, OCT 15 • 2-8PM

\$15 DANCE FLOOR



NEW SOUNDS

New expressions and fresh perspectives are the focus of this week, featuring two exceptional artists who represent the best of the Bay Area and the pulse of London.



New Album Release
ANESA STRINGS

The Oakland-born bassist, singer, and producer makes her long-awaited debut as a leader with this performance to celebrate the release of her new album.

FRI, OCT 27 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



The Pulse of London
THEON CROSS

Over the past decade, tuba player and composer Theon Cross has emerged from London's roiling jazz scene as an unstoppable creative force. Best known as a founding member of saxophonist Shabaka Hutchings' roots-jazz quartet Sons of Kemet, Cross makes his Bay Area debut as a bandleader with a blazing young group straight out of London.

SAT, OCT 28 • 7&8:30PM
\$30-35

SUN, OCT 29 • 6&7:30PM
\$25-30

"VILLELA DOESN'T JUST SING - SHE ACTUALLY DANCES WITH HER VOICE ON TOP OF BRAZILIAN BEATS"
-SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Brazil by the Bay
CLAUDIA VILLELA

"A Brazilian-born genius with a blistering voice" (*JazzTimes*), the dynamic Rio-born artist Claudia Villela has developed a reputation as a singularly unique singer, pianist and composer, lending her five-octave voice to work with jazz luminaries including Kenny Werner, Michael Brecker and Toots Thielemans. Known to SFJAZZ audiences for her intoxicating salutes to composer Antônio Carlos Jobim, vocalist Elis Regina, and the classic Stan Getz/João Gilberto album *Getz/Gilberto*, Villela blends the ever-present samba of her native Brazil with jazz, blues, and songs from around the globe. She performs music from her new release *Cartas ao Vento* and jewels from Egberto Gismonti, Milton Nascimento and Jobim.

THU, NOV 9 • 7&8:30PM
\$30

FRI, NOV 10 • 7&8:30PM
\$35



SAT, NOV 11 • 7&8:30PM
\$35

SUN, NOV 12 • 6&7:30PM
\$30

BOUNDARY PUSHERS

An exciting group of artists perform this week including the most adventurous wind player/composers from the Bay Area and a multifaceted chamber jazz ensemble.



Album Release
STEVEN LUGERNER'S SLUGISH ENSEMBLE

The saxophonist's innovative ensemble blends pop, R&B, jazz, and minimalism. They celebrate the release of their new album *In Solitude*.

THU, NOV 16 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Porch Concert Material
BEN GOLDBERG

The Berkeley-based clarinet genius brings music from his suite *Porch Concert Material* with a quartet including Steve Cardenas, Will Bernard, and Hamir Atwal.

FRI, NOV 17 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Chamber Jazz
THE SUMI TONOOKA TRIO

FEATURING ALCHEMY SOUND PROJECT
Combining elements of jazz, modern chamber music, and international influences, the collective ASP blurs the boundaries between composition and improvisation.

SAT, NOV 18 • 7&8:30PM
\$30



The Crazy Dog
RAFFI GARABEDIAN OCTET

The Berkeley-raised tenor saxophonist presents *The Crazy Dog*, his lustrous song cycle inspired by deep family history and scored for his all-star octet.

SUN, NOV 19 • 6&7:30PM
\$25



SFJAZZ HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Stretching over two weeks in JHL, our holiday concerts include tributes to Christmas albums old and new, swinging holiday jazz, and the seasonal music of Mexico.

SFJAZZ **hotplate**

100 GREATEST JAZZ ALBUMS

JONATHAN DELY
PLAYS WYNTON MARSALIS' CRESCENT CITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Award-winning trumpeter Dely performs a Hotplate for the holidays with timeless music from Wynton Marsalis' 1989 all-star Christmas album.

THU, DEC 14 • 7&8:30PM
\$25

SFJAZZ **hotplate**

100 GREATEST JAZZ ALBUMS

AMELIE ANNA
SINGS AMY WINEHOUSE'S "BACK TO BLACK"

The Austrian-born vocalist and percussionist brings a new dimension to the late singer and songwriter Amy Winehouse's modern classic, *Back to Black*.

THU, JAN 18 • 7&8:30PM
\$25 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Holiday for Drums
MATT WILSON'S CHRISTMAS TREE-O

"An ambassador of good feeling" (*NY Times*), drummer Matt Wilson is one of the most in-demand musicians in jazz. He presents this joyous trio project celebrating the holiday season.

FRI, DEC 8 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Holiday Celebration
TRES SOULS

The Los Angeles ensemble is dedicated to interpreting the classic Mexican bolero and the *trio románticos* tradition. They perform a sublime program of holiday-themed music.

SAT, DEC 9 • 7&8:30PM
\$30



Acclaimed Jazz Vocalist
HALIE LOREN: SEASON OF LIGHT

The award-winning vocalist and trio perform seasonal classics, including songs from her holiday album *Many Times, Many Ways*.

FRI, DEC 15 • 7&8:30PM
\$30



Music of Nat "King" Cole
GEORGE COLE PLAYS THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

A "virtuosic marvel" (*SJ Mercury*), manouche guitarist, vocalist, and Bay Area native George Cole performs the timeless songs from the 1960 holiday classic *The Magic of Christmas* by singer and pianist Nat "King" Cole, accompanied by a superb trio that echoes King Cole's signature piano/guitar/bass format.

SAT, DEC 16 • 7&8:30PM
\$30

SUN, DEC 17 • 6&7:30PM
\$30



UK Jazz Singer & Songwriter
JO HARROP

For the San Francisco stop on first Hampstead Jazz Club Presents American tour, the lauded British vocalist performs material from her latest Lateralize Records release, *The Heart Wants*.

FRI, JAN 19 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Jazz and Soul Vocalist
NICOLAS BEARDE SINGS BURT BACHARACH

"A richly impressive amalgam of Bill Withers and Billy Eckstine" (*JazzTimes*), vocalist Bearde brings his romantic interpretations of the beloved songbook of the late Burt Bacharach, whose seven decades of unforgettable music, from "The Look of Love" to "That's What Friends are For," has become part of the American cultural fabric.

SAT, JAN 20 • 7&8:30PM
\$30

SUN, JAN 21 • 6&7:30PM
\$30

STRINGS

Visionary string players and composers perform, exploring new avenues of expression on violin, cello, bass, and an instrument of the player's creation.



Cello Visionary

RUBIN KODHELI W/ TREVOR DUNN & BRIAN CHASE

The cellist and composer performs in a trio with bassist Trevor Dunn (John Zorn, Mr. Bungle) and drummer Brian Chase (Yeah Yeah Yeahs).

THU, JAN 25 • 7&8:30PM
\$30



Sardinian Guitar Innovator PAOLO ANGELI

The exploratory, innovative Sardinian guitarist and composer performs with his 25-string invented instrument combining elements of guitar, cello and drums.

FRI, JAN 26 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Jazz Violin Virtuoso ZACH BROCK

"One of the notable post-millennial voices in jazz violin" (*All About Jazz*), Brock is best known as a member of Snarky Puppy. He performs with his trio.

SAT, JAN 27 • 7&8:30PM
\$30



Bay Area Bass Great KURT RIBAK: JAZZ & COUNTRY

Berkeley-based bassist and composer Ribak performs a selection of his favorite jazz and country tunes, and music that bridges the two.

SUN, JAN 28 • 6&7:30PM
\$25

VALENTINE'S WEEK

The evenings surrounding Valentine's Day are devoted to romance, and we have a lineup of scintillating vocalists with shows perfect for date night.

SFJAZZ hotplate

100 GREATEST JAZZ ALBUMS

MARINA CROUSE SINGS EYDIE GORME'S AMOR

The fine Bay Area vocalist debuts at SFJAZZ with this tribute to Latin pop legend Eydie Gormé and her 1964 collaboration with Trio Los Panchos, *Amor*.

THU, FEB 15 • 7&8:30PM
\$25 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Other Side DANIELLE WERTZ

"A masterful ballad interpreter" (*NYC Jazz Record*), the sublime vocalist and 2015 Thelonious Monk competition finalist performs music from her newest album, *Other Side*.

FRI, FEB 16 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Swingfully Yours LOSTON HARRIS

For many years a mainstay at New York's cabaret capital, the Carlyle Hotel, singer and pianist Loston Harris and his swing-infused trio present classic love songs from the Great American Songbook, carrying on the tradition of Frank Sinatra, Bobby Short, and Nat "King" Cole.

SAT, FEB 17 • 7&8:30PM
\$35

SUN, FEB 18 • 6&7:30PM
\$30

JAZZ CONTINUUM

A pair of superlative artists in JHL, each advancing the tradition through an aesthetic based in jazz and informed by elements of soul, funk, and hip-hop.



Purest Form

JAMES FRANCIES TRIO

"A pianist with liquid dynamism in his touch" (*NY Times*), the remarkable Houston-born musician and composer is best known to SFJAZZ audiences through his performances with José James and Chris Potter's Circuits Trio. He makes his SFJAZZ debut as a bandleader with these nights, bringing music from his 2023 sophomore Blue Note release *Purest Form*.

THU, FEB 1 • 7&8:30PM
\$30

FRI, FEB 2 • 7&8:30PM
\$30



SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director

HOWARD WILEY: SATURDAY NIGHT TO SUNDAY MORNING W/ WYCLIFFE GORDON, DAMIEN SNEED & DARRELL GREEN

Exploring the dichotomous connection between cutting loose on Saturday night and Sunday morning repentance, the saxophonist performs a program that will get you out of your seat and cleanse your soul.

SAT, FEB 3 • 7&8:30PM
\$25-30 DANCE FLOOR

SUN, FEB 4 • 6&7:30PM
\$25-30 DANCE FLOOR

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

We kick off this month dedicated to women with a lineup of vocalists and instrumentalists that crosses lines of genres, approaches, and generations.



Jazz and Blues Pianist LISA HILTON QUARTET

"An excellent pianist" (*JazzWise*), Hilton and her stellar quartet play music from her *Paradise Cove* album and her forthcoming new release.

THU, MAR 7 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Visionary Saxophonist CAROLINE DAVIS' ALULA

The visionary saxophonist performs with her electro-acoustic band Alula, "her most formally innovative group yet" (*NY Times*).

FRI, MAR 8 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Bassist and Vocalist KATIE THIROUX: MOTHERS OF THE MUSIC

"The skyrocketing young star" (*Boston Globe*) brings her new project inspired by motherhood.

SAT, MAR 9 • 7&8:30PM
\$25



Bay Area Treasure PAMELA ROSE: BLUES IS A WOMAN

The treasured vocalist performs her multimedia showcase of the great women of the blues.

SUN, MAR 10 • 6&7:30PM
\$25

"ONE OF THE MOST CREATIVELY SUPPORTIVE DRUMMERS OF RECENT TIMES"

- THE GUARDIAN

Homeward Bound

JOHNATHAN BLAKE'S PENTAD W/ DAYNA STEPHENS, JALEN BAKER, FABIAN ALMAZAN & DEZRON DOUGLAS

Known worldwide for his 15-year membership in Kenny Barron's working trio and sideman duty with Pharoah Sanders, Chris Potter, and Tom Harrell, among others, one of the most accomplished and in-demand drummers in modern jazz makes his West Coast debut as a leader with these four nights, joined by his quintet Pentad. Made up of some of the greatest young instrumentalists on the scene and anchored by Blake's longtime collaborator Dezron Douglas, the group performs material from Blake's 2021 Blue Note debut *Homeward Bound* and his second Blue Note release entitled *Passage*, arriving summer 2023.

THU, FEB 8 • 7&8:30PM
\$30

FRI, FEB 9 • 7&8:30PM
\$35 FRIDAYS LIVE (🎧)



SAT, FEB 10 • 7&8:30PM
\$35

SUN, FEB 11 • 6&7:30PM
\$30



SFJAZZ hotplate

100 GREATEST JAZZ ALBUMS

CHRISTINA GALISATUS PLAYS JONI MITCHELL'S COURT & SPARK

The talented Los Angeles pianist, singer and songwriter celebrates Joni Mitchell's beloved 1974 folk rock-meets-jazz classic with an excellent band.

THU, MAR 21 • 7&8:30PM
\$25 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Vocalist & Composer JACQUI NAYLOR

Vocalist and composer Jacqui Naylor returns with new music and selections from across her illustrious career, including her upcoming, twelfth album. Naylor is known for her ability to interpret a diverse repertoire with a deeply rich, soulful voice, and unique arrangements. She will be joined by her pianist and musical partner Art Khu, bassist Richie Goods, and drummer Ele Howell.

FRI, MAR 22 • 7&8:30PM
\$25

SAT, MAR 23 • 7&8:30PM
\$30

SUN, MAR 24 • 6&7:30PM
\$25

CONNECTIONS

Musical partnerships are the order of the week, from duo collaboration and family connections to the telepathic communication that defines a great piano trio.



Brazil to the Bay

NATALIE CRESSMAN & IAN FAQUINI

The trombonist and vocalist returns with Brazilian guitarist Faquini, performing music from their forthcoming new album.

THU, MAR 28 • 7&8:30PM

\$25



Family Style

RODRIGUEZ BROTHERS

SFJAZZ Collective trumpeter Mike Rodriguez and his brother, pianist Robert, bring their mix of Afro-Cuban rhythms and modern jazz to this night.

FRI, MAR 29 • 7&8:30PM

\$30



Every Note Is True

ETHAN IVERSON TRIO

"A passionate dynamo at the crossroads of jazz and classical music" (*DownBeat*), pianist and composer Iverson returns for his first SFJAZZ performances in six years. The former member of The Bad Plus, collaborator, and bandleader performs music from across his career and material from his 2022 Blue Note debut *Every Note Is True* with a phenomenal trio.

SAT, MAR 30 • 7&8:30PM

\$30

SUN, MAR 31 • 6&7:30PM

\$30

STEVEN BERNSTEIN

A master of the slide trumpet, Steven Bernstein is a fearless improviser, composer and arranger. He presents two of his most explosive ensembles.



Steven Bernstein Fest

STEVEN BERNSTEIN: SEX MOB

Bernstein's week begins with his long-running band Sex Mob. The quartet has honed a singular high-energy sound over two decades and brings their boisterous deconstructions of tunes by a shaggy menagerie of pop acts, from Abba and James Brown to Prince and Elvis Presley, along with their subversively reimagined film music of Nino Rota and John Barry.

THU, MAY 9 • 7&8:30PM

\$25

FRI, MAY 10 • 7&8:30PM

\$25



Steven Bernstein Fest

STEVEN BERNSTEIN: MTO WEST

"You might imagine yourself in Harlem in 1929," the *Village Voice* says of Bernstein's Millennial Territory Orchestra, a rollicking large ensemble inspired by the pre-Swing Era territory bands that crisscrossed the country in the 1920s and 1930s. His West Coast iteration augments the core Sex mob lineup with a cadre of superlative Bay Area musicians.

SAT, MAY 11 • 7&8:30PM

\$25

SUN, MAY 12 • 6&7:30PM

\$25

JOE HENDERSON FESTIVAL

The music and memory of the late saxophone great is celebrated in the room named for him, featuring established veterans and talented rising artists.



100 GREATEST JAZZ ALBUMS

RANZEL MERRITT PLAYS JOE HENDERSON'S INNER URGE

For this special Joe Henderson Festival Hotplate, saxophonist Ranzel Merritt performs the immortal music from Henderson's 1966 Blue Note album.

THU, APR 18 • 7&8:30PM

\$30 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Joe Henderson Tribute
RJAM SIDE-BY-SIDE

Faculty and students from the SF Conservatory of Music's Roots, Jazz & American Music program perform.

FRI, APR 19 • 7&8:30PM

\$10-20



Plays Joe Henderson
LORI BELL QUARTET

The flutist performs with her quartet featuring pianist Josh Nelson, bassist Jeff Denson, and drummer Gerald Cleaver.

SAT, APR 20 • 7&8:30PM

\$25



Bay Area Tenor Master
MICHAEL ZILBER
PLAYS JOE HENDERSON

The Bay Area saxophone master and his band return to honor the legacy of the late saxophone icon.

SUN, APR 21 • 6&7:30PM

\$25

GENERATIONS

Kicking off with a Hotplate celebration of a 1970s landmark, this week presents multiple generations of artistry spanning jazz, funk, and electronic music.



100 GREATEST JAZZ ALBUMS

N.T.B. (NATURE OF THE BEAST)
PLAYS HERBIE HANCOCK'S
HEAD HUNTERS

The hard-hitting Bay Area-based funk and jazz trio plays the infectiously grooving compositions from Hancock's 1973 fusion landmark.

THU, MAY 16 • 7&8:30PM

\$25 MEMBERS SAVE 25%



Pianist and Flutist
GAEA SCHELL QUARTET

"One of the West Coast's best kept secrets" (*JazzPolice*), the pianist, flutist and vocalist performs with her working quartet.

FRI, MAY 17 • 7&8:30PM

\$25



Living Legend
TODD COCHRAN

The legendary pianist known for his six adventurous albums and collaborations with Bobby Hutcherson and Freddie Hubbard performs.

SAT, MAY 18 • 7&8:30PM

\$30



The New Heritage
TELEMAKUS

The prodigiously talented young Bay Area keyboardist and producer brings a delirious, kinetic artistry to his JHL debut.

SUN, MAY 19 • 6&7:30PM

\$25

SOUTH AFRICAN FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION

An exciting range of South African artists help celebrate the holiday commemorating the country's first post-apartheid free elections in 1994.



South African Guitar Virtuoso
DEREK GRIPPER

"A master musician" (*Rolling Stone*), Ripper performs remarkable originals and transcriptions of Malian Kora music on "... on solo guitar.

THU, APR 25 • 7&8:30PM

\$30



Master Drummer
TUMI MOGOROSI

The powerhouse South African drummer and composer known as part of Shabaka Hutchings' band The Ancestors makes his West Coast debut.

FRI, APR 26 • 7&8:30PM

\$25-30 DANCE FLOOR



South Africa Freedom Day
MELANIE SCHOLTZ & AARON RIMBUI ENSEMBLE:
MIRIAM MAKEBA TRIBUTE

The vocalist and pianist honor the South African singing legend.

SAT, APR 27 • 7&8:30PM

\$30



Johannesburg-based Saxophonist
MCCOY MRUBATA

"A living legend of South African Jazz" (*JazzTimes*), the saxophonist known for his work with Hugh Masekela makes his West Coast debut as a leader.

SUN, APR 28 • 6&7:30PM

\$25

"HIS NIMBLE TOUCH,
MEASURED STRIDE AND WARM
HARMONIC VOCABULARY
INDICATE HE'S ABOVE ANY
CONVOLUTED TECHNICAL
SHOWMANSHIP."

- DOWNBEAT



THU, MAY 23 • 7&8:30PM

\$30

FRI, MAY 24 • 7&8:30PM

\$35

Uptown In Orbit

EMMET COHEN TRIO

Winner of the 2019 American Pianists Award and finalist in the 2011 Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition, the rising young virtuoso is known widely as a member of bass great Christian McBride's Tip City and music director with vocal phenom Veronica Swift along with his stellar work as a bandleader. He's led 10 albums since 2011 including collaboration with Ron Carter, Benny Golson, Tootie Heath, and George Coleman. His JHL engagement includes material from his new project, *Uptown in Orbit*, with his masterful working band.

SAT, MAY 25 • 7&8:30PM

\$35

SUN, MAY 26 • 6&7:30PM

\$30

ABOUT SFJAZZ

Celebrating its 40TH year, SFJAZZ is the largest nonprofit jazz presenter in the world.

From its beginnings in 1983 as a two-day festival under the name Jazz in the City to the historic opening of its 36,000-square-foot, \$64 million SFJAZZ Center in January 2013 and its innovative SFJAZZ *At Home* Digital initiative launch in 2020, SFJAZZ is the largest nonprofit presenter of jazz and related music in the United States, serving over 250,000 people annually through concert presentation and education.



“ONE OF THE FINEST JAZZ INSTITUTIONS!”

– CHRISTIAN McBRIDE

SFJAZZ CENTER

Now entering its 11th year since opening in January 2013, the SFJAZZ Center is located on the corner of Franklin and Fell Streets in the heart of San Francisco’s arts district, and includes two performance spaces, a state-of-the-art video production suite, multiple music practice rooms, a digital lab, and the B-Side restaurant and bar.

ROBERT N. MINER AUDITORIUM

With flexible seating for 350 to 700 people, this venue is a scalable performance space with the acoustic quality of a great concert hall and the relaxed intimacy of a jazz club. Featuring “in the round” seating, the auditorium was designed to allow close proximity to the musicians with superb

sightlines and pristine acoustics tailored perfectly for jazz. The room is also now equipped with a new fully immersive media projection system that has the ability to create expansive visuals throughout the hall that respond to the real-time music that’s happening on stage.

JOE HENDERSON LAB

Named for the late, legendary saxophonist and San Francisco resident who had a long and memorable history with SFJAZZ, the 120-seat Joe Henderson Lab is a flexible and energetic performance space where the audience can get up-close and experience live music from some of the most cutting-edge artists in an intimate setting.

ANNUAL SEASON

Over 350 concerts from September through May, curated weekly themes featuring musicians from around the world, and exclusive programming by a changing cast of five highly innovative Resident Artistic Directors.

SAN FRANCISCO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Two weeks every June, the festival presents over 40 concerts across multiple venues in the Hayes Valley neighborhood.

SUMMER SESSIONS

From July through August, this six-week concert series celebrates musical traditions across North, Central, and South America.

SFJAZZ AT HOME

From jazz’s premier concert hall to your living room, SFJAZZ *At Home* brings you new discoveries from the greatest jazz artists every week on our Fridays Live broadcast series. Join the live chat to commune with fellow music lovers from around the world, and directly support the artists onstage through the 50/50 Fund. Membership also includes the monthly online SFJAZZ Magazine *On The Corner* (exclusive articles, artist interviews and artist-curated playlists), online access to SFJAZZ Listening Parties, insights from the SFJAZZ Collective, & more!

LISTENING PARTIES

Step into the SFJAZZ “living room” and hear artists and tastemakers spinning their favorite recordings while in conversation with the SFJAZZ Executive Artistic Director.

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE

Celebrating their 20TH year, the all-star ensemble is composed of some of the most creative and acclaimed improvisers, composers and bandleaders in jazz. The group salutes music’s greatest composers, premieres new music, and tours internationally every year. Over the past two decades, the SFJAZZ Collective has written and recorded 115 new arrangements and 109 original compositions.

EDUCATION

Serving more than 23,000 public school students across the Bay Area through dynamic programs in the concert hall, classroom, and community.

“THAT HALL...IT’S A JEWEL. IT’S A MONUMENTAL TRIBUTE TO THE POWER OF THIS MUSIC.”

– AHMAD JAMAL

SFJAZZ HOTPLATE SERIES

A monthly concert event in the Joe Henderson Lab honors the greatest 100 albums in jazz history with tribute performances by the best Bay Area musicians and SFJAZZ High School All-Star alumni.

SFJAZZ MEMBERS

Helping to make all of this possible is a dynamic community of over 16,000 SFJAZZ Members and SFJAZZ *At Home* Members. Learn more about how you can join SFJAZZ on the next page.

MEMBERSHIP

Enjoy a full year of savings, community, and celebration.

Members are the cornerstone of everything we do, allowing us to feature today's most innovative and influential musicians and inspire thousands of students across the Bay Area.

Your membership is a tax-deductible donation that supports all of SFJAZZ's artistic and educational programs.

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— JANE A. COOK
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Wiley continues the party in Miner Auditorium with a show called “California Love.” Again, he plans to bring “the fun element” back to the music. “I think we kind of took that out of jazz. People forget that you used to see Dick Gregory with Miles Davis. I like to bring that show element, that soul element. I play for the people.” He mentions a friend who recently attended one of his shows: “She told me, ‘I see what you’re doing. You’ve got these people dancing while you play something by Coltrane.’” Leading his working group (organist LJ Holoman, bassist Eric Smith, drummer Dante Roberson) with guitarist/singer Jubu Smith and Special Guests, Wiley promises “an uplifting musical conversation. Remember those days when you could just fall into a jazz club and you’d know it was going to be good because it was *jazz*? That’s what I’m talking about.”

Brandee Younger

(March 7-10, Miner Auditorium)

The harpist describes her music as “a merger of worlds. I don’t keep it genre specific; I mix it all together.”



She has jazz chops and classical flair. She also loves “straight-up R&B. And I’m a New Yorker, so I’m a hip-hop baby.” You hear all of it merging on her new album, *Brand New Life*. It’s elegant, soulful, and, even during its most grooving moments, suffused by a certain serenity. Credit the “spiritual element” of the harp, she says, which “sonically hits you in a way that other instruments don’t and kind of can’t.”

Produced by Makaya McCraven — the drummer in her rock-solid trio, which also features bassist Rashaan Carter — the album is a tribute to harpist Dorothy Ashby, a bebopper who explored R&B and world music. Ashby performed with Minnie Ripperton and Stevie Wonder, as well as with Freddie Hubbard and Stanley Turrentine — she merged worlds. Most of the tracks on *Brand New Life* were

composed or performed by Ashby, an important model for Younger, who says, “she paved the way.”

Younger devotes her first two nights at SFJAZZ to reimagining the album with her trio, a string ensemble, and surprise guests. The album features several Ashby devotees, including Meshell Ndegeocello and rapper Pete Rock, whose sampling of Ashby’s “Come Live with Me” on “For Pete’s Sake” in 1992 was Younger’s first exposure to Dorothy Ashby’s world.

Alice Coltrane was a world unto herself. Her collaborators were also wide-ranging, including jazz luminaries like Pharoah Sanders and her husband John, but also Carlos Santana and the Rascals. The final two shows of Younger’s residency will explore Coltrane’s rapturous compositions, again with the trio — and the strings “which open up the music in a whole different way.”

Ashby and Coltrane didn’t receive their due while alive — the plight of so many Black women instrumentalists of past generations. Younger is proud to stand in their lineage while conjuring her own sound, her own manner of merging worlds. Her music, she says, “is very me.”

Ravi Coltrane

(March 28-31, Miner Auditorium)

When the saxophonist moved to New York in 1991, he was mentored by legendary jazz elders, including drummers Elvin Jones and Rashied Ali, who had performed with his father, John. Now, at age 57, Coltrane finds himself in the role of mentor to a new generation of players.

“We turn around — my own generation — and suddenly we’re in our 50s and 60s, and there are young players who are looking up to us. You can impart a lot to them, but you can receive a lot as well — the raw newness and the energy, the wide-eyed excitement that they feel every time they’re on stage.”

He’s talking, specifically, about his new electric trio, which performs on *Night One*. It includes Gadi Lehavi, an Israeli-born virtuoso who plays Fender Rhodes and keyboard bass, and Ele Howell, a Bay Area native who is a kind of controlled tornado at the drum kit. “Everywhere we play, people go into shock when they hear him,” Coltrane says. “There are two questions: Where did you find this drummer, and can I have his phone number?”

The electric band — in which Coltrane applies electronic effects to his saxophone — is part of an opening night double bill. It will be followed by the Coltraxx Quartet, his fiery working band of the past 10 years with pianist David Virelles, bassist Dezron Douglas, and drummer Johnathan Blake. “We’re like brothers in arms. They’re the best of the best.”

Night Two is a tribute to master saxophonist Pharoah Sanders, one of John Coltrane’s key collaborators in the 1960s, and another of Ravi Coltrane’s mentors. Last fall, Coltrane — in Los Angeles for a concert — learned that Sanders was ailing and in the hospital there. “This was on Sept. 23, my father’s birthday, so all of it felt interconnected. I saw Pharoah that day and he passed some time after midnight.”

At SFJAZZ, Ravi leads a three-tenor tribute, featuring the great Joe Lovano and Sander’s son Tomoki Sanders, who “brings a lot of soul and passion to his work, a fantastic saxophonist,” Coltrane says.



The final two shows of the residency pay tribute to Ravi’s parents, John and Alice Coltrane. “Cosmic Music,” as the program is titled, will feature their compositions and special guests. (Watch for the upcoming announcement.) “It’s hard for me not to honor them,” he says. “I think every time I’m onstage, it’s kind of close to the surface, not only my connection to them, but my love and gratitude for them.” ■

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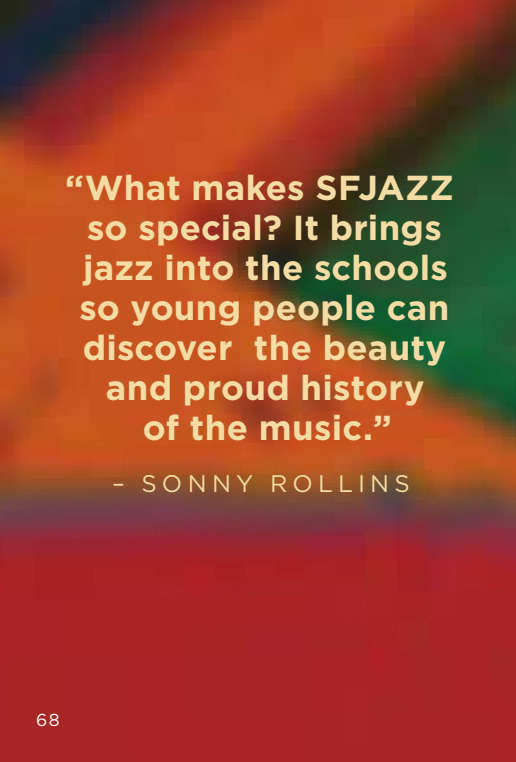
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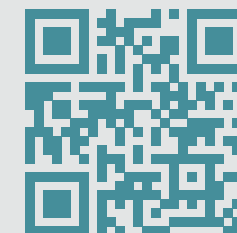
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