

PENN LIVE ARTS
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



JOEL ROSS & GABRIELLE GARO

VIBRAPHONE Joel Ross

FLUTE Gabrielle Garo

FRIDAY, APRIL 8 @ 7:30 PM

Livestream/Harold Prince Theatre

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Joel Ross

For the past several years, Joel Ross has been refining an expression that's true to his sound and his generation. In 2019, the vibraphonist-composer released his anticipated Blue Note debut, *KingMaker*, to eruptive critical acclaim. He's topped the *DownBeat* Critics Poll Rising Star category for vibraphone, and in 2017, he became one of the youngest artists to receive a coveted Residency Commission from The Jazz Gallery. With the release of *Who Are You?* (Blue Note, 2020), Ross shares the culmination of a year-long exercise in experimenting and risk-taking on and off the bandstand.

Inspired by mentor Stefon Harris' empathetic, whole-self approach to articulation, Ross has adopted an entire ethos dependent on truthful, ongoing communication. Honesty persists throughout his sets. And with each release, he reaffirms a commitment to authentic discourse, particularly among the members of his band, Good Vibes: Jeremy Corren, Immanuel Wilkins, Kanoa Mendenhall and Jeremy Dutton.

A steadfast improviser, Ross saturates live sets with a lyrical intuition that's equally grounded in melody and phrasing. He plays the moment. Rather than impose energies on the music, he allows moods to set, linger and transform. In recent years, he's engaged established artists of similarly tenacious voices, including Makaya McCraven (*Universal Beings*, 2018), Maria Grand, Kassa Overall, Nicole Mitchell, Gerald Clayton, Melissa Aldana (*Visions*, 2019), Walter Smith III (*In Common*, 2018), Georgia Anne Muldrow, Jure Pukl (*Broken Circles*, 2019), Rajna Swaminathan, Wynton Marsalis & the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Marquis Hill (*Modern Flows Vol. 2*, 2018), who penned liner notes for *Who Are You?*

Playing thoroughly in the broad, resonating tradition of Black music, Ross draws inspiration for his layered expression from vital, intersecting scenes of his native Chicago. Imbibing nuanced traditions from improvised music hubs to the church, he embraced a range of gestural possibilities he'd begin refining in New York. After graduating from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, Ross pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts in jazz studies from The New School in downtown Manhattan.

Now based in Brooklyn, he regularly performs across the country and around the world. As a leader, he's appeared at such storied venues and iconic events as Smalls Jazz Club, Umbria Jazz Festival, The Jazz Gallery, Winter Jazz Fest, Newport Jazz Festival, Dizzy's Club, BRIC Jazz Festival, The Blue Whale, North Sea Jazz Festival, The Brubeck Institute and Kuumbwa Jazz Festival, among others. A highly sought collaborator, he's performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Village Vanguard, SFJAZZ, Duc des Lombards, Ronnie Scotts, Jazz Standard, Red Sea Jazz Festival, Yoshi's Oakland and California Jazz Conservatory.

Folkloric resonance incubates Ross' artistry. Improvising melodies or composing at the piano, he leaves space for a theme to emerge and evolve, always inviting creative response. Nimble, virtuosic lines approximate speech. He often transitions among the roles of storyteller, protagonist and supporting character. His sophomore release for Blue Note, *Who Are You?*, features Good Vibes at their most synchronous.

Gabrielle Garo

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Garo is a multi-instrumentalist playing the flute, piccolo, alto, tenor and soprano saxophone. She is the 2015 International Women in Jazz Youth in Action Winner and was an ambassador for the 2018 Latin Grammy® Awards. At the 2019 Latin Grammy® Awards, she presented with Grammy® Award-winner Ricky Martin. A scholarship recipient of the Latin Grammy® Cultural Foundation and the 2016 J. Marjory Jackson Scholarship, Garo is the winner of various awards, including a solo award in the Jazz at Lincoln Center Essentially Ellington Regional Festival in Greenwich, CT, the A.F.J Leonard Silver Award and the Young Academic Achiever Award. She has been accepted into the National Junior Honor Society and the National Honor Society for Dance Arts, and has participated in the world record-breaking

event for the largest flute ensemble. Garo has opened the 62nd Grammy® Awards with Grammy® Award-winner Lizzo, performed with Chloe X Halle at the 2021 Global Citizen Festival and has been a part of the Grammy® Museum's 2021 Business & Performance Panel for the Grammy® in the Schools Festival. Featured on the Grammy® Award-nominated album *West Side Story Reimagined*, with the Bobby Sanabria Multiverse Big Band, Garo recently performed at Walt Disney Concert Hall with Robert Glasper and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

As a graduate of LaGuardia High School, Garo is honored to have studied with Najee, Nestor Torres, Kent Jordan, Yosvany Terry, Jeff Lederer, Ted Nash, Keith Underwood, Keith Loftis and Lorna Myers (soloist at the Metropolitan Opera). She has joined the Christian McBride Big Band on its first European tour and has also performed with music greats such as Bobby Sanabria and his Multiverse Big Band, Eddie Palmieri, Larry Harlow, Esperanza Spalding, Arturo Sandoval, Candido Camero, Phoenix Rivera, Arturo O'Farrill and his Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, Rome Neal, Kermit Ruffins, Ray Vega, Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra, Papo Vázquez, Alex Diaz and James Galway, just to name a few.

Gracing the stage at the Apollo and having conducted an interview with Paquito D'Rivera through Jazz at Lincoln Center, Garo has recorded a 2021 NBA commercial, recorded with Jon Batiste, and performed for T.I. as a requested backdrop in promotion for his album and movie release. She has appeared on CBS, Brooklyn 45 TV, CBS' *Live from the Couch*, and has been featured in season two of Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have It*, as well as the 2018 South Florida Dominican Jazz Festival with Rafelito Mirabal and Paquito D'Rivera.

Garo has performed in many music festivals and venues around the globe, including the Bern Jazz Festival in Switzerland, NJPAC, the Kennedy Center, the South Florida Dominican Jazz Festival 2015, Minton's, Symphony Space for "A Night of Afro-Dominican Jazz" honoring Mario Rivera, Birdland, SOB's, the Copacabana Nightclub, the Allen/Appel Room at Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Steinway Hall, the Jazz Loft Party, the Litchfield Jazz Festival and more.

Garo is a graduate of The New School, obtaining her undergraduate degree in jazz performance performance ('19) and master's degree in arts management and entrepreneurship ('20).

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UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

APR

21 Lila Downs

MAY

1 Kalabanté: *Afrique en Cirque*
The Amazing Max

5-7 Mark Morris Dance Group: *Pepperland*

19 Pasquale Grasso & Ari Roland

JUN

2-4 MOMIX: *Alice*



Robert Torres

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