



# JOSHUA REDMAN GROUP

## FEATURING GABRIELLE CAVASSA

*where are we*

**SAXOPHONE** Joshua Redman

**VOCALS** Gabrielle Cavassa

**PIANO** Paul Cornish

**BASS** Philip Norris

**DRUMS** Nazir Ebo

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Zellerbach Theatre

Saturday, October 5 @ 8 PM

There will be no intermission.



Media support for this performance provided by WRTI 90.1 fm.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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### **Joshua Redman** (Saxophone)

Redman is one of the most acclaimed and respected jazz artists to have emerged in our generation.

With a career spanning over thirty years, it is hard to imagine a year of firsts for a musician as prolific as Redman. And yet, 2023 proved to be exactly that: launching his debut album, *where are we*, on the venerable Blue Note Records label. This album was planned largely by phone and text – a direct result of the exigencies of the pandemic – and finds Redman recording with a vocalist and writing lyrics for the first time.

Through the lens of geographic location, Redman and his band march across the United States, asking us to take a critical examination of what we find. In this sense, *where are we* is perhaps above all a meditation on the power and importance of place — the unique human beauty created when we locate ourselves in shared physical spaces together with others; the loss, anomie and angst suffered when we divide ourselves unnaturally and unjustly apart.

But a young Redman wasn't destined to be a musician.

In 1991, Redman graduated from Harvard College summa cum laude and had already been accepted by Yale Law School, having deferred entrance for what was only supposed to be one year. Instead, he moved to New York City and immediately found himself immersed in the jazz scene. Five months later, Redman won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Saxophone Competition and began touring and recording with jazz masters such as Jack DeJohnette, Charlie Haden, Elvin Jones, Joe Lovano, Pat Metheny, Paul Motian, Dewey Redman and Clark Terry.

As renowned for his musicianship as he is for his prescient ability to assemble talent, one of Redman's earliest bands, heard on his 1994 album *MoodSwing*, includes musicians who would later become some of the most influential artists of their generation: pianist Brad Mehldau, bassist Christian McBride and drummer Brian Blade. They reunited nearly 30 years later, releasing *RoundAgain* (2020) and *LongGone* (2022) to resounding critical acclaim and sold-out performances worldwide.

He has recorded nearly two dozen albums, but Redman's prodigious talent has taken him beyond the bandstand as well: helming the creation of the SFJAZZ Collective, an ensemble distinguished by a unique emphasis on composition; expanding jazz departments via his appointments as a Visiting Artist at Stanford University and as the Artistic Director of the Roots, Jazz, and American Music program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; and writing music for film. He wrote and performed the music for Louis Malle's final film *Vanya on 42nd Street* and is both seen and heard in the Robert Altman film *Kansas City*.

He has recorded and/or performed with a vast array of luminaries, both in jazz and beyond: Dave Brubeck, Chick Corea, the Dave Matthews Band, Herbie Hancock, Elvin Jones, Quincy Jones, Big Daddy Kane, B.B. King, Yo-Yo Ma, The Rolling Stones, The Roots, McCoy Tyner and Stevie Wonder, to name a few.

Born in Berkeley, California, he is the son of legendary saxophonist Dewey Redman and dancer Renee Shedroff.

**Gabrielle Cavassa** (Vocals)

Hailing from Escondido, California, Cavassa is a vocalist-composer of Italian descent who is making waves with her distinctive voice and intimate expression. Cavassa independently released her self-titled debut album in 2020 to critical acclaim and won the International Sarah Vaughan Jazz Vocal Competition in 2021.

Cavassa's relationship with music began with an early love for records. She remembers "obsessively listening" to albums as a child and later amassed a record collection through which she began her education in music. While studying at San Francisco State University, Cavassa began her career as a vocalist in San Francisco clubs, crediting the Bay Area music scene for her development as a young artist. In 2017, Cavassa moved to New Orleans where she worked with and was inspired by the city's most influential voices, including Jamison Ross, Nicholas Payton and Ashlin Parker. She has toured domestically and internationally with her own group and as the featured vocalist with The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

Shimmering in her own humanness, Cavassa's expression contains a vulnerability that reaches at the crux of our humanity. Her songwriting and interpretation explore moods of sensuality, melancholy and humor, as though she is reading from a diary.

**Paul Cornish** (Piano)

Hailing from Houston, but currently based in Los Angeles, CA, Cornish attended the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz at UCLA on a full fellowship. He was a finalist in both the 2023 American Pianists Awards and the Herbie Hancock International Jazz Piano Competition. He has performed with such notable artists as Louis Cole, Mark Guiliana, Snoh Aalegra, Terrace Martin, Thumpasaurus and HAIM.

**Philip Norris** (Bass)

A recent graduate of Juilliard, Norris currently resides in New York City. He first began his path in music in his hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina, on the piano and French horn, before developing his passion for bass at age 13. His collaborators include such esteemed names as Wynton Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, David Sanborn, Veronica Swift and Emmet Cohen.

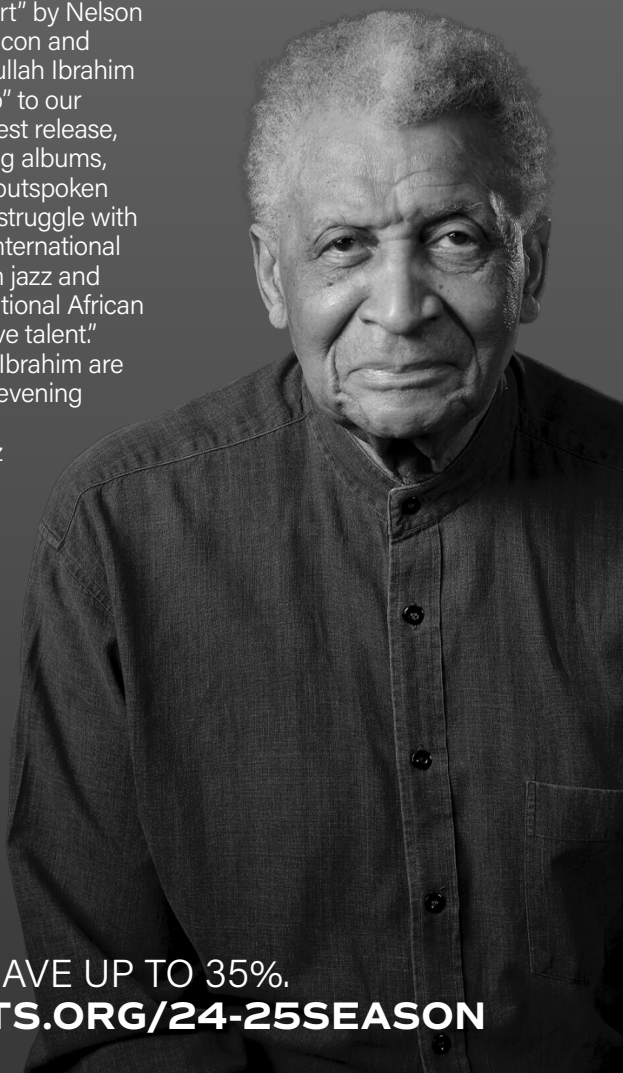
**Nazir Ebo** (Drums)

A multi-instrumentalist born into a family of musical prodigies, Ebo has been appearing on stages since the age of nine. Now a seasoned performer, he has appeared with such artists as Salami Rose, Joe Louis, Kenneth Whalum, Soweto Kinch, George Burton and Bootsy Collins. He has recorded his first album as a bandleader and is a well-recognized jazz educator developing the talents of the next generation in his hometown of Philadelphia.

# ABDULLAH IBRAHIM TRIO

**NOV 10**

Called "South Africa's Mozart" by Nelson Mandela, Cape Town-born icon and 2019 NEA Jazz Master Abdullah Ibrahim brings his "spell-binding trio" to our stage on the heels of his latest release, 3. With over 50 wide-ranging albums, this pianist, composer and outspoken chronicler of South Africa's struggle with apartheid has become an international icon, mixing influences from jazz and classical to gospel and traditional African music with an "ever-inventive talent." Stateside performances by Ibrahim are a rare occurrence, and this evening promises an unforgettable experience with a living jazz legend. (*Jazzwise*)



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