



SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE

The Music of Miles Davis and Original Compositions

Miguel Zenón Alto Saxophone
David Sánchez Tenor Saxophone
Sean Jones Trumpet
Robin Eubanks Trombone
Warren Wolf Vibraphone
Edward Simon Piano
Matt Penman Bass
Obed Calvaire Drums

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.

Sunday, April 2 @ 7 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

AFRICAN ROOTS, AMERICAN VOICES

Part of the African Roots, American Voices series.

Media Sponsor: 

PROGRAM NOTES

This year, the all-star SFJAZZ Collective pays tribute to trumpeter, composer and innovator Miles Davis. More than any other figure, Davis changed the sound of jazz – not once, but consistently over his career – from the birth of bebop in the 1940's to the integration of rock approaches that gave rise to the fusion movement in the 1970's.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

SFJAZZ Collective

The SFJAZZ Collective is an all-star award-winning jazz ensemble comprising eight of the finest performers/composers at work in jazz today. Launched in 2004 by SFJAZZ in San Francisco, the SFJAZZ Collective has become one of the most exciting and acclaimed groups on the jazz scene. The award-winning SFJAZZ Center in San Francisco is the Collective's home base. The current octet is a burnished international ensemble comprising of alto saxophonist Miguel Zenón, tenor saxophonist David Sánchez, vibraphonist Warren Wolf, trumpeter Sean Jones, trombonist Robin Eubanks, pianist Edward Simon, bassist Matt Penman and drummer Obed Calvaire.

Each year, the SFJAZZ Collective creates and performs eight new works and eight new arrangements of tunes by an honored artist. Past honorees include Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock, Thelonious Monk, Wayne Shorter, McCoy Tyner, Horace Silver, Stevie Wonder and Chick Corea. This season, the Collective will perform new arrangements of the music of jazz innovator Miles Davis along with their new compositions.

In addition to its outstanding line-up with a leaderless format, the SFJAZZ Collective has also been praised for an innovative approach to repertoire. Through the pioneering approach of simultaneously honoring jazz's recent history while championing the music's up-to-the-minute directions, the Collective embodies SFJAZZ's commitment to jazz as a living, ever-relevant art form.

As soloists, composers and bandleaders, the SFJAZZ Collective represents what's happening now in jazz. They also demonstrate that jazz has truly become an international language. Hailing from Ohio, Baltimore, Miami, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and New Zealand, the Collective's multi-cultural lineup mirrors the explosion of jazz talent around the globe. However, the jazz community only reached its current state by maintaining its traditions while simultaneously embracing innovation. This, too, is the essence of the SFJAZZ Collective. These exceptional artists come together in the name of jazz as a constantly evolving, quintessentially modern music.

The idea for the Collective arose from discussions between SFJAZZ's founder and executive artistic director Randall Kline and saxophonist and founding Collective member Joshua Redman. While deeply respectful of jazz's origins and early traditions, SFJAZZ was concerned that the modern side of jazz, from roughly the mid-20th-century to the present day, was often overlooked in the public eye in comparison with the music of jazz's so-called "Golden Age." Both Kline and Redman were eager to showcase, in a manner that would resonate with jazz aficionados and newcomers alike, the artistic continuum from modern masters to today's new generation of players. Much like chamber music, the music is designed for a small group of instruments to be performed in intimate settings and atmospheres including performing arts centers, concert halls and salons.

Past Collective members include Eric Harland, Mark Turner, Joshua Redman, Bobby Hutcherson, Avishai Cohen, Stefon Harris, Dave Douglas, Nicholas Payton, Joe Lovano, Josh Roseman, Renee Rosnes, Robert Hurst, Brian Blade and others.

Miguel Zenón (Alto Saxophone)

Multiple Grammy® nominee and Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow Miguel Zenón represents a select group of musicians who have masterfully balanced and blended the often contradictory poles of innovation and tradition. Widely considered as one of the most groundbreaking and influential saxophonists of his generation, he has also developed a unique voice as a composer and as a conceptualist, concentrating his efforts on perfecting a fine mix between Latin American folkloric music and jazz. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Zenón has released nine recordings as a leader, including the Grammy®-nominated *Identities are Changeable* (2014). As a sideman, he has worked with jazz luminaries such as Charlie Haden, Bobby Hutcherson, Danilo Perez, Fred Hersch, Kenny Werner and Steve Coleman.

Zenón has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Los Angeles Times*, as well as graced the cover of *Downbeat Magazine* on two occasions (2010 and 2014). In addition, he topped both the Jazz Artist of the Year and Alto Saxophonist categories on the 2014 *Jazz Times* Critics Poll and was selected as 2015 Alto Saxophonist of the Year by the Jazz Journalist Association. As a composer, he has been commissioned by SFJAZZ Collective, The New York State Council for the Arts, Chamber Music America, The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, Peak Performances, PRISM Quartet and many of his peers. Zenón has given hundreds of lectures and master classes at institutions all over the world, and is a permanent faculty member at New England Conservatory of Music. In 2011, he founded Caravana Cultural, a program which presents free-of-charge jazz concerts in rural areas of Puerto Rico.

In 2008, Zenón received a fellowship from the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. Later that year, he was one of 25 distinguished individuals chosen to receive the coveted MacArthur Fellowship, also known as the “Genius Grant.” *Típico*, his 10th album as a leader, was released in February 2017.

David Sánchez (Tenor Saxophone)

Since his early exposure with Dizzy Gillespie’s United Nations Orchestra, Puerto Rican tenor saxophone virtuoso David Sánchez has become one of the most celebrated instrumentalists in jazz, recording nine albums as a leader and winning a Latin Grammy® Award for his 2004 orchestral session, *Coral*. The five-time Grammy® Award nominee has performed with a roster of greats including Charlie Haden, Eddie Palmieri, Roy Haynes, Tom Harrell and countless others. Sánchez has an impressive resume as an educator, conducting master classes, workshops and residencies at the world’s top universities and conservatories. His latest album is *Ninety Miles: Live at Cubadisco*, a project recorded in Cuba and co-led by trumpeter Christian Scott and vibraphonist Stefon Harris.

Sean Jones (Trumpet)

For the remarkable composer, trumpeter, educator and activist Sean Jones, the pursuit of jazz is a most serious endeavor. Deeply influenced by his immersion in gospel music in the church as a youth, Jones had an epiphany at the age of 19 while he was a student at Youngstown State University. The awakening was his first hearing of the magnificent John Coltrane’s masterpiece *A Love Supreme*. After receiving his Master’s Degree from Rutgers University, Jones performed a six-month stint with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Wynton Marsalis offered Jones a permanent position as lead trumpeter where he remained until 2010 and participated in two recordings. During those years, Jones started touring and performing regularly with his own ensembles and began a longtime relationship with Mack Avenue Records, with whom he has just released his seventh recording. Education is also a major element in Jones ongoing activities. Shortly after joining the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, he began teaching at Duquesne University in his adopted hometown of Pittsburgh, where he is currently Associate Professor of Jazz. In 2012, he also became

a Professor of Trumpet at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. In addition, master classes and clinics are a regular part of his activities, providing more than a dozen annually around the world. He also serves as Artistic Director of both the Pittsburgh and Cleveland Jazz Orchestra.

Robin Eubanks (Trombone)

A five-time “Trombonist of the Year” in the *DownBeat* Critics Poll, Robin Eubanks is the premier jazz trombonist of his generation. In addition to leading his own groups, EB3 and Mental Images, Eubanks has performed and composed on Grammy® Award-winning recordings with Dave Holland and Michael Brecker. He has worked with music legends Art Blakey, McCoy Tyner, Elvin Jones and the Rolling Stones, to name a few. The native Philadelphian is the recipient of composition grants from Chamber Music America and ASCAP. He is a sought-after educator and is now a tenured professor of trombone at the renowned Oberlin Conservatory and Adjunct Professor at Philadelphia’s University of the Arts.

Warren Wolf (Vibraphone)

Warren Wolf is a multi-instrumentalist from Baltimore, MD. Starting at age three, Wolf has been trained on the vibraphone, marimba, drums and piano. He attended the Peabody Preparatory for eight years studying classical music with former Baltimore Symphony Orchestra member Leo LePage. During his high school years at the Baltimore School for the Arts, Wolf studied with current Baltimore Symphony Orchestra member John Locke. After graduating in 1997, Wolf enrolled at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

During his time at Berklee, Wolf studied with Caribbean jazz vibraphonist Dave Samuels. After graduating from Berklee in 2001, he became an active musician on the Boston local scene and was hired in 2003 as an instructor in the percussion department. Wolf is currently the drummer of choice for alto saxophonist Tia Fuller, who tours with internationally renowned pop star Beyoncé Knowles. Wolf is also a member of the Donal Fox Group.

Wolf has several recordings as a leader and was recently signed to Mack Avenue Records. The upcoming release of *Warren Wolf*, the eponymous debut album, will make it as apparent to jazz fans as it already is to jazz insiders that the 31-year-old vibraphonist is the next major voice on his instrument.

Edward Simon (Piano)

Edward Simon was born in the coastal town of Punta Cardón, Venezuela, where he grew up in a family of musicians. Settling in New York City in 1989, he played with numerous jazz masters, including Herbie Mann, Paquito D’Rivera, Bobby Hutcherson, Bobby Watson, Terence Blanchard and Don Byron. He has produced 10 critically acclaimed albums as a leader, including two *The New York Times* top ten jazz records of the year: *Edward Simon* and *Simplicitas*. In July 2010, Simon was named a Guggenheim Fellow, and his latest trio CD with bassist John Patitucci and drummer Brian Blade, *Live in New York at Jazz Standard*, has recently been released.

Matt Penman (Bass)

Originally from Auckland, New Zealand, Matt Penman studied at Boston’s Berklee College of Music before relocating to New York in 1995. In addition to releasing his own critically acclaimed CDs as a leader, *Catch of the Day* (2007) and *The Unquiet* (2002), he has recorded as a sideman on some 70 other discs and has performed with the likes of Joe Lovano, Nicholas Payton, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Gary Bartz, Kenny Werner, Nnenna Freelon, Madeleine Peyroux, Brian Blade, John Scofield and Guillermo Klein. In addition to

the Collective, Penman works with the supergroup James Farm, which includes founding Collective saxophonist Joshua Redman, pianist Aaron Parks and drummer Eric Harland.

Obed Calvaire (Drums)

A native of Miami and of Haitian descent, Obed Calvaire is a graduate with both a master's and bachelor's degree in music from one of America's premiere private music conservatories, Manhattan School of Music. He received his bachelor's degree in 2003, completing the undergraduate degree requirements in three years and received his master's in 2005. Calvaire has performed and recorded with artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Seal, Eddie Palmieri, Vanessa Williams, Mark Murphy, David Foster, Mary J. Blidge, Stefon Harris, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Music Soulchild, Nellie McKay, Yellow Jackets, Joshua Redman, Steve Turre and Lizz Wright. He has also performed with large ensembles such as the Village Vanguard Orchestra, Metropole Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, Roy Hargrove Big Band and the Bob Mintzer Big Band. Currently, Calvaire can be found playing with Peter Cincotti, Richard Bona, Monty Alexander, Sean Jones, Yosvany Terry, The Clayton Brothers Quintet and Mike Stern, among others.