



Courtesy Emmet Cohen

THE EMMET COHEN TRIO

A Handful of Keys

Emmet Cohen Piano
Russell Hall Acoustic bass
Kyle Poole Drums

PROGRAM

There will not be an intermission.

Saturday, May 11 @ 7:30 PM

Harold Prince Theatre

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Emmet Cohen Trio

Harlem based piano phenom, Emmet Cohen, swings through town with his all-star trio featuring *Late Show with Stephen Colbert's* bassist, Russell Hall, and drummer Kyle Poole, recently on tour with Cecile McLorin Salvant. The trio is known for its range and uplifting dynamism, representing Cohen's "kaleidoscopic sense of musical narrative," as noted in *Downbeat Magazine*. Audience members can expect a master class in stylistic juxtapositions, including the melding of stride, blues, church, swing, bebop, free and contemporary styles, resulting in the innovative sound of jazz's future. The Trio will also feature selections from Cohen's latest album releases, *Masters Legacy Series Vol. 1*, which features famed Miles Davis drummer Jimmy Cobb, and *Vol. 2*, showcasing revered acoustic bass pioneer, Ron Carter.

Emmet Cohen

Multifaceted American jazz pianist and composer Emmet Cohen has emerged as one of his generation's pivotal figures in music and the related arts. A recognized prodigy, Cohen began Suzuki method piano instruction at age three, and his playing quickly became a mature melding of musicality, technique and concept. *Downbeat* observed that his "nimble touch, measured stride and warm harmonic vocabulary indicate he's above any convoluted technical showmanship." In the same spirit, Cohen himself has noted that playing jazz is "about communicating the deepest levels of humanity and individuality; it's essentially about *connections*," both among musicians and with audiences. He leads his namesake ensemble, the Emmet Cohen Trio, is a vibrant solo performer and is in constant demand as a sideman. Possessing a fluid technique, an innovative tonal palette and an extensive repertoire, Cohen plays with the command of a seasoned veteran and the passion of an artist fully devoted to his medium.

Emmet Cohen is committed to the intergenerational transfer of artistic knowledge, history and traditions. His signature professional undertaking is the *Masters Legacy Series*, a celebratory set of recordings and interviews honoring legendary jazz musicians. He serves as both producer and pianist for each album in the series. The goal of this landmark, ongoing project is to provide musicians of multiple generations a forum to transfer the unwritten folklore that is America's unique musical idiom. Cohen has observed that playing jazz "is enriched immeasurably by connecting and studying with jazz masters, forging backward to the very creation of the art form." Volume one of the *Masters Legacy Series* features drummer Jimmy Cobb, and volume two spotlights bassist Ron Carter. Future *Masters Legacy Series* releases will include Cohen's recordings with Benny Golson, Tootie Heath and George Coleman.

Additionally, Emmet Cohen has achieved a comprehensive position in the world of the creative arts that extends beyond performing. He serves as an international clinician through programs such as Lincoln Center's Jazz for Young People; however, his role as a master teacher reaches students of all ages. An alumnus of the YoungArts Foundation, Cohen now curates multidisciplinary YoungArts programs nationally that include creative writing, theatre, dance, visual arts, cinematography, music, voice and jazz. Through designing curricula and selecting master artists as teachers and mentors, Cohen establishes an atmosphere in which student performers learn to become responsive to their audiences. Cohen has also developed interdisciplinary programs directed by choreographers Debbie Allen and Bill T. Jones.

Cohen's exacting keyboard artistry has garnered numerous accolades from the international jazz community. He placed first in both the American Jazz Pianists competition (2014) and the Phillips Piano Competition at the University of West Florida (2011). He was a finalist in the prestigious American Pianists Association's Cole Porter Fellowship (2015, 2011) and the Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition (2011). Cohen has appeared in world-renowned jazz events, including the Newport, Monterey, North Sea, Bern, Edinburgh, Detroit and Jerusalem jazz festivals, as well as the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia. He has also performed at the Village Vanguard, the Blue Note, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Birdland, Jazz Standard, London's Ronnie Scott's, Jazzhaus Montmartre in Copenhagen, Lincoln Center's Rose Hall, the Cotton Club in Tokyo and the Kennedy Center, and was received in the Oval

Office by President Obama. He is currently Hammond B-3 organist-in-residence at Harlem's SMOKE jazz club.

Besides leading the Emmet Cohen Trio, Cohen has appeared regularly with Ron Carter, Benny Golson, Jimmy Cobb, George Coleman, Jimmy Heath, Tootie Heath, Houston Person, Kurt Elling, Billy Hart and Brian Lynch, among others. Cohen is also a member of Christian McBride's trio Tip City, the Herlin Riley Quartet and the Ali Jackson Trio, and serves as pianist and music director for jazz vocalist and television personality Lea DeLaria. His recordings include *Masters Legacy Series featuring Ron Carter* (2018); *Masters Legacy Series featuring Jimmy Cobb* (2017); *New Directions* (2016) with Herlin Riley; *Questioned Answer* (2014), co-produced with Brian Lynch; *Infinity* (2013), featuring his Italian Trio; and his acclaimed debut CD *In the Element* (2011), with bassist Joe Sanders and drummer Rodney Green.

Cohen holds a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where he studied with esteemed pianist and educator Shelly Berg. In his formative years, he was tutored in classical piano at the Manhattan School of Music's Pre-College Division.

A powerful and charismatic performer, Cohen possesses wide-ranging talents that are reinvigorating the contemporary arts world both domestically and internationally and are received enthusiastically worldwide.

Cohen is a YAMAHA artist.