

The Annenberg Center Presents Tivon Pennicott Duo, Livestreamed Thursday, October 22

(Philadelphia – October 16, 2020) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents **Tivon Pennicott Duo**, streamed live from the Annenberg Center on **Thursday, October 22 at 7 PM**.

Three-time Grammy® Award-winning tenor sax player Tivon Pennicott makes his Annenberg Center debut with this performance. Known for his innovative, original compositions, whose sound “is sweet to listen to, like drinking warm honey” (All About Jazz), Pennicott will be joined by drummer Kenneth Salters, a regular on Manhattan’s West Village independent jazz scene.

Says Pennicott, “Kenneth and I have a connection and desire to catch the wave of musical bliss. Over the last 10 years of creating music together in New York City, we now could practically finish each other’s musical sentences within our grooves of streams of consciousness. For [the] program, expect a musical conversation that conveys our personal opinions and sense of purpose in these particular times. We are a sax and drums duo. We are the duo dialogue.”

A live Q&A, incorporating questions from the audience, will be included in the show. Visit AnnenbergCenter.org for more information.

About Tivon Pennicott (Saxophone)

For years, Tivon Pennicott has been transporting audiences and listeners to a higher level of consciousness. The highly sought-after saxophone player, composer and multi-instrumentalist is a three-time Grammy® winner, appearing on Esperanza Spalding’s album *Radio Music Society* (Heads Up International, 2012) and Gregory Porter’s *Liquid Spirit* (Blue Note, 2013). He has collaborated with visionaries such as Stevie Wonder, Roy Hargrove, Maria Schneider, Randy Brecker and Wynton Marsalis, and continues to enjoy a decade-long association with Kenny Burrell and the Jazz Heritage All-Stars. Touring the world with Porter, Pennicott has performed at iconic venues including The Royal Albert Hall in London, the Berliner Philharmonie in Germany and Carnegie Hall in New York. On screen, he has become a fixture on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* as a regular member of the Stay Human band led by Jon Batiste, with whom he has also played a weeklong engagement at the Village Vanguard.

A Georgia native living in New York City, Pennicott earned his Bachelor of Arts in music from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. As a player, Pennicott expresses an evolving sound, the result of a soulful and sophisticated foundation for groove he established at church, and a penchant for harmonic exploration that reflects the depth of his ear. While he has played an elemental role in advancing and transforming sounds of many innovative artists, Pennicott’s work as a leader is only beginning. His quartet has appeared at the Atlanta Jazz Festival and Spivey Hall in 2017 and 2018, respectively, as well as Smalls Jazz Club, Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola and The Jazz Gallery in New York City.

Strong intention and receptive impulses that allow him to serve every situation—from Ari Hoenig’s rhythmic labyrinths to Al Foster’s resonating soundscapes—pervade Pennicott’s original compositions. In 2014, Pennicott released his debut album *Lover of Nature* on New Phrase Records, a project that features the equally curious musical minds of Mike Battaglia (piano), Spencer Murphy (bass) and Kenneth Salters (drums). As his career continues its upward trajectory, Pennicott recently wrapped up his sophomore recording, *Spirit Garden*, due for release on October 27.

“Tivon’s got it all: sound, swing, chops, ideas, flow, conviction, joy, soul... He’s a careful craftsman, a fearless improviser, one of the most fluent and engaging saxophonists, on the scene today.” —Joshua Redman

About Kenneth Salters (Drums)

Born in New Haven, CT and raised in Columbia, SC, drummer, composer and bandleader Kenneth Salters began his musical career on trombone before pursuing his studies as a percussion major at the University of South Carolina. Since moving to New York in 2006, Salters has worked with numerous luminaries in jazz and R&B including Don Byron, Chris Potter, Aretha Franklin, Myron Walden, Oz Noy, Bert Ligon, Michael Dease, Wycliffe Gordon, Fred Wesley, Steve Houghton, Gordon (Dick) Goodwin and Ron Westray. Salters presented his debut album as a leader, *Enter to Exit* (Destiny Records), in 2015 and has become a fixture on Manhattan’s West Village independent jazz scene, as well as around the world as an in-demand sideman. For the better part of a decade, Salters’ band has been comprised of a coterie of musicians with whom he has performed several originals and two emotionally significant covers that serve as a memoir to his time in New York City.

About the Annenberg Center’s 2020-21 Digital Season

The Annenberg Center’s fall 2020 digital season comprises five livestreamed performances by top dance companies, three outstanding jazz artists making their Annenberg Center debuts, and one collaborative early music performance, in addition to screenings of four recently released independent films. The live performances will be broadcast using state-of-the-art digital technology from the Prince or Zellerbach Theatre, integrating live chat, and concluding with interactive discussions with the creators and performers. Livestreamed performances will be available online for 48 hours after the start time for those who purchased access.

About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting the University of Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance and film, serving an annual audience of over 80,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center’s multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn’s core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support and customer service. The Annenberg Center is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community and surrounding region. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](https://www.annenbergcenter.org).

CALENDAR LISTING

LIVESTREAM

Tivon Pennicott Duo

Thursday, October 22, 7 PM

What do Stevie Wonder, Jon Batiste, Gregory Porter and Esperanza Spalding have in common? They all call Tivon Pennicott when they need a tenor sax player whose sound “is sweet to listen to, like drinking warm honey” (All About Jazz). This three-time Grammy® Award-winner’s evolving style is rooted in the soulful, sophisticated foundation for groove he honed at church. For his Annenberg Center debut, Pennicott will be joined by drummer Kenneth Salters, a fixture on Manhattan’s West Village independent jazz scene.

This is an original, live event performed on the Annenberg Center stage and streamed online. It will include an interactive Q&A with the performers.

Access Information for Tivon Pennicott Duo

Visit AnnenbergCenter.org to purchase access to this show until 7:30 PM on October 22.

The performance may be watched live at 7 PM on October 15 to participate in the chat and artist Q&A. It will be available on-demand to ticketholders through October 24.

Visit the Annenberg Center’s [FAQs](#) for additional details.

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