

THE CHARLES LLOYD QUARTET

Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 7:30pm Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

THE CHARLES LLOYD QUARTET

Charles Lloyd, saxophone and flute Aaron Parks, piano Larry Grenadier, bass Eric Harland, drums

The program for tonight's performance will be announced from the stage.

This performance will be presented with no intermission

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PROFILES



Charles Lloyd is an NEA Jazz Master and recipient of the prestigious French honor l'Ordre Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. Voted DownBeat magazine's Jazzman of the Year in 1967, Lloyd was again voted Artist of the Year in 2023, and in

2024 he was honored with a rare *DownBeat* critic's poll quadruple crown: Hall of Fame, Artist of the Year, Album of the year for *The Sky Will Still Be There Tomorrow* (released by Blue Notes Records on his 86th birthday) and Saxophonist of the Year. The arc of his contribution to this art form starts in the early 1960s—the depth of his expression reflects a lifetime of experience. Lloyd has a legendary history in the music world and could certainly be in a position to slow down and rest on his laurels. But looking back has never been of great interest to this tender warrior; "Go forward" is his motto as he keeps shifting to a higher, well-calibrated gear.

In 1956, Lloyd moved from Memphis to Los Angeles and graduated from the University of Southern California. During this period, Lloyd played in Gerald Wilson's big band and formed his own group that included Billy Higgins, Don Cherry, Bobby Hutcherson, Scott LaFaro, and Terry Trotter. Lloyd joined Chico Hamilton in 1960. His influence as a composer quickly pushed the group in a more progressive, postbop direction when Hamilton asked him to be the group's music director. In 1964, Lloyd left Hamilton's group to join alto saxophonist Cannonball Adderley. He recorded two albums as a leader for Columbia Records, *Discovery*

and Of Course, Of Course; his sidemen included Gabor Szabo, Don Friedman, Herbie Hancock, Ron Carter, Tony Williams, and Pete La Roca. In 1965, Lloyd formed a quartet with pianist Keith Jarrett, bassist Cecil McBee, and drummer Jack DeJohnette. It was a meeting of straight-ahead post-bop, Free jazz, rock, and world music. Their music quickly caught the attention of jazz fans and critics. They achieved crossover success with young rock fans and became the first jazz group to play in the famed Fillmore. Their album Forest Flower, Live at Monterey sold over one million copies.

In 1970, Lloyd surprised the music world by walking away from performing just at the point that he was dubbed a jazz superstar. Actually, he was just following a trajectory that was taking him closer to the essence of the music he was hearing. During the 1970s, Lloyd played occasionally with The Beach Boys, both on their studio recordings and as a member of their touring band. When approached by pianist Michel Petrucciani in 1981, he resumed performing for two years to help Petrucciani get a footing on the world stage, before retreating again to his secluded life in Big Sur. Following a near-death experience in 1986, Lloyd decided to rededicate himself to music. In 1989, Lloyd reestablished an active touring schedule and began recording for ECM Records. Noteworthy albums include Fish out of Water, Canto, Voice in the Night, The Water Is Wide (featuring Brad Mehldau, John Abercrombie, Larry Grenadier, and Billy Higgins), and Sangam with Zakir Hussain and Fric Harland.

His "New Quartet", with Jason Moran on piano, Reuben Rogers on bass, and Eric Harland on drums, has three recordings: *Rabo de Nube* (ECM, 2008), which was voted the number one recording in the 2008 Jazz Times Readers' and Critics' polls; Mirror (ECM, 2010) and Passin' Thru (Blue Note Records, 2017). Commissioned by Jazztopad in Wroclaw, Poland to write a new composition to premiere at their 2013 festival, Lloyd wrote Wild Man Dance Suite for piano, bass, drums, cimbalom, and lyra, released in April 2015, which began his ongoing relationship with Blue Note Records. Lloyd formed a new group called The Marvels, featuring Bill Frisell on guitar, Reuben Rogers, Eric Harland, and Greg Leisz on steel guitar. Their first release, I Long to See You (Blue Note, 2016), featured quest tracks by Willie Nelson and Norah Jones. Vanished Gardens (Blue Note, 2018) is a Marvels collaboration with the great American singer and poet Lucinda Williams.

Charles Lloyd maintains an active performance and recording schedule with the New Quartet, Sangam, Maria Farantouri, The Marvels, and special projects around the world. He celebrated his 75th birthday with concerts in the Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum and the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Lloyd and Jason Moran were commissioned by Alonzo King's Lines Ballet to compose the score for a new ballet, Azoth, which had its world premiere in October 1, 2019.

Lloyd was awarded the prestigious honor of Chevalier des Arts et Lettres by the French Minister of Culture in August 2019. In celebration of his 80th birthday in 2018, Blue Note Records released a limited edition box set, 8: Kindred Spirits (Live from the Lobero), featuring fellow Memphian Booker T. Jones. The box set includes CD, LP, and DVD recordings of the concert along with a 96-page book of photos commemorating Lloyd's life and legacy. His newest recording, the sixth for Blue Note Records, is Tone Poem (2021), and once again features the Marvels. In

2022, he released a trio of Trios over a period of six months—each with a different ensemble: *Trio: Chapel* with guitarist Bill Frisell and bassist Thomas Morgan; *Trio: Ocean* with pianist Gerald Clayton and guitarist Anthony Wilson; and *Trio: Sacred Thread* with tabla master Zakir Hussain and guitarist Julian Lage. The award winning *The Sky Will Still Be There Tomorrow* with Jason Moran, piano, Larry Grenadier, bass and Brian Blade, drums was released in March 2024



As one of the most admired, accomplished bassists working in jazz today, **Larry Grenadier** has been praised as "a deeply intuitive" musician by *The New York Times* and as an instrumentalist with a "fluid sense of melody" by *Bass Player*

magazine. Grenadier has created an expansive body of work in collaboration with many of the genre's most inventive, influential musicians from early days playing with sax icons Joe Henderson and Stan Getz to decades performing alongside pianist Brad Mehldau, from extended experiences working with the likes of Charles Lloyd, Paul Motian, and Pat Metheny to coleading the cooperative trio Fly (with Mark Turner and Jeff Ballard) and quartet Hudson (with John Scofield, John Medeski, and Jack DeJohnette). Over a performing and recording career that spans three decades, Grenadier has been an in-demand collaborator not only because of his instrumental virtuosity and instantly recognizable tone but also due to his uncommon artistic sensitivity, imagination, and curiosity. In February 2019. ECM Records released Grenadier's first album of solo bass. Titled The Gleaners, it presented originals by the bassist alongside pieces by George Gershwin, John Coltrane, and

Paul Motian, as well as a pair of pieces written especially for Grenadier by guitarist and fellow ECM artist Wolfgang Muthspiel. Grenadier also includes an instrumental interpretation of a song by his wife, and frequent collaborator, the singer-songwriter Rebecca Martin.



Eric Harland is destined to become a great drummer in jazz history. Internationally prominent, Harland is currently a member of Sangam, Charles Lloyd New Quartet, Charles Lloyd and the Marvels, James Farm, and AZIZA. Harland

also has his own group, Voyager, with two recordings, Live By Night and Vipassana. In DownBeat's 65th Annual Readers Poll, he was on the short list of drummers, in company of masters like Roy Haynes and the late Elvin Jones. In 2008, he was voted Rising Star Drummer in DownBeat Readers Poll.

During a high school workshop, Wynton Marsalis discovered Harland and encouraged him to study in New York City. Harland left his hometown of Houston, Texas to go to the Manhattan School of Music on full scholarship. After music school, Harland studied at Houston Baptist University (College of Biblical Studies) and became an ordained minister. The pull of music was strong and cut short his career as a preacher. He returned to the East Coast, immersing himself in music. He has played on over fifty recordings, including Let's Get Lost and Wandering Moon (Terrance Blanchard on Sony Classical), as well as Black Action Figure (Stefon Harris on Blue Note) and Land of Giants (McCoy Tyner on Telarc), both of which were nominated for Grammy awards. Eric has played on 18 movie scores,

including Bo Jangles (starring Gregory Hines), Caveman's Valentine (starring Samuel L. Jackson), and Original Sin (starring Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie.)

Performing live is one of Harland's greatest joys. He has playedwith many jazz and music greats including Betty Carter, Joe Henderson, Joshua Redman, Wynton Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, McCoy Tyner, Michael Brecker, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and John Mayer.



Pianist **Aaron Parks** is a forward-thinking jazz musician who came to the public's attention during his time with trumpeter Terence Blanchard. Born in Seattle, Parks began playing piano at a young age and by the time he was 14 had enrolled in an

early entrance degree program at the University of Washington.

Originally, Parks pursued both science and music degrees; however, his prodigious talent won out and by age 16 he had transferred to the Manhattan School of Music. While there, he studied with noted pianist Kenny Barron and received several competitive accolades, including being named the 2001 Cole Porter Fellow of the American Pianists Association.

At age 18, he joined Blanchard's ensemble and subsequently recorded four albums with the veteran trumpeter, including 2003's Bounce, 2005's Flow, the soundtrack to the 2006 Spike Lee film Inside Man, and Blanchard's 2007 Grammywinning opus A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina). Besides playing with Blanchard, Parks has performed with a variety of artists, including trumpeter Christian Scott, drummer Kendrick

Scott, vocalist Gretchen Parlato, and others. Parks has released several albums under his own name, including his 2008 Blue Note debut, *Invisible Cinema*.

Parks, who has also recorded with Christian Scott, Kendrick Scott, Ambrose Akinmusire, and Kurt Rosenwinkel, was an integral part of the James Farm Quartet with Joshua Redman, Matt Penman, and Eric Harland. Nonesuch released their self-titled album in 2011. The pianist subsequently signed to ECM and released the solo piano offering Arborescence in the fall of 2013. He also made sideman appearances on Will Vinson's Live at Smalls and Yeahwon Shin's Lua Ya. His recording Live in Japan with his own trio of Thomas Morgan and RJ Miller was recorded on the pianist's phone during a show and released for free on his Bandcamp page. Find the Way, his sophomore label date for ECM, was issued in late spring of 2017. It featured bassist Ben Street and drummer Billy Hart in the rhythm section and was inspired in part (according to Parks) by the music of Alice Coltrane and Shirley Horn (for whom Hart played); both of whom prioritized space and subtlety in composition and improvisation.

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Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

PHONES AND DEVICES

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

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As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

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