

*Friday and Saturday Evening, June 2–3, 2017, at 7:00 and 9:30*

Wynton Marsalis, *Managing and Artistic Director*  
Greg Scholl, *Executive Director*

jazz

## 'ROUND MIDNIGHT: MONK'S LEGACY

SULLIVAN FORTNER, *Piano*  
AMEEN SALEEM, *Bass*  
JEREMY "BEAN" CLEMONS, *Drums*

JOEY ALEXANDER, *Piano*  
SCOTT COLLEY, *Bass*  
WILLIE JONES III, *Drums*

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*This performance may include the following Thelonious Monk compositions*

Ask Me Now  
Bright Mississippi  
Bye-Ya  
Crepuscule with Nellie  
Epistrophy  
Evidence  
Four In One  
I Mean You  
Just A Gigolo  
Light Blue  
Misterioso  
Off Minor  
Oskat  
Pannonica  
Raise Four  
Reflections  
Rhythm-A-Ning  
'Round Midnight  
Ruby My Dear  
Skippy  
Straight No Chaser  
We See  
Ugly beauty

## Notes on the Program

By Andrea Canter

The music of Thelonious Monk is among the most popular in modern jazz, as likely to appear on a concert set list as the “song-book” classics of Gershwin and Ellington. Evocative and beautiful, melodic and dissonant, clever and perplexing, Monk’s music often startled audiences when first played over 50 years ago. Even today, it remains among the most challenging material for beginning and experienced musicians alike, yet it’s also among the most inspiring and gratifying for both performers and audiences. Many of Monk’s tunes are considered jazz standards, from the haunting ballad “Round Midnight” to the fractured rhythms and odd harmonies of “Epistrophy.” As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Monk’s birth, this program honors his legacy with performances by two young pianists who provide personal interpretations of Monk’s music. Although only 30 years old, Sullivan Fortner is a generation ahead of wunderkind Joey Alexander, not yet 14; both often include Monk in their live performances and have each recorded at least one Monk tune—in fact, both recorded “I Mean You” on their debut releases.

Selected as the 2015 Cole Porter Fellow in Jazz by the American Pianists Association, New Orleans native Sullivan Fortner was performing in public by age 11. Now regarded as one of the leading jazz pianists of his generation, Fortner notes his multiple connections to Monk as a Southerner raised in the church with gospel music and mentored largely by women. “Monk’s music to me is cutting edge,” he notes, “ground-breaking, different, and nontraditional... Because of the breadth of his music, people still play it, get upset by it, love it.” For Fortner, no performance is complete without some Monk. “He looked at the instrument as a complete orchestra... he would dig sounds out of there that were very shocking, that had not been done before.”

And of those “Monkisms” that were often criticized as “wrong notes,” Fortner adds, “Monk never made a mistake, everything had a purpose.” For his part of the program, Fortner plans to focus on Monk’s relationships with significant women in his life: “his mother, his mentor Mary Lou Williams, Alberta Sims, his daughter, his wife, and [benefactor] Pannonica.”

At an age when most young teens are busy with sports, video games, or the school band, Joey Alexander has been the focus of intense media attention in the wake of two recordings, three Grammy Award nominations, and numerous festival and concert appearances. A Bali native who recently relocated to the United States, Alexander cites Monk among his key sources of inspiration. In fact, it was a Monk tune that he learned by ear (at age six) that signaled his potential and led to some introductory lessons with his father. And it was a solo arrangement of Monk’s “Round Midnight” that triggered amazement during a gala rehearsal at Jazz at Lincoln Center in 2014, according to Alexander’s producer (Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Director of Programming and Touring) Jason Olaine. “Everybody’s jaws dropped... like this can’t possibly be what we’re hearing,” Olaine recalls. In an interview with *The Guardian*, Alexander noted his admiration for Monk as akin to his fondness for the film *Rocky*. “I love the spirit of it... It’s this underdog who people didn’t care about, but he kept going. I like those stories, it reminds me of Thelonious Monk, who people thought of as an underground musician but he became influential.” Some may have regarded this 13-year-old as an underdog, one who is already becoming influential in his own right.

This program will find the pianists each paying tribute to Monk in his own way and perhaps also in collaboration. And regardless of the set list, there is no better way to reinforce the vitality of the Monk repertoire than to listen to the interpretations of young masters.

*Jazz at Lincoln Center gratefully acknowledges*

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for their gift of the Atrium, for their extraordinary generosity to Jazz at Lincoln Center, and for their indelible impact on the world of jazz.

The Erteguns' advocacy for jazz and their tireless support for Jazz at Lincoln Center have advanced the art form, and sustained the master musicians who perform it.

Ahmet Ertegun, founder of Atlantic Records, brought the world the legendary work of luminaries such as John Coltrane and Ray Charles. His leadership as a founding member of Jazz at Lincoln Center and its Board of Directors and his strong support of maintaining a house orchestra were vital to the organization's early development, and to the creation of the Nesuhi Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame, named for his brother.

Mica Ertegun joined Jazz at Lincoln Center's Board of Directors in 2006. Her continued stewardship as a valued leader is carrying her husband's vision forward.

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## Meet the Artists



REBECCA MEEK

### Joey Alexander

Born in Bali in 2003, Joey Alexander (*Piano*) first encountered a piano at age six. By ear, he immediately picked out the melody of jazz standards from his father's record collection, including Thelonious Monk's "Well, You Needn't." His father, also a musician, introduced Alexander to more classic recordings and began taking him to jam sessions in Bali and Jakarta. Alexander's musicianship and grasp of jazz fundamentals developed at a remarkable pace, and at age eight UNESCO invited him to play solo piano for an elated Herbie Hancock. At nine, Alexander won the grand prize at the first Master-Jam Fest, an all-ages competition in Ukraine which included 200 competitors from 17 countries. By age ten, he was performing at jazz festivals in both Jakarta and Copenhagen. An invitation from Wynton Marsalis led to his United States debut appearance at Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2014 annual gala in Rose Theater, followed by appearances before the Jazz Foundation of America at The Apollo Theater and the Arthur Ashe Learning Center at Gotham Hall. Wishing to encourage the continued development of Alexander's prodigious playing, his parents sold the family business in Jakarta and relocated to the United States. The Joey Alexander Trio has performed at well-known venues and major festivals across the United States and around the globe, including the Newport Jazz Festival, along with tour dates in Tel Aviv, Marciac, Montreal, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, Bern, Prague, Vienna, Perugia, and his native Indonesia. Alexander has

been featured by *The Today Show*, *60 Minutes*, CNN, *The New York Times*, and more. His 2015 debut album for Motema Music, *My Favorite Things*, garnered Grammy Award nominations for Best Jazz Instrumental Album and Best Improvised Solo, making him the youngest jazz artist ever nominated for a Grammy. *My Favorite Things* was produced by Grammy Award-winning producer Jason Olaine, and the album features Larry Grenadier, Ulysses Owens, Jr., Russell Hall, Sammy Miller, and Alphonso Horne. His performance on the 58th Annual Grammy Awards broadcast received a standing ovation. His 2016 sophomore release for Motema Music is *Countdown*. The album features a seamless combination of original compositions and fresh takes on well-known tunes, showcasing Alexander's remarkable development as a bandleader and promise as a composer.



BRAD BERGER

### Sullivan Fortner

Sullivan Joseph Fortner, Jr. (*Piano*) is a New Orleans native who has already made a significant foray into the jazz world that belies his young age. He recently won the 2015 Cole Porter Fellow in Jazz designation from the American Pianists Association. While touring with Stefon Harris & Blackout, the Christian Scott Quintet, and the Roy Hargrove Quintet, Fortner completed his master's degree in jazz performance at Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Jason Moran and Phil Markowitz. He holds a bachelor's degree in jazz performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Fortner began playing music by ear at age seven. Two years later, he was playing for church choirs throughout New

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Orleans. By the time he was 11, Fortner had won a Cox Cable Amazing Kids Award. At age 13 he attended the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and earned scholarships to several prestigious summer jazz programs, including the Vail Jazz Institute and the Skidmore Jazz Studies Summer Program. A standout on the stage and in the classroom, Fortner was valedictorian of his high school class and simultaneously graduated from NOCCA. He has studied and performed with great musicians including the Marsalis Family, Donald Harrison, Nicholas Payton, Billy Hart, Gary Bartz, Marcus Belgrave, The Jordan Family, Irvin Mayfield, Peter Martin, and Dave Liebman.

### Ameen Saleem

Ameen Saleem (*Bass*) is a bassist and composer whose main inspiration comes from jazz, but his music is not limited to a single genre. A native of Washington, D.C., Saleem graduated from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in 1997. He earned his bachelor's degree in music performance from North Carolina Central University in 2001 and his master's degree in music performance from CUNY Queens College in 2005. Saleem has recently toured extensively across the United States, Europe, and Japan with the Roy Hargrove Quintet and Roy Hargrove Big Band. His debut album, *The Groove Lab*, was released in October 2015. The album reached No. 10 in iTunes pre-sales and has been broadcasted on national radio shows in Italy and France. The project toured Italy in November 2015, with performances at venues including Auditorium Parco della Musica of Rome for the Roma Jazz Festival, Teatro Verdi of Padova for the Padova Jazz Festival, and Blue Note of Milan. Saleem plays double bass and electric bass for *The Groove Lab*, melding jazz, soul, and funk influences.

### Jeremy "Bean" Clemons

Jeremy "Bean" Clemons (*Drums*) currently co-leads the band Soul Understated with Mavis "Swan" Poole. Soul Understated features a diverse mix of musical forces and showcases Clemons' talents as a drummer, bandleader, composer, and producer. A St. Louis native, Clemons gained his first experience with music at a young age through participation in the Royales Drum and Bugle Corps, an organization formed by his grandmother. Through the Royales, Clemons developed an astounding level of skill in marching and concert percussion. This led to his attending Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, where he studied percussion and jazz drums. During this same high school period, Clemons was a member of the World Champion Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps (1996 and 1997). Clemons earned his bachelor and master's degrees in jazz studies from North Carolina Central University, where he studied drums, harmony, arranging, composition, and jazz theory. In 2003 Clemons moved to Brooklyn, New York, and in 2004 Freddie Cole recommended him to Grammy Award-nominated pianist and vocalist Andy Bey. Clemons toured worldwide with the Andy Bay Quartet in 2004–06. At the same time, Clemons drummed for DJ Carl Craig. Clemons has also performed with Gregory Porter, Jennifer Holiday, Res, Burning Spear, Mark Ribot, Jason Moran and The Band Wagon, and many others.

### Scott Colley

Scott Colley (*Bass*) has been the bassist of choice for such jazz legends as Herbie Hancock, Jim Hall, Andrew Hill, and Michael Brecker. His remarkably empathetic skills, strong melodic sense, and improvisational abilities have served him well in groups led by colleagues Chris Potter, Adam Rogers, Brian Blade, David Binney, and Kenny Werner. But it is as a composer and bandleader in his own right

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that Colley has flourished in recent years. Appearing on more than 200 albums to date, he has worked with a variety of musicians, including guitarists Bill Frisell, Pat Metheny, and Adam Rogers; saxophonists Michael Brecker, Chris Potter, and Clifford Jordan; pianists Herbie Hancock, Kenny Werner, and Edward Simon; and drummers Brian Blade, Antonio Sanchez, Bill Stewart, and Roy Haynes. Colley's newest recording as a leader is 2010's *Empire*, featuring all original compositions with Bill Frisell, Ralph Alessi, Brian Blade, and Craig Taborn.

### Willie Jones III

Born in Los Angeles, California, Willie Jones III (*Drums*) was awarded a full scholarship to the California Institute of the Arts, where he studied under the tutelage of the legendary Albert "Tootie" Heath. In 1992 he was a semifinalist in the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Drum Competition. He can be heard on a host of recordings, including Horace Silver's *Jazz Has a Sense of Humor* (Impulse!), Kurt Elling's Grammy Award-nominated *Night Moves* (Concord), and Eric Reed's *Here* (Max Jazz). In addition to leading his own quintet, Jones has worked with Sonny Rollins, Ernestine Anderson, Bobby Hutcherson, Wynton Marsalis, Cedar Walton, Frank Wess, Eric Alexander, Bill Charlap, Michael Brecker, Herbie Hancock, and Hank Jones. In 2000, Jones founded WJ3 Records and has released 17 of his own CDs and those of his contemporaries. In 2015 he was named in *DownBeat* magazine's 63rd Annual Critics Poll in the Rising Star Drum

and Rising Star Producer categories. In 2016 he released his latest and sixth CD as a leader, *Groundwork*. Jones' 2013 release, *The Willie Jones III Sextet Plays The Music of Max Roach Live at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola*, received high praise from both jazz critics and mainstream outlets such as the *New York Times*.

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Jazz at Lincoln Center is dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences for jazz. With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and a comprehensive array of guest artists, Jazz at Lincoln Center advances a unique vision for the continued development of the art of jazz by producing a year-round schedule of performance, education, and broadcast events for audiences of all ages. These productions include concerts, national and international tours, residencies, weekly national radio programs, television broadcasts, recordings, publications, an annual high school jazz band competition and festival, a band director academy, jazz appreciation curricula for students, music publishing, children's concerts and classes, lectures, adult education courses, student and educator workshops, a record label, and interactive websites. Under the leadership of Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, Chairman Robert J. Appel, and Executive Director Greg Scholl, Jazz at Lincoln Center produces thousands of events each season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and around the world. For more information, visit [jazz.org](http://jazz.org).

## **Jazz at Lincoln Center 2017–18 Concert Season 30th Anniversary Season**

Reaching our 30th season is a significant milestone. We are grateful for the countless musicians, fans, students, donors, foundations, and leaders of all types who are taking this journey with us.

Since our first downbeat as a summer concert series in 1987, Jazz at Lincoln Center has been a vital part of the New York cultural landscape. Over the past three decades, we have become an important advocate for jazz, culture, and arts education globally. Jazz at Lincoln Center was established as an independent non-profit organization in 1996, opened the House of Swing in 2004, and launched Blue Engine Records in 2014 to share our vast archive of recordings. In our 25th season, we began to offer free webcasts of our concerts, helping to build a global audience for the music by providing more people with better access to great jazz. We are proud to serve a regular and growing viewership of over 330,000 people in 140 countries. Our education programs continue to expand; in the last year alone, we engaged over 148,000 students, many of whom had no other access to quality music education.

Anchored by the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**, this landmark season begins in Rose Theater on September 14, 2017 with *The Fantastic Mr. Jelly Lord*—a raucous celebration of New Orleans legend Jelly Roll Morton. Throughout the season, living legends like **Chick Corea, Marilyn Maye, Jack DeJohnette**, and 2016 Pulitzer Prize winner **Henry Threadgill** will grace us with their unique, diverse artistry. Audience favorites like **Joey Alexander, Paquito D’Rivera, Catherine Russell, Michael Feinstein**, and the **Nuevo Jazz Latino** super-group return to great demand, and **Steve Miller** continues to curate and perform popular concerts exploring blues and the roots of jazz. Renowned artists like **Somi**, the all-star **HUDSON** quartet, and the **Harlem Quartet** make their Jazz at Lincoln Center debuts.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra continues a long tradition of reinvigorating key jazz repertoire in performances like *Celebrating Ornette Coleman*, *Benny Goodman: King of Swing*, and *Corea Plays Monk*. In an ambitious new program, the band will present *The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Songbook*, a special showcase of the JLCO’s best original compositions, including those by **Ted Nash, Victor Goines, Chris Crenshaw**, and **Carlos Henriquez**. The Orchestra will close the season with *Wynton Marsalis*, a concert featuring the world premiere of Marsalis’ latest composition and a collection of original pieces drawn from throughout our visionary leader’s storied career.

We hope you’ll join us during our historic 30th season. Subscriptions are on sale now! Visit [jazz.org/subs](http://jazz.org/subs), email, or call 212-258-9999 for more information.



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\* Deceased

As of April 4, 2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

#### June 2017

##### THE APPEL ROOM

##### **World of Monk** ***Thelonious Monk Festival***

*June 1–3 at 8pm*

The music of Thelonious Monk offers limitless opportunity for improvisation and interpretation. Monk's music is loved all over the world, and because of its fundamental simplicity, musicians of all styles and backgrounds find kinship in it. This global exploration of Monk features the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and two very special guests. The first of tonight's featured guests is flutist Baqir Abbas, a virtuoso Pakistani musician who has performed with the JLCO on several prestigious occasions. The JLCO's second guest this evening is Hamilton de Holanda, a top Brazilian instrumentalist widely considered the "Jimi Hendrix of the bandolim." A versatile master who has singlehandedly reinvented the 10-string bandolim, de Holanda synthesizes distinct musical styles from around the world. Together, these international virtuosos and our American big band will interpret Monk's music in a way completely unique to this collaboration. *Free pre-concert discussion at 7pm.*

##### **Michael Feinstein: Ella On My Mind**

*June 7 at 7pm / June 8 at 7pm & 9pm*

In Michael Feinstein's final *Jazz & Popular Song* concert of the season, the multi-platinum selling interpreter of American song will perform classics made famous by Ella Fitzgerald. Feinstein's masterful knowledge combined with Ella's timeless repertoire and the swinging Tedd Firth Big Band will make for an exquisite evening in the unparalleled setting of The Appel Room. Special guest vocalists include the Grammy and Tony Award-winning Jessie Mueller, Vuyo Sotashe, and Nicole Henry.

#### September 2017

##### ROSE THEATER

##### **The Fantastic Mr. Jelly Lord**

*September 14–16 at 8pm*

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis kicks off our 30th season with a joyous celebration of New Orleans legend Jelly Roll Morton (1890–1941). Jazz's first great composer, musical intellect, and piano virtuoso, Morton gave us the musical blueprint of an eternal New Orleans and jazz as we know it today. Through both classic and never-before-heard arrangements of essential tunes like "King Porter Stomp," "Jungle Blues," "Black Bottom Stomp," and "The Pearls," the JLCO will showcase the contemporary power and the depth of possibility in the earliest jazz. In addition to the JLCO's own resident pianist Dan Nimmer, this performance will feature special guest pianists Aaron Diehl, Sullivan Fortner, Micah Thomas, and Joel Wenhardt.

##### THE APPEL ROOM

##### **Fred Hersch, Kurt Elling, & Kate McGarry: Leaves of Grass**

*September 15–16 at 7pm & 9:30pm*

Over the course of composer and pianist Fred Hersch's career, *Leaves of Grass* stands out as one of his most ambitious and deeply personal projects. Originally premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2005, *Leaves of Grass* celebrates the life and poetry of the American bard Walt Whitman. Vocalists Kurt Elling and Kate McGarry will reprise their acclaimed roles from the original project, presenting Whitman's words with grace, emotion, and a lyrical sweetness that would have made Whitman proud. An eight-piece ensemble will assist them in evoking the sweeping melodicism for which Hersch is renowned.

Except where noted, all venues are located in **Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall, Time Warner Center, 5th floor.**

Tickets starting at \$10.

**To purchase tickets:** Visit [jazz.org](http://jazz.org) or call CenterCharge: 212-721-6500. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Box Office is located on Broadway at 60th Street, Ground Floor. Hours: Monday–Saturday, 10am–6pm; Sunday, 12pm–6pm.

For groups of 15 or more: 212-258-9875 or [jazz.org/groups](http://jazz.org/groups).

For more information about our education programs, visit [academy.jazz.org](http://academy.jazz.org).

For Swing University and WeBop enrollment: 212-258-9922.

Find us on Facebook ([jazzatlincolncenter](http://jazzatlincolncenter)), Twitter ([@jazzdotorg](http://@jazzdotorg)), YouTube ([jazzatlincolncenter](http://jazzatlincolncenter)), and Instagram ([jazzdotorg](http://jazzdotorg)).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## dizzy's club *Coca-Cola*

Jazz at Lincoln Center's  
Frederick P. Rose Hall

### June 2017

#### **Monk's Dream: Russell Hall Plays Monk**

##### ***Thelonious Monk Festival***

with Mathis Picard, Joel Ross, Stacy Dillard (6/2 and 6/4), Ruben Fox (6/3 and 6/4), Bruce Harris (6/3 and 6/4), Kyle Poole (6/3 and 6/4), Evan Sherman (6/2 and 6/4), and Michela Marino Lerman (6/4)

June 2-4

7:30pm & 9:30pm

#### **Jazz at Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra with special guest Justin Robinson**

June 5

7:30pm & 9:30pm

#### **Paul Nedzela Quartet**

with Dan Nimmer, Dezron Douglas, and Rodney Green

June 6

7:30pm & 9:30pm

#### **Chico Freeman Plus+tet**

with Anthony Wonsey, Kenny Davis, Warren Wolf, and Nasheet Waits

June 7-8

7:30pm & 9:30pm

#### **Dion Parson and 21st Century Band**

with Ron Blake, Melvin Jones, Wycliffe Gordon, Kenny Davis, Victor Provost, and Aïoune Faye

June 9-11

7:30pm & 9:30pm

#### **Monday Nights with WBGO:**

##### **Samora Pinderhughes**

##### ***The Transformations Suite***

June 12

7:30pm & 9:30pm

##### **Peter and Will Anderson Quintet**

##### ***Joe Temperley Tribute CD Release***

with Peter Bernstein, Kenny Washington, and Pat Bianchi

June 13

7:30pm & 9:30pm

##### **The Allan Harris Band**

##### ***Nobody's Gonna Love You Better (Black Bar Jukebox Redux)***

with Pascal Le Boeuf, Shirazette Tinnin, and Nimrod Speaks

June 14-15

7:30pm & 9:30pm

##### **Barry Harris Trio**

June 16-18

7:30pm & 9:30pm

##### **Jon Gordon Quartet**

with Bryn Roberts, Matt Clohesy, and Quincy Davis

June 19

7:30pm & 9:30pm

##### **Theo Hill Trio**

##### ***Promethean Album Release***

with Yasushi Nakamura and Mark Whitfield, Jr.

June 20

7:30pm & 9:30pm

*In deference to the artists, patrons of Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola are encouraged to keep conversations to a whisper during the performance. Artists and schedule subject to change.*

**Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* is located in Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall, Time Warner Center, 5th floor New York.**

**Reservations:** 212-258-9595 or [jazz.org/dizzys](http://jazz.org/dizzys); **Group Reservations:** 212-258-9595 or [jazz.org/dizzys-reservations](http://jazz.org/dizzys-reservations)  
Nightly Artist sets at 7:30pm & 9:30pm.

Late Night Session sets Tuesday through Saturday; doors open at 11:15pm

Cover Charge: \$20-45. Special rates for students with valid student ID. Full dinner available at each artist set.

**Rose Theater and The Appel Room** concert attendees, present your ticket stub to get 50% off the late-night cover charge at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* Fridays and Saturdays.

Jazz at Lincoln Center merchandise is now available at the concession stands during performances in Rose Theater and The Appel Room. Items also available in Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* during evening operating hours. Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* gift cards now available.

Find us on Facebook ([DizzysClubCocaCola](https://www.facebook.com/DizzysClubCocaCola)), Twitter ([@jazzdotorg](https://twitter.com/@jazzdotorg)), YouTube ([jazzatlincolncenter](https://www.youtube.com/jazzatlincolncenter)), and Instagram ([jazzdotorg](https://www.instagram.com/jazzdotorg)).

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