


RENFREW JAZZ FESTIVAL 2017

Featured Artists

Vincent Herring




(alto saxophone) is a saxophone virtuoso with a uniquely intense and vigorous musical voice. He is considered one of the premier saxophonists of his generation. Herring first toured Europe and the United States with Lionel Hampton's big band in the early 1980s. As he developed his musicianship working with Nat Adderley, a partnership blossomed that continued for nine years. Along the way he worked and/or recorded with Cedar Walton, Freddie Hubbard, Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Hayes, Larry Coryell, the Mingus Big Band, Kenny Barron, Nancy Wilson, Dr. Billy Taylor, and more. Herring has appeared as guest soloist with many artists including Wynton Marsalis at Lincoln Center and John Faddis with the Carnegie Hall Big Band. Inspired by diverse musical influences, Herring is also involved in jazz education and is on the faculty of William Paterson University. He conducts master classes and jazz workshops at conservatories and universities around the world, and performs regularly with his own groups and as a member of the Cannonball Legacy Band, led by Louis Hayes.

Conrad Herwig

(trombone) is considered one of the world's top jazz musicians in both performing and jazz education, and has an abundance of composer and arranger credits as well. He has released 20 recordings as a leader and contributed to nearly 200 other recording sessions with some of the most notable artists in jazz, including Miles Davis, Joe Henderson, Eddie Palmieri, Tito Puente, Frank Sinatra, Joe Lovano, Tom Harrell, Clark Terry, Paquito D'Rivera, Jon Faddis, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Red Garland, Dave Liebman, Max Roach, Buddy Rich, the Mingus Big Band (often serving as musical director and arranger), and many others. Herwig is on the board of advisors of the International Trombone Association, is professor of Jazz Trombone, Jazz Improvisation, and Jazz Composition and Arranging at Rutgers University, and a visiting professor of Jazz Studies at the Juilliard School. Herwig has conducted master classes, seminars and workshops at major universities and conservatories around the world.



Paul Bollenback




(guitar) will be appearing at Renfrew for the 22nd time in 26 years! With a career in music that began in 1981, Bollenback has performed as a sideman with a wide range of jazz luminaries, including artists as diverse as Stanley Turrentine, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Gary Bartz, David "Fathead" Newman, Terri-Lyne Carrington, Joe Locke, Jack McDuff, James Moody, Jim Snidero, Charlie Byrd, Herb Ellis, Paul Bley, Mike LeDonne, Chris McNulty, Gary Thomas, Grady Tate, and in the group East Meets Jazz with the renowned tabla virtuoso Sandip Burman, to name a few. He is known for his versatility, and also for an influential 20-year stint with jazz organist Joey DeFrancesco. Bollenback has performed on more than 80 recordings as a sideman, and released eight CDs as a leader. A busy performance schedule has been augmented since the late '90s by steady jazz education duties at Columbia University, Queens College, and The New School. Bollenback is also a composer whose pieces have appeared on Joey DeFrancesco's *Reboplin*, and on the *Jazz Times Superband* CD. His most recent recording with his trio, *Portraits in Space and Time* (Mayimba Music), was released in 2014. Bollenback resides in the New York City area.

Mike LeDonne

is an internationally renowned pianist and organist with the unique experience of having played with a wide spectrum of jazz masters from Benny Goodman to Milt Jackson and Sonny Rollins. Other jazz greats he has worked with include Roy Eldridge, Papa Jo Jones, James Moody, Dizzy Gillespie, Stanley Turrentine, and the Art Farmer-Clifford Jordan Quintet. He was accompanist to singers Ernestine Anderson, Annie Ross and Etta Jones, and toured with the Newport All-stars in lineups that featured Harry "Sweets" Edison and Clark Terry, and has been playing and recording with Benny Golson since 1997. LeDonne has recorded over 100 CDs as a sideman and 16 CDs as a leader. In 2003, LeDonne recorded his first of four CDs as a leader on the Hammond Organ, an instrument he's been playing since he was 10. The CD documented the music of his organ band, The Groover Quartet, with Eric Alexander, Peter Bernstein and Joe Farnsworth. The CD went to #1 and together they've held down a now-legendary gig on Tuesday nights at Smoke in NYC. LeDonne has won awards from the Jazz Journalists Association and *Downbeat* magazine, and spent four years on the faculty at the Juilliard School of Music.



Jeff "Tain" Watts



(drums) holds the unique distinction of being the only musician to appear on every Grammy Award-winning jazz record by both Wynton and Branford Marsalis. He got the nickname "Tain" from Kenny Kirkland when they were on tour in Florida and drove past a Chieftain gas station. Watts worked in the film and television industry as both a musician on the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno for three years and as an actor, playing Rhythm Jones in Spike Lee's *Mo' Better Blues*. Watts performed and recorded with the Branford Marsalis Quartet from 1985 to 2009. He currently performs with his own groups, The Watts Project and the Jeff "Tain" Watts Quartet, as well as with McCoy Tyner and the George Cables Project. In 2007 Watts started his own record label, Dark Key Music, releasing *Folk's Songs* in 2007, *Watts* in 2009 and *Family* in 2011. Terence Blanchard won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Solo for *Dark Key Music's "Dancin' 4 Chicken."* Watts writes most of the compositions on his own albums. He is a Pittsburgh Steelers fan and can be seen on the album cover of Branford Marsalis's *"Braggtown"* with a Steelers "Terrible Towel."