

# 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.

### Jared Gold

(organ). After years of dedication to his instrument, organist Jared Gold has emerged as one of the New York area's most in-demand musicians. With a strong foundation built upon notable influences such as Larry Young, Jack McDuff and Don Patterson, Gold found his own voice and constructed his own unique musical philosophy based on extending harmony and solidifying the groove. Gold earned many accolades following the success of his seven CDs, and in 2013, he won the Rising Star on Organ critics poll in *Downbeat* magazine. His latest release, *Metropolitan Rhythm* (2015, Posi-Tone), features his working trio of veteran guitarist, Dave Stryker and up-and-coming drummer, Kush Abadey. With undeniable talent, plus versatility and musicianship on the bandstand, Gold has had the opportunity to work with many established veterans in the jazz world such as John Abercrombie, Dave Stryker, Oliver Lake, Ralph Bowen and David Gibson. A New Jersey native and graduate of William Paterson University's jazz program, Gold maintains a busy schedule of domestic and international tours, but still can often be found playing organ on the weekends in local churches. He also runs his self-started company, JG3 Tech, building folding portable midi organs and ultra-lightweight portable midi bass pedals.



### 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."