Brad Mehldau Trio
Brad Mehldau, piano
Larry Grenadier, bass
Jeff Ballard, drums

Bill Frisell Quintet
Bill Frisell, guitar
Ron Miles, trumpet
Gregory Tardy, tenor saxophone and clarinet
Tony Scherr, bass
Kenny Wollesen, drums

Like many of his contemporaries, pianist Brad Mehldau began his career with intense classical training long before he was exposed to jazz. He began experimenting with the piano at age four and began formal training at six, which continued until he was 14.

Since arriving in New York in 1988, Mehldau has collaborated with many of his musical peers, including guitarist Peter Bernstein and Kurt Rosenwinkel and tenor saxophonist Mark Turner. In 1995, he formed his first trio with bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jorge Rossy, which toured the world and released six recordings. In 2005, Rossy was replaced by drummer Jeff Ballard.

In addition to these projects, Mehldau has worked with numerous leading jazz musicians, including a rewarding, two-year membership in saxophonist Joshua Redman’s quartet, recordings and performances with Charlie Haden and Lee Konitz and recordings as a sideman with Wayne Shorter, John Scofield and Charles Lloyd, among others. He is the subject of the French documentary Jazz Collection: Brad Mehldau.

Mehldau has also contributed to several recordings outside of the jazz idiom, including Willie Nelson’s Teatro and singer-songwriter Joe Henry’s Scar. His music has appeared in several movies, including Stanley Kubrick’s Eyes Wide Shut and Wim Wenders’ Million Dollar Hotel. He also composed an original soundtrack for the French film, Ma femme est une actrice.

Recently, on a commission from Carnegie Hall, Mehldau composed a set of songs for soprano Renée Fleming, based on poems from Rainer Maria Rilke’s The Book of Hours: Love Poems to God and Louise Bogan’s The Blue Estuaries. The duo premiered these works at New York’s Zankel Hall in May 2005.

Mehldau’s second solo piano recording, Live in Tokyo, was released in 2004. Day Is Done, the first recording featuring his new trio, was released by Nonesuch in September 2005. It includes interpretations of songs by Lennon and McCartney, Burt Bacharach, Paul Simon and Nick Drake, among others, as well as two original compositions by Mehldau.

Bassist Larry Grenadier received a B.A. in English literature from Stanford University. After relocating to Boston, he toured the United States and Europe as a member of Gary Burton’s band. He then moved to New York, where he has performed with Joe Henderson, Betty Carter, Pat Metheny and John Scofield, among others. When not working with Brad Mehldau, he tours and records with the Pat Metheny Trio.

Drummer Jeff Ballard grew up in Santa Cruz, California. He toured with Ray Charles from 1988 until 1990, when he settled in New York. Since then, Ballard has performed and recorded with Lou Donaldson, Danilo Perez, Chick Corea and Joshua Redman, among others. In addition to his work with Brad Mehldau, Ballard co-leads Fly, a collectively led trio with Larry Grenadier and tenor saxophonist Mark Turner, and performs with Joshua Redman’s Elastic Band.

In a career spanning more than 25 years and over 150 recordings—including 25 albums of his own—guitarist, composer and bandleader Bill Frisell has established himself as a visionary presence in American music. He has collaborated with a broad range of artists, filmmakers and legendary musicians. But it is his work as a leader that has garnered increasing attention and accolades.

Born in Baltimore, Bill Frisell played clarinet throughout his childhood in Denver, Colorado. His interest in guitar began with his exposure to pop music on the radio. The Chicago blues soon became a passion through his exposure to the work of Otis Rush, B. B. King, Paul Butterfield and Buddy Guy. In high school, Frisell played in bands covering pop and soul classics, James Brown and
Marc Ribot, with instrumentalists being specially selected for each program. The concerts took place in former industrial spaces that were converted into performance venues in the Ruhr region.


Tovey grew up in Santa Cruz, California, lived briefly in San Francisco early in his career and has lived and worked in New York for many years. He has performed regularly with Bill Frisell as a member of his trios, the New Quartet and the septet, with which he appeared on the album *Blues Dream*. He has played with John Zorn, Marc Ribot, John Medeski, Tom Waits, John Scofield, Jesse Harris and the Ferdinados, Sean Lennon, Mitchell Froom, Big John Patton, John Lurie, Jim Hall, Jessica Williams and Myra Melford. In addition to his live performances with Frisell, he currently tours with trumpeter Steven Bernstein's Sex Mob, and occasionally with Zorn's Electric Masada. He also leads his own band, The Wollesens.

**A Denver, Colorado, native, trumpeter Ron Miles** has played with Bill Frisell in a number of recording and live situations, including Frisell’s celebrated quartet of the mid-1990s; the trio (with Jenny Scheinman) that performs in Frisell’s multimedia collaboration with artist Jim Woodring, *Mysterio Symptom*; the septet; and with the band that interpreted Frisell’s arrangements of songs by Elvis Costello and Burt Bacharach, resulting in the recordings *Blues Dream*, *Quartet* and *The Sweetest Punch*. Ron has released two recordings as a leader for Gramavision, *Woman’s Day* and *My Cruel Heart*. More recently, he made *Heaven*, duo recording for Sterling Circle, on which Frisell is his guest. His latest recording is *Laughing Barrel*, which features Brandon Ross, Anthony Cox and Rudy Royston. Ron also performs with clarinetist Don Byron and has worked in recent years with drummer Ginger Baker and guitarist Charlie Hunter. When not on the road, he serves as Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Metropolitan State College in Denver.

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

Drummer Kenny Wollesen grew up in Santa Cruz, California, lived briefly in San Francisco early in his career and has lived and worked in New York for many years. He has performed regularly with Bill Frisell as a member of his trios, the New Quartet and the septet, with which he appeared on the album *Blues Dream*. He has played with John Zorn, Marc Ribot, John Medeski, Tom Waits, John Scofield, Jesse Harris and the Ferdinados, Sean Lennon, Mitchell Froom, Big John Patton, John Lurie, Jim Hall, Jessica Williams and Myra Melford. In addition to his live performances with Frisell, he currently tours with trumpeter Steven Bernstein's Sex Mob, and occasionally with Zorn's Electric Masada. He also leads his own band, The Wollesens.

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

Drummer Kenny Wollesen grew up in Santa Cruz, California, lived briefly in San Francisco early in his career and has lived and worked in New York for many years. He has performed regularly with Bill Frisell as a member of his trios, the New Quartet and the septet, with which he appeared on the album *Blues Dream*. He has played with John Zorn, Marc Ribot, John Medeski, Tom Waits, John Scofield, Jesse Harris and the Ferdinados, Sean Lennon, Mitchell Froom, Big John Patton, John Lurie, Jim Hall, Jessica Williams and Myra Melford. In addition to his live performances with Frisell, he currently tours with trumpeter Steven Bernstein's Sex Mob, and occasionally with Zorn's Electric Masada. He also leads his own band, The Wollesens.