

Thursday, October 25, 2018, 8pm  
Fox Theater, Oakland



**An Evening with Pat Metheny**  
with Antonio Sánchez, Linda May Han Oh, and Gwilym Simcock

*Cal Performances' 2018–19 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*

**Pat Metheny** was born in Lee's Summit (MO) on August 12, 1954, into a musical family. Starting on trumpet at the age of eight, he switched to guitar at age 12. By the age of 15, he was working regularly with the best jazz musicians in Kansas City, receiving valuable on-the-bandstand experience at an unusually young age.

Metheny first burst onto the international jazz scene in 1974. Over the course of his three-year stint with vibraphone great Gary Burton, the young Missourian quickly displayed his soon-to-become trademark playing style, which blends the loose and flexible articulation customarily reserved for horn players with an advanced rhythmic and harmonic sensibility—a way of playing and improvising that is modern in conception but grounded deeply in the jazz tradition of melody, swing, and the blues.

With the release of his first album, *Bright Size Life* (1975), Metheny reinvented the traditional “jazz guitar” sound for a new generation of players. Throughout his career, he has continued to redefine the genre by utilizing new technology and constantly working to evolve the improvisational and sonic potential of his instrument.

Metheny's versatility is nearly without peer on any instrument. Over the years, he has performed with artists as diverse as Steve Reich, Ornette Coleman, Herbie Hancock, Jim Hall, Milton Nascimento, and David Bowie. Metheny's body of work includes compositions for solo guitar, small ensembles, electric and acoustic instruments, large orchestras, ballet pieces, and even the robotic instruments of his *Orchestrion* project, while always sidestepping the limits of any one genre.

As well as being an accomplished musician, Metheny has also participated in the academic arena as a music educator. At age 18 he was the youngest teacher ever at the University of Miami. At 19 he became the youngest teacher ever at the Berklee College of Music, where he also received an honorary doctorate more than 20 years later (1996). He has also taught music workshops all over the world, from the Dutch Royal Conservatory to the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz to clinics in Asia and South America. He has also been a true musical pioneer in the realm of electronic music, and was

one of the very first jazz musicians to treat the synthesizer as a serious musical instrument. Years before the invention of MIDI technology, Metheny was using the Synclavier as a composing tool. He has also been instrumental in the development of several new kinds of guitars, including the soprano acoustic guitar, the 42-string Picasso guitar, Ibanez's PM series of jazz guitars, and a variety of other custom instruments.

It is one thing to attain popularity as a musician, but it is another to receive the kind of acclaim Metheny has garnered from critics and peers. Over the years, he has won countless polls as Best Jazz Guitarist along with awards including gold records for *(Still Life) Talking*, *Letter from Home*, and *Secret Story*. He has won 20 Grammy Awards spread over categories that include Best Rock Instrumental, Best Contemporary Jazz Recording, Best Jazz Instrumental Solo, and Best Instrumental Composition, at one point winning seven consecutive Grammys for seven consecutive albums.

In 2015 Metheny was inducted into the *Downbeat* Hall of Fame, becoming only the fourth guitarist to be included (along with Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Wes Montgomery) and its youngest member. Metheny has spent much of his life on tour, often doing more than 100 shows a year since becoming a bandleader in the 1970s. At the time of this writing, he continues to be one of the brightest stars of the jazz community, dedicating time to both his own projects and those of emerging artists and established veterans alike, helping them to reach their audiences as well as realizing their own artistic visions.

Metheny is a member of the prestigious Royal Swedish Academy of Music. He has also received the 2018 NEA Jazz Master Fellowship Award, the highest honor that our nation bestows on jazz artists.

**Antonio Sánchez** was born in Mexico City in 1971, began playing the drums at age five, and performed professionally in his early teens. He pursued a degree in classical piano at the National Conservatory in Mexico. In 1993 he moved to Boston to study at the Berklee College of Music and the New England Conser-

vatory, where he graduated *magna cum laude* in jazz studies.

Since relocating to New York City in 1999, Sánchez has become one of the most sought-after drummers in the international jazz scene. His playing is featured on over 100 albums, and as the drummer of choice for 20-time Grammy winner Pat Metheny, he has been part of virtually every project the guitarist has created since 2000. Sánchez and Metheny have recorded 10 albums together, three of which have won Grammys.

Sánchez has also collaborated with some of today's most prominent jazz musicians, including Joshua Redman, Chris Potter, Christian McBride, John Patitucci, Danilo Perez, Paquito D'Rivera, Kenny Werner, Marcus Roberts, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Dianne Reeves, Scott Colley, Dave Samuels, Luciana Souza, and Billy Childs, to name a few.

Sánchez's work as an artist has inspired him to compose and lead his own bands and ensembles. He has released five critically acclaimed albums as a leader. His debut, *Migration* (CAM Jazz, 2007), was named as one of the best new releases of the year by *All About Jazz* and featured an impressive cast that included Metheny, Chick Corea, Chris Potter, David Sánchez, and Scott Colley. His second solo effort, *Live in New York* (CAM Jazz, 2010) was recorded during a four-day run at the Jazz Standard in New York City. *New Life* (CAM Jazz, 2013), *Three Times Three* (CAM Jazz, 2014, Europe/2015, US), and *The Meridian Suite* (CAM Jazz, 2015) followed.

Sánchez's career took off with *Birdman* (Milan Records), followed by soundtracks for director Fernando León de Aranoa's *Política*, *Manual de Instrucciones* and EPIX network's *Get Shorty*. *Channels of Energy* with Vince Mendoza and the WDR Big Band confirms Sánchez's talent as a composer and performer.

Jazz vibraphonist and innovator Gary Burton recognized Sánchez's talent early on, featuring four of his original compositions on *Common Ground* and *Guided Tour*.

Sánchez has taken part in drum festivals, clinics, and master classes around the world, including at the Modern Drummer Festival Weekend, Zildjian Day, and the Montreal Drum Festival.

He has been a featured cover artist in some of the most widely read drum and jazz magazines, including *Downbeat* (USA), and *Modern Drummer* (USA and Brazil). Sánchez has won many international polls and was ranked the top jazz drummer in the *Modern Drummer* Readers' Poll (for 2015 and 2016) and *Jazz Times* Critics Poll (2015).

He is endorsed by Yamaha Drums, Zildjian Cymbals and Sticks (Antonio Sánchez Signature model), Remo Drumheads, and LP Percussion.

Antonio Sánchez has made his home in New York City since 1999.

For more information, visit Sánchez's website at [www.antoniosanchez.net](http://www.antoniosanchez.net).

Born in Malaysia and raised in Perth, Western Australia, **Linda May Han Oh** is a bassist and composer who has performed and recorded with artists such as Kenny Barron, Joe Lovano, Dave Douglas, Terri Lyne Carrington, Vijay Iyer, Steve Wilson, and Geri Allen.

She has received many accolades, including an ASCAP Young Jazz Composer's award in 2008, second place at the BASS2010 Competition, and an honorary mention at the 2009 Thelonious Monk Bass Competition. Linda also received the 2010 Bell Award for Young Australian Artist of the Year and was the 2012 *Downbeat* Critic's Poll "Rising Star" on bass.

After graduating from the Manhattan School of Music, Linda has had three well-received releases as a leader. Her most recent, *Walk Against Wind*, features Ben Wendel, Matthew Stevens, and Justin Brown, as well as guests such as Fabian Almazan and Korean percussionist Minji Park. The *Wall Street Journal* described this album as "music that is resolutely of the moment... her innovative range and stellar improvisations have made [her] one of the most dynamic rising stars in jazz today."

Linda has written for large and small ensembles as well as for film, participating in the BMI Film Composers Workshop, Sundance Labs at Skywalker Ranch, and Sabrina McCormick's short film, *A Good Egg*.

Recent projects include a trumpet trio with Ambrose Akinmusire and Tyshawn Sorey, and a double-quartet album with the Aventurine

string quartet, which was commissioned by the Jazz Gallery in New York City and was the last recording at Avatar Studios before its closing.

Linda is based in New York City and teaches at the New School. As an active educator she has also created a series of lessons for the BassGuru app for iPad and iPhone. She recently received a Jerome Foundation Fellowship.

For more information, visit her website at [www.lindamayhanoh.com](http://www.lindamayhanoh.com).

**Gwilym Simcock** (*piano*) is one of the most gifted pianists and composers on the European scene. He moves effortlessly between jazz and classical music, with a “harmonic sophistication and subtle dovetailing of musical traditions.” Simcock has been hailed as a pianist of “exceptional,” “brilliant,” and “dazzling” ability, and his music has been widely acclaimed as “engaging, exciting, often unexpected, melodically enthralling, complex yet hugely accessible,” and above all, “wonderfully optimistic.”

Simcock’s influences are wide ranging, from jazz legends including Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea, Jaco Pastorius, and Pat Metheny, to classical composers including Maurice Ravel, Henri Dutilleux, Béla Bartók, and Mark-Anthony Turnage. Although principally a jazz artist, Simcock has composed numerous works for larger ensembles that combine through-composed elements with improvisation, creating a sound that is very much his own.

In recent years, Simcock has become renowned for his solo performances, releasing the critically acclaimed album *Good Days at Schloss Elmau* in 2011 and touring throughout Europe and to places as far afield as Australia, the United States, Canada, Korea, and China. Simcock has toured extensively with the finest international jazz artists, including Dave Holland, Kenny Wheeler, Lee Konitz, Bill Bruford’s Earthworks, Bob Mintzer, and Bobby McFerrin. He co-leads the Anglo-American supergroup The Impossible Gentlemen with British guitar legend Mike Walker, Steve Rodby, and Adam Nussbaum. Simcock has also toured with classical virtuoso Nigel Kennedy.

Simcock’s career is unique in spanning a huge range of musical settings, as evidenced by the fact that he was the first BBC new-generation artist from a jazz background, and that his *Good Days at Schloss Elmau* received the prestigious Barclaycard Mercury Prize as Album of the Year in 2011. He has performed with orchestras, choirs, big bands, and dancers, as well as with musicians from backgrounds including the classical, jazz, folk, and rock traditions. Simcock has also written music that has appeared on television and on stage, most recently the music for an adaptation of Edward Albee’s *A Delicate Balance* at the Almeida Theatre in London. He has frequently appeared on British television and radio and was a presenter on *Saturday Classics* and a guest on *Composer of the Week* on BBC Radio 3. Simcock mentored and accompanied the finalists at the BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year awards on BBC 4 television in both 2014 and 2016.

Simcock has lead and recorded a variety of different projects. His debut album, *Perception*, was nominated for Best Album in the 2008 BBC Jazz Awards and has been critically acclaimed at home and abroad. Subsequent albums have been universally praised with reviews citing his work as “sublime,” “flawless,” “impressive,” and “a marker that few others are likely to equal.”

Honors include Rising Star at the BBC Jazz Awards and the British Jazz Awards, and both Jazz Musician of the Year and Best Band (with The Impossible Gentlemen) at the Parliamentary Jazz Awards. Simcock’s formal education includes studies at Trinity College of Music (London); Chetham’s School of Music (Manchester), where he studied classical piano, French horn, and composition; and the Royal Academy of Music (London), where he graduated with honors and the coveted Principal’s Prize for outstanding achievement.

Professor of jazz piano at the Royal Academy of Music, Gwilym Simcock is very much in demand for his teaching and master classes. For more information, please visit his website at [www.gwilymsimcock.com](http://www.gwilymsimcock.com).