Keith Jarrett, Gary Peacock & Jack DeJohnette

Wednesday, March 9, 2005, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall

Keith Jarrett, piano
Gary Peacock, bass
Jack DeJohnette, drums

The concert will be determined as the musicians play, and will last approximately two hours, with a 20-minute intermission.

This performance has been made possible in part by members of the Cal Performances Producers Circle.

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In 2003, Keith Jarrett, Gary Peacock, and Jack DeJohnette celebrated their 20th anniversary playing together as one of the premier trios in jazz history.

Jarrett and DeJohnette first played together in 1966-68 as members of the Charles Lloyd Quartet, then for one year in 1970 with Miles Davis. All three musicians first played together in 1977, when Jarrett and DeJohnette played on Gary Peacock’s first ECM Records recording, Tales of Another. They came together as a permanent trio in 1983, when Jarrett invited the other two to join him in New York for a recording session dedicated to playing “standards” – the rich body of American popular songs from the 1930s, ’40s and ’50s. At the time it was considered passé for top players to concentrate on playing standards instead of original material, but Keith Jarrett thought it was important to show that: “Music wasn’t about material, but what the player brings to the material.”

The January 1983 sessions produced the trio’s first three ECM releases Standards Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, and Changes. Thirteen “live” concert recordings have followed on ECM, each recorded in a different international city: Standards Live (Paris, 1985), Still Live (Munich, 1986), Changeless (US Tour, 1987), Tribute (Cologne, 1989), Standards in Norway (Oslo, 1989), The Cure (New York, 1990), Tokyo ’96 (Tokyo, 1996), Whisper Not (Paris, 1999) and Keith Jarrett At The Blue Note: The Complete Recordings (New York, 1994). This final recording is a six-CD box set that captured the trio’s complete three-night engagement at the Blue Note jazz club in New York in June 1994 and was voted “Album of the Year” in the 1996 Downbeat critics poll.

In October 1991, exactly two weeks after the death of Miles Davis, the trio went into New York’s Power Station studio and recorded Bye Bye Blackbird, their deeply felt tribute to the jazz giant that all three had played with in their early years.

Recent ECM trio releases include Inside Out (London, 2000) and Always Let Me Go (Tokyo, 2001), which feature recordings of the trio performing freely improvised music live in concert, plus Up For It (2002, Juan-Les-Pins, France), which returns to the trio performing standards. The latest ECM release (August 2004) is The Out-Of-Towners, recorded live in concert at Munich’s National Theatre in July 2001.

Trio video releases include: Standards I (1985), Standards II (1986), Live at Open Theatre East 1993 and Tokyo Concert ’96 – all featuring full concert performances.

In the past 20 years, the trio has been nominated for many international awards, including four American Grammy nominations, plus dozens of Record of the Year and Critics Prize awards from the US, European and Japanese music press. These included the Gold Disc Award (2000, 2003) from Swing Journal (Japan) and the Choc des Chocs Award (2000, 2001, 2003) from Jazzman Magazine (France) for Best Jazz Album of the Year. In 1999, their Tribute recording was awarded the Prix du President de la Republique from the Charles Cros Academy, France’s award for the Best Recording of The Year. In 1998 and 1999, the trio was voted Best Acoustic Jazz Group in the Downbeat reader’s polls.

Over the past 37 years, Keith Jarrett has come to be recognized as one of the most creative and uncompromising musicians of our times – universally acclaimed as an improvisor of unsurpassed genius; a master of jazz piano; a classical pianist of great depth; and a composer who has written hundreds of pieces for his various jazz groups, plus extended works for orchestra, soloist and chamber ensemble.

Born in May 1945 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, he began playing piano at age 3 and classical studies at age 7, then undertook formal composition studies at age 15. In the early ’60s, while still a teenager, he began playing jazz and was soon touring with Art Blakey, then for three years with Charles Lloyd, and finally with Miles Davis. By the late ’60s, he was leading his own trio with bassist
Charlie Haden and drummer Paul Motian (soon to be a quartet with saxophonist Dewey Redman) and recording as a leader for Atlantic, Columbia and Impulse Records.

In 1971 he began an exclusive recording collaboration with ECM Records, the visionary German label headed by producer Manfred Eicher. This collaboration has produced a catalogue of more than 60 recordings to date, unparalleled in their diversity and scope, including 15 trio recordings (on 23 CDs) with Peacock and DeJohnette; nine classical recordings of music by Bach, Handel, Mozart and Shostakovich, and Jarrett’s groundbreaking solo piano recordings, such as Köln Concert and La Scala, which have helped to redefine the piano in contemporary music.

His most recent solo CD, The Melody At Night, With You, an intimate studio recording of songs, was released in 1999 and has become one of the best selling jazz CDs of the past decade, winning many awards worldwide including “Best of The Year” awards in Japan, France and the US, as well as being nominated in 2000 for a Grammy Award.

Jarrett has garnered many other awards, including eight Grammy nominations and several French Grand Prix du Disque and German Deutsche Schallplattenpries awards. In 1989 the French Ministry of Culture elected him an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters, one of the highest honors the French nation can bestow upon an artist. In 1996 he was elected a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, joining Duke Ellington as only the second foreign jazz artist to be so honored. He has been voted Pianist of the Year in the Downbeat readers polls (‘94, ‘96, ‘97, ‘99, ’00, ’01, ’03) and in the Downbeat critic’s poll (‘96, ’00, ’01, ’02 , ’03, ’04).

Keith Jarrett was awarded the 2003 Polar Music Prize, one of the world’s most prestigious music awards, presented by the King of Sweden in a special televised ceremony in Stockholm. In July 2004 he was awarded the Leonie Sonning Music prize in Copenhagen and the Miles Davis Prize at the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Jazz Festival.

In 1995 Jarrett became the first musician to perform an evening of improvised music at La Scala in Milan. A recording of this historic solo concert performance was released to international acclaim in 1997.

Gary Peacock has served as an inspiration for several generations of jazz bass players, not content with the traditional bassist’s role of simple time-keeping and harmonic accompaniment. His ability to bring melodic and rhythmic freedom into any musical setting has been his trademark for 45 years.

Born in 1935 in Idaho, Peacock first played in Los Angeles in the late 1950s with Bud Shank, Barney Kessel, Hampton Hawes and Paul Bley. By the early ’60s he was in New York playing with Bill Evans, Miles Davis, Albert Ayler, Archie Shepp, Sonny Rollins and others. He moved to Japan for several years in the ’60s to study Oriental philosophy and medicine, before returning to the US in the early ’70s to resume active music-making and to teach at the Cornish Institute in Seattle. Over the years he has also worked with Sarah Vaughn, Chick Corea, Joe Henderson, Helen Merrill, Michel Petrucciani, Don Pullen and Bill Frisell, to name a few.

In recent years Peacock’s other major collaborations besides the trio with Jarrett and DeJohnette have included duo tours with guitarist Ralph Towner and work with pianists Paul Bley, Marc Copland and Marilyn Crispell, in either duo settings or in trio with drummer Paul Motian.

In the past 25 years, Peacock has played on more than 25 ECM Records recordings.

Jack DeJohnette is one of the finest drummers in jazz. His approach to the drums is that of a complete musician, exploring the varied colors and timbres of his varied percussion instruments, rather than simple time-keeping.

Born in 1942 in Chicago, DeJohnette studied
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

classical music and piano for 10 years as a youth. In the mid ‘60s he joined Muhal Richard Abrams and Roscoe Mitchell as a member of AACM, Chicago’s pioneering avant-garde collective ensemble of musicians. In 1966 he headed to New York, playing first with Jackie McLean, Betty Carter and Abbey Lincoln, before joining the Charles Lloyd Quartet alongside the young Keith Jarrett. By 1967 he was playing with many of the period’s greatest improvisers, including Bill Evans, John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk and Stan Getz, before joining Miles Davis in 1968 to record the quintessential jazz/rock fusion record, *Bitches Brew*, along with John McLaughlin, Chick Corea and Dave Holland.

After a few years with Miles, DeJohnette moved on and began recording with many of the finest players in jazz, as well as leading his own groups. In the 1970s, he formed New Directions featuring John Abercrombie, Eddie Gomez and Lester Bowie, followed by Special Edition, and then the Gateway Trio with Dave Holland and John Abercrombie, which is still active today.

DeJohnette has also been featured in past years on high-profile CD releases by Herbie Hancock, Betty Carter, Sonny Rollins, Joe Henderson, Milton Nascimento, John Scofield and Michael Brecker, as well as on sessions with young emerging players that he feels are deserving of greater attention.

In 1972, he began a 30-plus-year recording collaboration with ECM Records, where he has played on more than 40 recordings with varied groups as a leader, sideman, and in the trio with Jarrett and Peacock.

In recent years he has toured with the World Saxophone Quartet, the Gateway Trio, British saxophonist John Surman, and with African musician Foday Muso Suso. Touring and recording projects for 2004-'05 include a special trio collaboration with guitarist John Scofield and organist Larry Goldings in a Celebration of Tony Williams, a tribute to the legendary late drummer and his benchmark early '70s jazz fusion group, *The Tony Williams Lifetime* (which featured Williams on drums, joined by guitarist John McLaughlin and organist Larry Young). There are also upcoming tours with the Latin Project, a septet featuring clarinetist Don Byron and a host of superb Afro-Cuban musicians, plus a quartet with pianist Danilo Perez, bassist John Patitucci and guitarist Jerome Harris.

DeJohnette has garnered many awards including France’s prestigious Grand Prix du Disque (1979), Album of the Year awards in the 1984 *Downbeat* readers poll and 1989 critics poll, and *Swing Journal* (Japan). He has the distinction of having been voted Best Drummer in the *Downbeat* reader’s polls for an unprecedented 13 straight years from 1980 to 1992. In 1991 Boston’s Berklee College of Music awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Music. In 1997 he appeared on the Grammy Awards telecast with Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Natalie Cole in a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, and was also a featured musician in the film *Blues Brothers 2000*.

The 2003 Montreal Jazz Festival featured a four-night retrospective with Jack DeJohnette, featuring him performing with different guest artists each night, including in trio with Herbie Hancock and Dave Holland, duo nights with Bobby McFerrin and Foday Muso Suso, and then the Latin Project. At the 2004 Monterey Jazz Festival Jack DeJohnette was again a featured artist with three concerts that included a trio with Don Byron and Jason Moran, a duo with Bobby McFerrin, and a night with the Latin Project.