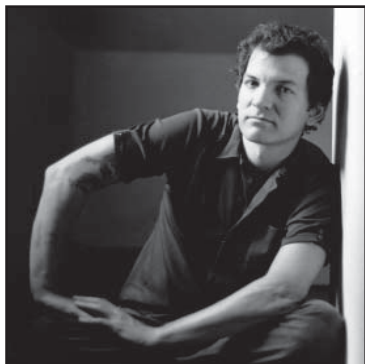


Sunday, January 22, 2006, 7 pm  
Zellerbach Hall



## 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*

*This performance is made possible, in part, by the generous support of the members of the Cal Performances Producers Circle and Friends of Cal Performances.*

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(l-r: Jeff Ballard, Brad Mehldau, Larry Grenadier)

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 guitarists 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's *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

other dance material. Later, he studied music at the University of Northern Colorado before attending Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he studied with John Damian, Herb Pomeroy and Michael Gibbs. Frisell spent 1978 in Belgium, where he concentrated on composition. During this period, he toured with Gibbs and made his first recordings with German bassist Eberhard Weber. Frisell moved to the New York area in 1979 and stayed until 1989. He now lives in Seattle.

Frisell's numerous recordings demonstrate a broad range of musical influences. His catalog, including 20 recordings for Nonesuch, includes everything from original Buster Keaton film scores to arrangements for large ensemble with horns (*This Land, Blues Dream*), compositions originally written as soundtracks to Gary Larson cartoons (*Quartet*), interpretations of works by classic and contemporary American composers (*Have a Little Faith*) and collaborations with bassist Viktor Krauss and drummer Jim Keltner (*Gone, Just Like a Train, Good Dog, Happy Man*).

Over the years, Frisell has collaborated with Paul Motian, John Zorn, Ginger Baker, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Marc Johnson, Ronald Shannon Jackson and Melvin Gibbs, Marianne Faithful, John Scofield, Jan Garbarek, Lyle Mays, Vernon Reid, Julius Hemphill, Paul Bley, Wayne Horvitz, Hal Willner, Robin Holcomb, Rinde Eckert, the Frankfurt Ballet, filmmaker Gus Van Sant, David Sanborn, David Sylvian and numerous others, including Bono, Brian Eno, Jon Hassell and Daniel Lanois on the soundtrack for Wim Wenders's film *Million Dollar Hotel*.

In 2002, Frisell was appointed the musical director of the *Century of Song* series by artistic director Gerard Mortier and Chief Dramaturg Thomas Woerdehoff for the 2003–2004 seasons of the Ruhr Triennale Arts Festival in northern Germany. These celebrated programs featured songwriters and performers in collaboration with Frisell, not only to investigate their own bodies of work, but to bring a fresh perspective to songs and songwriters that have been influential on that work. Guest artists included Elvis Costello, Suzanne Vega, Van Dyke Parks, Loudon Wainwright III, Rickie Lee Jones, Vinicius Cantuaria, Vic Chesnutt, Ron Sexsmith, Jesse Harris, Petra Haden 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.

Frisell's latest album, *East/West*, was released by Nonesuch in August 2005. The two-CD set captures live trio performances with drummer Kenny Wolleson and bassist Tony Scherr at New York's Village Vanguard, as well as a show with Wolleson and Krauss at Yoshi's in Oakland. A companion recording, *Further East/Further West*, featuring additional tracks by the trio, is available via download at [www.songtone.com](http://www.songtone.com). Frisell's 2004 Nonesuch CD, *Unspeakable*, won a 2005 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Jazz Album, and he was again voted Best Guitarist in the 2005 *Down Beat* critics' poll, after having won in 1998 and 1999.



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 Sympatico*; 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.



Born in New Orleans, **Gregory Tardy** began his musical career studying clarinet before turning to tenor saxophone, on which he explored many musical styles, especially falling in love with jazz. Tardy has worked with Elvin Jones, the Neville Brothers, Ellis Marsalis, Nicholas Payton, Tom Harrell, Andrew Hill, Dave Douglas, John Patitucci, Jay McShann, Wynton Marsalis, Steve Coleman, James Moody and Rashied Ali, among others. His recordings as a leader include *Serendipity*, *Hidden Light* and *Abundance*. He plays both tenor saxophone and clarinet in the Bill Frisell Quintet.



**Tony Scherr** was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and is a self-taught musician. He is best known as a bass player (both acoustic and electric), but he also plays slide and electric guitar. Tony has lived in New York for many years. He stays busy recording and touring with many bands, including Sex Mob, Jesse Harris and the Ferdinandos, Joey Baron's Killer Joey and the Maria Schneider Orchestra. Tony has also performed with John Scofield, John Lurie and the Lounge Lizards, Dakota Staton, Woody Herman, Chris Brown and Kate Fenner, Slowpoke, Al Grey, Jon Faddis, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Sophie B. Hawkins, Junior Cook, Brad Shepik and the Commuters, Wolfgang Muthspiel, Stanley Turrentine, Steve Kuhn and Tricky. Tony has contributed to film scores by John Lurie, Evan Lurie and Howard Shore and with members of Sonic Youth. Tony also writes and sings his own songs while accompanying himself on guitar. This material can be heard on his self-produced CD, *Come Around*.



Drummer **Kenny Wolleson** 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 Ferdinandos, 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.