

Saturday, March 21, 2009, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Chick Corea & John McLaughlin



Five Peace Band

Chick Corea *keyboards*
 John McLaughlin *guitar*
 Kenny Garrett *alto saxophone*
 Christian McBride *bass*
 Vinnie Colaiuta *drums*

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One of the most creatively restless and indefatigably imaginative artists in jazz, **Chick Corea** defies categorization. He is equally at home in acoustic settings as in electric formats. He performs sublime solo concerts and welcomes richly arranged collaborations with orchestras. In recent years, he has explored new collaborations (for example, with banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck on their duo album *The Enchantment*), revisited old bands (including an extensive tour with a quartet featuring Hubert Laws, Eddie Gomez and Airto Moreira) and celebrated the 35th anniversary of his chamber jazz duo partnership with Gary Burton that resulted in 2007's Grammy Award-winning *The New Crystal Silence*.

Mr. Corea broke onto the jazz scene in the early 1960s, working with bands led by such stars as Mongo Santamaria, Willie Bobo, Blue Mitchell, Herbie Mann and Stan Getz. One of his most significant sideman gigs was with Miles Davis's seminal electric fusion bands, from 1968–1970, when he participated in the classic album, *Bitches Brew*. It was there that Mr. Corea first met and worked with John McLaughlin.

As a solo artist, Mr. Corea recorded his debut in 1966, *Tones for Joan's Bones*, followed by what has come to be known as a classic jazz recording, 1968's *Now He Sings, Now He Sobs*, with Miroslav Vitous and Roy Haynes.

One of Mr. Corea's highlight moments came in 1971, when he created Return to Forever, the legendary jazz-rock fusion band. Although it lasted just seven years in three different editions, Return to Forever is heralded as one of the most important and forward-looking bands in jazz history.

In 2008, Mr. Corea assembled a reunion of the quartet version of the band. It swept the world with a tour that was easily the most anticipated event of the year for jazz fans. Celebrating the four partners in fusion revisiting their past material played in the present tense—along with a multitude of national press including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today* and *Newsweek*—*Down Beat* ran a cover story on Return to Forever.

Before the band's first date of the successful extended tour, Mr. Corea beamed: "I can't wait to see what happens. So many people have waited so long for this. Playing the music again with the guys in rehearsals has been so much fun, but doing this for our fans is almost too good to be true." When the tour ended in the summer of 2008, Mr. Corea was

already revving up for his next musical adventure: Five Peace Band.

Veteran guitar grandmaster **John McLaughlin** has earned a place in the top echelon of the six-string pantheon.

His virtuosity has been on display in a number of divergent settings throughout his celebrated career, beginning in the early 1960s as the electric guitarist for Georgie Fame's rocking Blue Flames. From there, he covered a wide swath of musical territory. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he explored electric guitar jazz-rock fusion with Tony Williams's *Lifetime* and Miles Davis's *Bitches Brew*, *On the Corner* and *Live at the Cellar Door* bands. (It was through Mr. McLaughlin's tenure with Miles tenure that he got to work with Mr. Corea.)

Mr. McLaughlin also formed his own seminal fusion group, Mahavishnu Orchestra, which burst onto the scene with two artistic and commercial blockbusters, 1971's *The Inner Mounting Flame* and 1972's *Birds of Fire*.

While a fusion superhero, Mr. McLaughlin proved to be a master guitarist not content to dwell in predictable territory for too long a spell. He delved into acoustic guitar playing, working with Indian percussionist Trilok Gurtu as well as recording a gorgeous acoustic homage to Bill Evans, *Time Remembered*. Mr. McLaughlin also toured with Spanish flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucia, composed two critically acclaimed concertos for classical guitar and orchestra, and played jazz-infused Indian classical music with his band Shakti.

In subsequent years, he revisited that group with the Remember Shakti tour. In 2005, Mr. McLaughlin recorded *Thieves and Poets*, his first new studio album in six years. It featured his buoyant, classically tinged three-part suite for acoustic guitar and orchestra performed by him and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie conducted by Renalto Rivolta.

In recent years, Mr. McLaughlin's recording output has expanded. Of his 2006 plugged-in *Industrial Zen* CD, he said, "I'm a Western musician and my discipline is jazz. I want to give testimony to my [jazz-rock] roots." And his most recent album, *Floating Point*, another electric date with a band of Indian musicians, was praised by *Down Beat* as "a landmark recording, marked by detail, subtlety and extraordinary moving performances."

About the Artists

Another alumnus of Miles Davis's support team (he was prominently featured in the trumpeter's band until his death in 1991), alto saxophonist **Kenny Garrett** has grown into one of jazz's most potent and thoughtful artists.

Hailing from Detroit, Mr. Garrett launched his career in 1978 with the Duke Ellington Orchestra, led by Duke's son, Mercer. He then gigged with the Mel Lewis Orchestra (which was spotlighting the compositions of Mr. Lewis's former musical partner, Thad Jones) and the Dannie Richmond Quartet (which in homage to Mr. Richmond's longtime tenure as Charles Mingus's drummer re-explored his ex-boss's works). In later years, he played in pop settings with Sting, Peter Gabriel and Bruce Springsteen.

Although Mr. Garrett recorded a couple of solo albums in the late 1980s, it was not until his brilliant *African Exchange Student* (1990) that his career as a leader took off. Writing in the *All Music Guide to Jazz*, Scott Yanow heralded Mr. Garrett's outing: "Whether it be the modal tribute piece 'Shaw,' the rarely played John Coltrane song 'Straight Street' or the minor blues 'Nostradamus,' Kenny Garrett justifies the praise that he received from Miles."

Another top-notch effort came in 1996, when Mr. Garrett recorded *Pursuance: The Music of John Coltrane* with sidemen Pat Metheny, Brian Blade and Rodney Whitaker. *Beyond the Wall* (2006) was an adventurous project that infused his jazz expression with Asian music influences. Sidemen included jazz veterans Bobby Hutcherson and Pharoah Sanders, who characterized Mr. Garrett's saxophone blowing as "very spiritual," adding that the depth of his performance suggests that "he's playing with his guts rather than his diaphragm." Mr. Garrett's latest effort, *Sketches of MD: Live at the Iridium*, was released on Mack Avenue Records in September 2008.

Upon his arrival in New York in 1989 from his native Philadelphia at the age of 17, **Christian McBride** turned heads as a young phenomenon who was equally adept at acoustic and electric bass.

Nearly 20 years later, he is considered to be one of the marquee jazz artists of his generation who can be rightfully called a star. In addition to commanding the stage with such peers as Diana Krall,

Joshua Redman, Roy Hargrove, Brad Mehldau and Brian Blade, Mr. McBride has toured and recorded with the likes of McCoy Tyner, Pat Metheny and Sting.

Mentored by such jazz giants as Ray Brown and Betty Carter, Mr. McBride has enjoyed a critically acclaimed recording career as a leader (his most recent album, 2006's *Live at Tonic*, was a three-CD collection with an all-star support team). He has also served as the creative chair of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the co-director of the Jazz Museum of Harlem. In addition, Mr. McBride is committed to furthering jazz education with a new generation of performers. In 2008 alone, he performed duties as artist in residence at both the Detroit International and Monterey jazz festivals. A few years ago, at a concert where they both performed, bass legend Ron Carter told Mr. McBride, steeped in the jazz tradition, "It's good to see you respecting the music so much."

The winner of 18 "Drummer of the Year" awards from *Modern Drummer*, as well as the 1996 inductee into the magazine's Hall of Fame, **Vinnie Colaiuta** ranks as one of today's top studio musicians. In the last two years alone, he has rhythmically supported a who's who of popular music, including Herbie Hancock (on his Grammy Award-winning album *River: The Joni Letters*), LeAnn Rimes, Randy Jackson, Andrea Bocelli, the Backstreet Boys, George Duke, Chris Botti, Michael Bublé, Jill Scott and Billy Ray Cyrus.

Mr. Colaiuta first drew international attention during his stint with Frank Zappa (appearing on such albums as *Tinsel Town Rebellion*, *Joe's Garage* and *Shut Up 'n Play Yer Guitar*), where he effortlessly navigated through the leader's complex rhythmic compositions. Mr. Colaiuta's star rose higher during his seven-year tour of duty with Sting on the road and even longer association with him in the studio (on session dates ranging from 1993's *Ten Summoner's Tales* to 2003's *Sacred Love*).

Mr. Colaiuta's work in the Five Peace Band is a perfect fit for both of its co-leaders. Mr. Colaiuta has a history of performing with Chick Corea, including his 2000 *Akoustic Band Live from the Blue Note Tokyo* CD, as well as with John McLaughlin, who sought his drumming support for his 2006 jazz-rock fusion outing, *Industrial Zen*.