

Sunday, November 13, 2011, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall

Abraham Inc.

with David Krakauer, Fred Wesley & Socalled



Wasserman

David Krakauer	<i>clarinet</i>
Fred Wesley	<i>trombone</i>
Socalled	<i>sampler, accordion, keyboard</i>
Sheryl Bailey	<i>guitar</i>
C-Rayz Walz	<i>vocals</i>
Jerome Harris	<i>bass</i>
Freddie Hendrix	<i>trumpet</i>
Michael Sarin	<i>drums</i>
Allen Watsky	<i>guitar</i>
Brandon Wright	<i>saxophone</i>

PROGRAM

Tonight's performance will be announced from the stage.

Cal Performances' 2011–2012 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

AN UNPRECEDENTED COLLABORATION between three cultural visionaries—David Krakauer, champion of klezmer music and world-class clarinetist; legendary funk trombonist and arranger Fred Wesley, celebrated for his work with James Brown and George Clinton; and hip-hop renegade and beat architect Socalled—Abraham Inc. heralds a time when boundaries are eroding, mutual respect is presumed, and musical traditions can hit with full force without concession or appropriation. Backed by a three-piece horn section led by Mr. Wesley plus musicians who collaborate frequently with Mr. Krakauer and Socalled, the result is an all-out klezmer-funk dance party.

Abraham Inc.'s debut release *Tweet Tweet* peaked at No. 1 in funk and No. 1 in Jewish and Yiddish music and No. 35 in music sales on Amazon. It reached No. 7 in jazz on *Billboard* and was featured at No. 40 on the *Billboard* "Heatseekers" chart for fast sellers.

Abraham Inc. is exclusively represented by Bernstein Artists, Inc., www.bernarts.com.

Clarinetist **David Krakauer**, praised internationally for his astounding ability to play in a myriad of music genres with "prodigious chops" (*The New Yorker*) and "soulfulness and electrifying showiness" (*The New York Times*), occupies the unique position of being both one of the world's leading exponents of Eastern European Jewish klezmer music, plus a major voice in classical music and avant-garde improvisation.

In recent years, Mr. Krakauer has emerged as a compelling soloist, introducing his distinctive sound to symphonic audiences in the United States and Europe. He has performed with the Dresdner Philharmonie, the Pacific Symphony, the Weimar Staatskapelle, Detroit Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, Quebec Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, New World Symphony, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Komische Oper Orchestra and the Orchestre Lamoureux. He has premiered and championed concertos by Osvaldo Golijov, Paul Moravec, Jean-Philippe Calvin, Ofer Ben Amots, George Tsontakis, Mohammed Fairouz and Wlad Marhulets.

Throughout his career, Mr. Krakauer has enjoyed major ongoing artistic collaborations with a diverse group of the world's foremost performers and composers. Highlights include his renowned partnership with the Kronos Quartet on Mr. Golijov's *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, touring with the Emerson String Quartet; performing during the inaugural season of Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall with renowned jazz pianist Uri Caine; an eight-year tenure with the Naumburg Award-winning Aspen Wind Quintet; tours with Music from Marlboro; composing the music for *Offering*, an homage to the victims of September 11 by modern dance duo Eiko and Koma; numerous performances of David Del Tredici's *Magyar Madness*, commissioned by Music Accord for Mr. Krakauer and the Orion String Quartet; and performing in the International Emmy Award-winning BBC documentary *Holocaust, A Music Memorial from Auschwitz* with music by Mr. Golijov.

Mr. Krakauer and his band Klezmer Madness! have performed around the world since 1996, forging alliances between his branch of world music and a multitude of musical genres including jazz, funk and, most recently, electro. Touring internationally to major venues and festivals including Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress, Stanford Lively Arts, San Francisco Performances, Hancher Auditorium, the Krannert Center, the Venice Biennale, Krakow Jewish Culture Festival, BBC Proms, Saalfelden Jazz Festival, La Cigale, the Marciac festival, WOMEX, the New Morning in Paris and many others has enabled Klezmer Madness! to leave a lasting impression on diverse music scenes around the world.

In 2006, Mr. Krakauer co-founded the multi-genre super group Abraham Inc. with legendary funk trombonist and arranger Fred Wesley and Jewish hip-hop renegade and beat architect Socalled. Recent and upcoming highlights include performances at the Apollo Theater and Symphony Space in New York, Cal Performances, the Krannert Center in Illinois, Hancher Auditorium in Iowa, the Miller Outdoor Theater in Houston, the Strathmore

in Maryland, the Heineken Open'r Festival in Poland, the Cracow Jewish Culture Festival, the Transmusicales de Rennes and Jazz à la Villette in Paris.

In addition to Abraham Inc.'s *Tweet Tweet*, Mr. Krakauer's discography contains some of the most important clarinet recordings of recent decades. His first release on the French jazz label Label Bleu *A New Hot One!* was critically acclaimed. *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind* received the Diapason D'Or in France. *The Twelve Tribes* was designated album of the year in the jazz category for the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik. *Klezmer, NY*, on John Zorn's Tzadik label, features Mr. Krakauer's visionary suite, *A Klezmer Tribute to Sidney Bechet*. *Klezmer Madness* (Tzadik) was one of the label's best selling discs. *Bubbemeises: Lies My Gramma Told Me* (Label Bleu) features a collaboration with Socalled. Other CDs include the groundbreaking *Rhythm and Jews* (Piranha/Flying Fish) and *Jews with Horns* (Piranha/Green Linnet) with the Klezmatics, plus *In the Fiddler's House* with violinist Itzhak Perlman and the Klezmatics (Angel) and *Ayre* with Dawn Upshaw and Mr. Golijov (Deutsche Grammophon). His unique sound can be heard in Danny Elfman's score for the Ang Lee film *Taking Woodstock* and throughout Sally Potter's *The Tango Lesson*.

Mr. Krakauer has had major profiles in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *DownBeat*, *JazzTimes*, *Jazziz* and *Chamber Music* magazine. A passionate educator, Mr. Krakauer is on the clarinet and chamber music faculties of the Mannes College of Music of the New School University, NYU, the Manhattan School of Music and the Bard Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Krakauer makes his home in New York and is managed by Bernstein Artists, Inc. He is an artist and clinician for the Selmer, Conn-Selmer and Rico companies. For more information, visit www.davidMr.Krakauer.com.

Born in Columbus, Georgia, and raised in Mobile, Alabama, Fred Wesley began his career as a teenage trombonist with Ike and Tina

Turner. He later was music director, arranger, trombonist and a primary composer for James Brown from 1968–1975, then arranged for and played with Parliament-Funkadelic and Bootsy's Rubber Band.

With Mr. Brown and as leader of his backing band The JBs, Mr. Wesley "was the world's most famous sideman, orchestrating the sinuous grooves and contributing the bold, surgically precise solos that defined the language of funk." In teaming with George Clinton and Bootsy Collins, he played a key role in taking funk to the next level. Mr. Wesley is featured in the documentary film *Soul Power*, as well as the Oscar-winning *When We Were Kings* and countless other documentaries about James Brown and funk music.

Seminal hits he helped create include Mr. Brown and the JBs' "Big Payback" and "Pass the Peas." Others include Parliament's "P-Funk" and Bootsy's "Stretching Out." Author of the acclaimed memoir, *Hit Me, Fred: Recollections of a Side Man* (Duke University Press, 2002), Mr. Wesley is one of the world's most-sampled musicians. Artists who have sampled his work include Janet Jackson ("That's the Way Love Goes") and Nas ("Nastradamus").

A veteran of the Count Basie Orchestra, Mr. Wesley also has worked with a who's who of other artists, including Ray Charles, Pancho Sanchez, Van Morrison, Usher, the SOS Band and Cameo, as well as with his close friends and cohorts Maceo Parker and Pee Wee Ellis.

Today, he plays and records with his own jazz-funk band, the New JBs, and is one-third of the innovative "klezmer-funk" collaboration Abraham Inc. He also freelances as an arranger, producer and studio performer, and shares his wealth of musical knowledge with young musicians and music students in educational settings worldwide.

Klezmer/hip-hop maestro **Socalled** is a musician, producer, composer, arranger, magician, filmmaker, photographer and visual artist based in Montreal. Born in Ottawa and raised just north of there, in Chelsea, Quebec, he grew up taking piano lessons and loving funk and

hip-hop. When Socalled first heard klezmer music on an old Yiddish record, he was fascinated by the cool sounds he could sample to make hip hop beats. Then he realized that integrating this Jewish music from the 1930s into his songs was a way of representing himself and his cultural heritage. It enabled him bring something of his own to funk and hip-hop, giving him what he calls "a real reason to make music."

Known for his genre-bending approach and his collaborations with musical giants of funk, klezmer, hip-hop, lounge and classical music, Socalled has performed all over the world. He has released three CDs: *Socalled Seder*, *HipHopKhasene* and, most recently, *Ghettoblaster*, recorded with Yiddish singer Theodore Bikel, lounge pianist Irving Fields, musician and producer Gonzalez, master clarinetist David Krakauer, country singer Katie Moore, rapper C-Rayz Walz and funk trombone legend Fred Wesley, among others. All of these wonderful lunatics, and so many more, appear in the Reframe Films/NFB *The Socalled Movie*, available for exclusive download on YouTube.

There is no description more apt for **Sheryl Bailey** than "a sizzling guitar goddess," coined by Elliot Simon of All About Jazz. She attended Berklee College of Music. Her years of dedication and focus won her third place in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Guitar competition in 1995, and she was chosen as a Jazz Ambassador for the U.S. State Department in 2000 for a South American tour. To date, Ms. Bailey has released five CDs under her name and a live DVD, *The Sheryl Bailey 3 Live in NYC* available from Mel Bay records. Each successive release has drawn more accolades. In 2009, MCG Jazz released *A New Promise*, her recently recorded tribute to Emily Remler, featuring Ms. Bailey as the solo artist with Pittsburgh's acclaimed Three Rivers Jazz Orchestra. She is also heard on recordings of many other artists—Mr. Krakauer, Richard Bona, Shingo Okudaira, Irene Cara, Gary Portnoy and KJ Denhart among them.

Legendary New York City battle-rap champion **C-Rayz Walz** considers energy an art unto

itself. This Bronx-bred emcee is a lyrical maniac on stage, off the tip of his tongue, in the studio, on MTV and everywhere you turn these days. As one of the original members of the infamous rap crew Stronghold, C-Rayz Walz has been a fixture in the New York hip-hop scene for years. He hosts tons of hip-hop shows and events, has dropped over 34 singles that consistently make noise on the *Billboard* charts, has had a video in rotation on BET and started his own label, SunCycle Entertainment.

C-Rayz Walz has performed over 500 live shows since 2003. Blazing Stages in Europe, South America (Africa and Japan coming soon), shared the stage with the likes of Raekwon, dead prez, Mos Def, Aesop Rock, The Pharcyde, People Under the Stairs, Deep Rooted, Atmosphere, Mr Cheeks, De La Soul, Slick Rick, Doug E Fresh, Pete Rock, Insane Clown Posse, R.A. The Rugged Man, Mickey Avalon, Killer Priest, GhostFace Killa, Inspecta Deck, GZA, SoundTribe Sector Nine, Sage Francis, Digable Planets, X-Clan, GrandMaster Caz, Mellie Mel, Cold Crush, Busy Bee, DJ JS-1 & Rahzel, Kool Keith, Self Scientific, Brother Ali, Spank Rock, The Juggaknots, DJ Muggz, Pigeon John, Reef The Lost Cauze, Large Professor and The New Positive Reggae Vibe Light of Matisyahu.

This prolific artist is more than a musician, poet and stage-wrecker—he has written two books and one screenplay and dips his fingers into the visual arts as well. It is clear to see that, after lighting up the underground for years with his luminous talent, it is truly the dawn of a new era. The SunCycle Emcee is ready to rise and shine all over this third rock.

Jerome Harris has won international recognition as a versatile and penetrating guitar and bass guitar stylist. He has recorded and/or toured with Sonny Rollins, Jack DeJohnette, Don Byron, Ray Anderson, Paul Motian, Bill Frisell, Marty Ehrlich and Julius Hemphill, among many others. His international touring work includes journeys to south Asia and southeastern Africa as a Kennedy Center/State Department "Jazz Ambassador." Mr. Harris's critically acclaimed recordings as leader include *Rendezvous*

(Stereophile) and *Hidden in Plain View* (New World). Mr. Harris grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where he explored a wide range of traditional and popular American music genres, including blues, folk and gospel. His essay “Jazz on the Global Stage,” published in *The African Diaspora: A Musical Perspective* (Garland, 2000), explores the history, current state, and implications of the spread of jazz to locales far from its African-American birthplace.

Trumpeter **Freddie Hendrix** was born in 1976 and raised in Teaneck, New Jersey. Whether as a soloist, lead trumpeter, or just a horn section player, Mr. Hendrix has a history that is as varied as it is distinguished.

He is the former lead trumpeter of both the legendary Illinois Jacquet’s Big Band and the 2005 Ray Charles Orchestra, and was one of the featured soloists (in The Cecil’s Big Band led by Joe Elefante) on a segment of ABC’s *Nightline*. He is a member of Rufus Reid’s Quintet and Nonet, T. S. Monk’s Sextet, Cecil Brooks III’s CB3 band and lead/alternate lead for Frank Foster’s Loud Minority Band, Mike Longo’s New York State of the Art Jazz Ensemble and Kendrick Oliver’s New Life Jazz Orchestra.

With both a B.A. and M.A. in jazz studies and performance (William Paterson University and New Jersey City University), Mr. Hendrix has won numerous scholarships and awards, was a participant in the Thelonious Monk Jazz Aspen Snowmass Institute and the Steans Institute for young artists (in association with the Ravinia Jazz Festival), and has 14 recordings as a sideman under his belt. He recently made a live recording with the Rufus Reid Quintet at the Kennedy Center for WBGO’s *Jazzset*. Prior engagements have included performing at *Hollywood Meets Motown*, a fundraiser for colon cancer sponsored by former NBC news reporter Katie Couric and a late 2005 benefit concert entitled *The Black Ball* (help keep a child alive) for the children of South Africa carrying the AIDS virus, alongside Alicia Keys, Paul Simon and friends.

Over the last 20 years, drummer **Michael Sarin** has been at the center of New York City’s genre-bending jazz and improvisation community. His versatility and musical wit helped forge long associations with forward-looking artists Thomas Chapin, Dave Douglas, Myra Melford, Ben Allison and David Krakauer.

Born in 1965, Mr. Sarin was raised on Bainbridge Island, Washington—a ferryboat ride from Seattle. His interest in music and the drums came early, nourished by both the record collections of his parents and older sister, and by the AM radio he received at age seven. His formal music education began during high school with drummer Dave Coleman, Sr. He went on to study with Tom Collier at the University of Washington, and later with Jerry Granelli at the Cornish College of the Arts. Since moving to New York in 1989, Mr. Sarin’s unique style and approach to the drum set has been highly sought after by New York and European musicians looking to expand the definitions of jazz and improvised music. He has contributed to recordings by the aforementioned artists as well as those of Frank Carlberg, Anthony Coleman, Mark Dresser, Marty Ehrlich, Mark Helias, Denman Maroney, Simon Nabatov, Mario Pavone and Ned Rothenberg—recordings found on numerous music critics’ top-ten CD year-end lists.

Mr. Sarin performs all over the world—in major and minor festivals; concert halls famous and infamous, big and small. He can be heard on recent recordings of Ben Allison, Frank Carlberg, Erik Friedlander and Abraham Inc.

Multi-instrumentalist **Allen Watsky** plays guitar, violin and electric bass and has worked with many of the most prominent musicians in the klezmer revival, including Susan and Elaine Watts, Alicia Svigals, Aaron Alexander, Frank London, Socalled, Fred Wesley and others. After studies at Berklee College of Music and a diploma from Mannes College, he has freelanced extensively in the New York pop and jazz fields. He lives in suburban New Jersey with wife Deborah, their daughter Liana, and their dog Breezy.

A saxophonist and composer from Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, **Brandon Wright** found ambition early in his development. Exploring every opportunity to further his artistic growth, Mr. Wright attended “Jazz for Teens,” a workshop directed by renowned bassist Rufus Reid, and has since been diligently pursuing a career in music. Mr. Wright went on to attend the University of Michigan and the University of Miami, earning four *DownBeat* Student Music Awards, including Best College Jazz Group, Outstanding Jazz Soloist and Outstanding Blues-Rock-Pop Soloist. He also won the 2004 North American Saxophone Alliance Jazz Competition and Gordon Goodwin’s “Big Phat Jam” in 2007.

Since his Miami days, Mr. Wright has toured Japan with the Gregg Field Orchestra (Fujitsu-Concord Jazz Festival, 2005), played with the Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra as well as the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, the Chico O’Farrill Latin Big Band and Doc Severinsen.

When not working as a sideman, Mr. Wright leads his own quartet in and around New York City. The band has already made appearances at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola, the Kitano Hotel, Smalls Jazz Club, Trumpets and the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.