



Thursday, March 19, 2015, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Chick Corea, *piano*
Herbie Hancock, *piano*



Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

*Jazz at Cal Performances is sponsored by Nadine Tang and Bruce Smith.
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Chick Corea has attained iconic status in music. The keyboardist, composer, and band-leader is a *DownBeat* Hall of Famer and NEA Jazz Master, as well as the fourth-most nominated artist in Grammy Awards history with 63 nods and 22 wins, in addition to a number of Latin Grammys. From straight-ahead to avant-garde, bebop to jazz-rock fusion, children's songs to chamber and symphonic works, Mr. Corea has touched an astonishing number of musical bases in his career since playing with the genre-shattering bands of Miles Davis in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Yet Mr. Corea has never been more productive than in the 21st century, whether playing acoustic piano or electric keyboards, leading multiple bands, performing solo or collaborating with a who's who of music. Underscoring this, he has been named Artist of the Year twice this decade in the *DownBeat* Readers Poll. Born in 1941 in Massachusetts, Mr. Corea remains a tireless creative spirit, continually reinventing himself through his art. As *The New York Times* has said, he is "a luminary, ebullient and eternally youthful."

Mr. Corea's classic albums as a leader or co-leader include *Now He Sings, Now He Sobs* (with Miroslav Vitous and Roy Haynes; Blue Note, 1968), *Paris Concert* (with Circle: Anthony Braxton, Dave Holland, and Barry Altschul; ECM, 1971) and *Return to Forever* (with Joe Farrell, Stanley Clarke, Airtio Moreria, and Flora Purim; ECM, 1972), as well as *Crystal Silence* (with Gary Burton; ECM, 1973), *My Spanish Heart*

(Polydor/Verve, 1976), *Remembering Bud Powell* (Stretch, 1997), and *Further Explorations* (with Eddie Gomez and Paul Motian; Concord, 2012). A venturesome collaborator, Mr. Corea has teamed with artists from jazz legend Lionel Hampton to new-generation pianist Stefano Bollani, from banjoist Béla Fleck to vocal superstar Bobby McFerrin. Mr. Corea's duo partnerships with Gary Burton and Herbie Hancock have endured for decades.

The latest release from Mr. Corea ranks as a new classic in his discography: *Trilogy*, a live triple-disc set with bassist Christian McBride and drummer Brian Blade (Concord, 2014). Winner of two 2015 Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Instrumental Album and Best Improved Jazz Solo (for "Fingerprints"), *Trilogy* documents the trio interpreting classic compositions (such as "Spain") and previously unreleased pieces by Mr. Corea ("Piano Sonata: The Moon"), an array of jazz standards, and even a *Prélude* by Aleksander Skryabin.

In 2012, Mr. Corea's most recent album with vibraphonist Gary Burton, *Hot House* (Concord), marked the fifth decade of their duo. It earned the pianist two Grammys: Best Instrumental Composition for "Mozart Goes Dancing" (his work for piano, vibes, and string quartet) and Best Improvised Jazz Solo (for "Hot House"). These were his 19th and 20th Grammy wins. Rare for a "jazz musician," Mr. Corea received the Richard J. Bogomolny Award from Chamber Music America in 2010, and he broke new ground as a composer with *The Continents: Concerto for Jazz Quintet and Chamber Orchestra*, released in 2013 by the storied classical label Deutsche Grammophon. Mr. Corea recorded his first album of solo piano in 1971, and he continued his intimate journey with the instrument on *Solo Piano: Portraits* (Concord, 2014).

For a sold-out international tour and live album in 2008, Mr. Corea reconvened his pioneering jazz-rock fusion band Return to Forever, which he founded in 1972. The core of the band—Mr. Corea with original member Stanley Clarke and veteran Lenny White—produced a Grammy-winning acoustic album in 2011 with *Forever* (Concord). Then a new version of Return to Forever—with Mr. Clarke, Mr. White, Jean-Luc Ponty, and Frank

Gambale—toured the world to acclaim, yielding the live CD/DVD *The Mothership Returns* (Eagle Rock, 2011). In another celebration of kindred spirits, Mr. Corea co-led the Five Peace Band with guitarist John McLaughlin, a fellow Miles Davis alumnus. The group won a Grammy for *Five Peace Band Live* (Concord, 2009).

For 2013 album *The Vigil* (Concord), Mr. Corea put together a new-era electro/acoustic quintet, featuring himself on keyboards and longtime associate Tim Garland on reeds, alongside some hot young players. A review in *The Guardian* is indicative of this artist's questing path, no matter his accomplishments and awards: "Chick Corea sounds on scintillating form.... This full-on set is all about celebrating and reinventing, not polishing silverware."



Herbie Hancock is a true icon of modern music. Throughout his explorations, he has transcended limitations and genres while maintaining his unmistakable voice. With an illustrious career spanning five decades and 14 Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year for *River: The Joni Letters*, he continues to amaze audiences across the globe.

There are few artists in the music industry who have had more influence on acoustic and electronic jazz and R&B than Mr. Hancock.

As the immortal Miles Davis said in his autobiography, "Herbie was the step after Bud Powell and Thelonious Monk, and I haven't heard anybody yet who has come after him."

Born in Chicago in 1940, Mr. Hancock was a child piano prodigy who performed a Mozart piano concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age eleven. He began playing jazz in high school, initially influenced by Oscar Peterson and Bill Evans. He also developed a passion for electronics and science, and double-majored in music and electrical engineering at Grinnell College.

In 1960, Mr. Hancock was discovered by trumpeter Donald Byrd. After two years of session work with Mr. Byrd as well as Phil Woods and Oliver Nelson, he signed with Blue Note as a solo artist. His 1963 debut album, *Takin' Off*, was an immediate success, producing the hit "Watermelon Man."

In 1963, Mr. Davis invited Mr. Hancock to join the Miles Davis Quintet. During his five years with Mr. Davis, Mr. Hancock and his colleagues Wayne Shorter (tenor saxophone), Ron Carter (bass), and Tony Williams (drums) recorded many classics, including *E.S.P.*, *Nefertiti*, and *Sorcerer*. Later on, Mr. Hancock made appearances on Davis's groundbreaking *In a Silent Way* and *Bitches Brew*, which heralded the birth of jazz fusion.

Mr. Hancock's own solo career blossomed on Blue Note, with classic albums including *Maiden Voyage*, *Empyrean Isles*, and *Speak Like a Child*. He composed the score to Michelangelo Antonioni's 1966 film *Blow Up*, which led to a successful career in feature film and television music.

After leaving Mr. Davis, Mr. Hancock put together a new band called the Headhunters and, in 1973, recorded *Head Hunters*. With its crossover hit single "Chameleon," it became the first jazz album to go platinum.

By mid-decade, Mr. Hancock was playing for stadium-sized crowds all over the world and had no fewer than four albums in the pop charts at once. In total, Mr. Hancock had eleven albums in the pop charts during the 1970s. His 1970s output inspired and provided samples for generations of hip-hop and dance music artists. But Mr. Hancock also stayed close to his love of acoustic jazz,

recording and performing with V.S.O.P. (reuniting him with his Miles Davis colleagues), and in duet settings with Chick Corea and Oscar Peterson.

In 1980, Mr. Hancock introduced the trumpeter Wynton Marsalis to the world as a solo artist, producing his debut album and touring with him as well. In 1983, a new pull to the alternative side led Mr. Hancock to a series of collaborations with Bill Laswell. The first, *Future Shock*, again struck platinum, and the single “Rockit” rocked the dance and R&B charts, winning a Grammy for Best R&B Instrumental. The video of the track won five MTV awards. *Sound System*, the follow-up, also received a Grammy in the R&B instrumental category.

Mr. Hancock won an Oscar in 1986 for scoring the film *Round Midnight*, in which he also appeared as an actor. Numerous television appearances over the years led to two hosting assignments in the 1980s: *Rock School* on PBS and Showtime’s *Coast to Coast*.

After an adventurous 1994 project for Mercury Records, *Dis Is Da Drum*, he moved to the Verve label, forming an all-star band to record 1996’s Grammy-winning *The New Standard*. In 1997, an album of duets with Mr. Shorter, *1+1*, was released.

In 1998, Mr. Hancock released *Gershwin’s World*, which included collaborators Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, Kathleen Battle, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Mr. Shorter, and Mr. Corea. *Gershwin’s World* won three Grammys in 1999, including Best Traditional Jazz Album and Best R&B Vocal Performance for Mr. Wonder’s “St. Louis Blues.”

Mr. Hancock reunited with Mr. Laswell to collaborate with some young hip-hop and techno artists on 2001’s *Future2Future*. He also joined with Roy Hargrove and Michael Brecker in 2002 to record a live concert album, *Directions in Music: Live at Massey Hall*, a tribute to John Coltrane and Miles Davis.

Possibilities, released in 2005, teamed Mr. Hancock with such popular artists as Sting, Annie Lennox, John Mayer, Christina Aguilera, Paul Simon, Carlos Santana, Joss Stone, and

Damien Rice. That year, he played a number of concert dates with a re-staffed Headhunters, and became the first Artist-in-Residence at the Tennessee-based festival Bonnaroo.

In 2007, Mr. Hancock recorded and released *River: The Joni Letters*, a tribute to longtime friend and collaborator Joni Mitchell, featuring Mr. Shorter, Lionel Loueke, Dave Holland, and Vinnie Colaiuta and co-produced by Larry Klein. He enlisted vocalists Norah Jones, Tina Turner, Corinne Bailey Rae, Luciana Souza, Leonard Cohen, and Ms. Mitchell herself to perform songs she wrote or was inspired by. The album garnered three Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year; Mr. Hancock is one of only a handful of jazz musicians ever to receive that honor.

In 2010, Mr. Hancock released the critically acclaimed CD, *Herbie Hancock’s The Imagine Project*, winner of two 2011 Grammy Awards for Best Pop Collaboration and Best Improvised Jazz Solo. Utilizing the universal language of music to express its central themes of peace and global responsibility, *The Imagine Project* was recorded around the world and features a stellar group of musicians, including Jeff Beck, Seal, Pink, Dave Matthews, the Chieftains, Mr. Loueke, Oumou Sangaré, Konono No. 1, Anoushka Shankar, Chaka Khan, Marcus Miller, Derek Trucks, Susan Tedeschi, Tinariwen, and Ceu.

Mr. Hancock also maintains a thriving career outside the performing stage and recording studio. Recently named by the Los Angeles Philharmonic as Creative Chair for Jazz, he currently also serves as Institute Chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, the foremost international organization devoted to the development of jazz performance and education worldwide. Mr. Hancock is also a founder of the International Committee of Artists for Peace, and was recently awarded the much esteemed *Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres* by French Prime Minister François Fillon. In 2011, Mr. Hancock was designated an honorary UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova.