



ESPERANZA SPALDING

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Lineup:

Esperanza Spalding (*double bass & lead vocal*)

Leo Genovese (*piano*)

Richie Barshay (*drums*)

Sara Caswell (*violin*)

Jody Redhage (*cello*)

Lois Martin (*viola*)

Leala Cyr (*backing vocals*)

BAND BIOS:

LEO GENOVESE Piano, Rhodes and Melodica

Born and raised in Venado Tuerto, Argentina, Leo had an early musical influence through his mother who played classical piano. It must be in the genes; Leo soon found himself behind the keys, studying classical piano at the National University of Rosario. It wouldn't be until 2001 when the native Argentinian would make his way to Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. where he studied with Danilo Perez, Joanne Brackeen, Frank Carlberg and Ed Tomassi. Two years later, Genovese would graduate as a Professional Music Major and begin his career of performing, recording, writing and just about anything that involved music. He released his first solo record, *Haikus II*, in 2004 and entered the Ropeadope family with his new record *Unlocked* which feature not only Genovese but Joe Hunt and Justin Purtill (aka the Chromatic Guachos). But what separates Leo's style of piano from what's already been done? Simple: his desire and ambition to achieve the zen of music. You can hear it in Genovese's chromaticism-fueled compositions, that pull no punches. Eerie dissonant tones flirt with traditional jazz style creating something that only Genovese's mind could cook up. "What's the difference between dissonance and consonance?" Genovese asked. "There is no difference for me. It's all the same. It's all beauty. It's all life. Titles, names, categories, definitions, rules and theories are mankind inventions.

Those belong to the human world. I try to stay away from that and just keep moving forward. I believe in chromaticism." It's clear that Genovese would rather have his music speak for itself; using those manmade conventions (which would include the words you're reading right now) would simply tarnish the musical/existential experience that Genovese has virtually perfected. Sit back, stop thinking and enter into Genovese's world, where the music can truly speak for itself.

RICHIE BARSHAY Drums

Percussionist **Richie Barshay**, noted for his work with the Herbie Hancock Quartet, is regarded as "a player to watch" by *JazzTimes* magazine. On tour and on recordings, his eclectic resume so far includes Hancock, Chick Corea, Natalie Merchant, Lee Konitz, The Klezmatics, Fred Hersch, Kenny Werner, David Krakauer, Fred Wesley, Claudia Acuña and Pete Seager among others. In 2004 he was named an American Musical Envoy by the U.S. State Department for outreach tours in Asia, South America, and Europe. Now based in New York City, Richie began playing Jazz and Afro-Caribbean music during his youth and has expanded his focus to Indian rhythmic concepts and tabla, inspiring his 2007 recording debut *Homework* on Ayva Records.

"*Homework* introduces a major rhythm voice on the rise" says *Downbeat* magazine, and *The Guardian* (UK) praises "the arrival of a major innovator who also knows how to have fun."



JODY REDHAGE Cello

Cellist, composer, and vocalist Jody Redhage's dual passions for chamber music and new music have led her to participate in an array of cutting-edge projects. Praised for her "exceptional technical command," (Steve Smith, *Night After Night*), Jody performs a variety of genres including classical, jazz, and pop, and has premiered over 100 works, including many of her own compositions for chamber ensembles, as well as premieres of fellow composers' works. Recently called an "adventurous cello songstress" by *Time Out New York*, Jody simultaneously sings and plays cello. As recipient of the 2005 Hertz Grant, Jody was able to develop this project by commissioning a repertoire of 21st century art song for voice, cello, and electronics from some of today's most talented emerging composers. Her debut CD on New Amsterdam Records, *All Summer in a Day*, has been called "a freewheeling, slightly edgy and altogether "different" kind of musical experience...highly rewarding and worthwhile" (Dave Lewis, *All Music Guide*). Jody graduated with her master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music in May 2005, and she now resides in Brooklyn. Her interest in a wide variety of musical genres has led her to regularly perform with classical, jazz, rock, and pop groups in New York City and throughout North America. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, the Whitney Museum, BAM Opera House, and at Princeton, Yale, and Mass MoCA. Jody has worked with composers Pierre Boulez, George Crumb, Michael Gordon, David Lang, Meredith Monk, Steve Reich, Terry Riley, and Julia Wolfe and additional notable collaborations include performances with members of the Bang on a Can All-Stars, the Flux Quartet, Sequitur, Tactus Contemporary Ensemble, Neil Diamond and band, Jay-Z, Beyonce, Meatloaf, the Roots, Clay Aiken, Enya, Duncan Sheik, Guster, Chromeo and Sufjan Stevens. Jody has appeared on TV playing on ABC's "The View," the CBS "Early Show," and NBC's "The Today Show," and "Rockefeller Christmas Spectacular" and "Conan O'Brien." Her own compositions and music from her CD have been aired on several NPR stations, including WNYC's "Evening Music," "Spinning on Air," and WFMU "Performance Today." Jody has recorded for Hem, My Brightest Diamond, Fall-Out Boy, Jay-Z, Sesame Street, and for many other albums and commercials. Jody's original compositions are featured in her chamber-pop band, Fire in July, in which she sings and plays cello. The group melds the sensitivity, detail and precision of chamber music with the drive, intensity, and energy of pop, rock, and jazz improvisation.

SARA CASWELL Violin

Sara Caswell is fast becoming one of today's foremost jazz violinists through her technical facility and gift for lyricism. Originally from Bloomington, Indiana, and now living in New York City, she began playing violin at age 5, made her orchestral debut at 15, earned degrees from Indiana University and Manhattan School of Music, and amassed over 100 awards in the jazz and classical competition worlds.

Currently she gives concerts nationwide with her two groups, the Sara Caswell Quartet and the Caswell Sisters Quintet, and has soloed numerous times in Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops Orchestra. Sara has released two highly-acclaimed CDs ~ *First Song* and *But Beautiful* ~ and is working on a new CD project with her sister, jazz vocalist Rachel Caswell, and jazz pianist Fred Hersch. She tours with violinist Mark O'Connor as a member of his American String Celebration, has toured with violinist Darol Anger's Four Generations of Jazz Violin, is part of the Randy Newman Project led by vocalist Roseanna Vitro and pianist Mark Soskin, and has performed and/or recorded with such artists as Gene Bertoncini, Charlie Byrd, Skitch Henderson, Bucky Pizzarelli, Lynne Arriale, and John Clayton, as well as Jon Gordon, Ike Sturm, the Alan Ferber Nonet and Strings, and JaLaLa (featuring vocalists Janis Siegel, Laurel Masse, and Lauren Kinhan).

Sara's formidable teaching experience includes the Mark O'Connor String Camps, the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops, the Indiana University String Academy, the Manhattan



School of Music Precollege Division, and a private studio. In addition, she has given numerous jazz string improvisation workshops and masterclasses and is involved with MENC (National Association of Music Education), JEN (Jazz Education Network), and ASTA (American String Teachers Association).

LOIS MARTIN Viola

Lois Martin, violist, grew up on a turkey farm near York, Penna. After graduating from the Eastman School of Music, she moved to New York for graduate studies at the Juilliard School. In New York, she is a member of the Atlantic String Quartet, the Group for Contemporary Music, the ISCM Chamber Players, the Ensemble Sospeso, and frequently plays with the New York New Music Ensemble, Speculum Musicae, the Composer' Guild, the Da Capo Chamber Players, the Composers Forum and Steve Reich and Musicians. Currently, she is principal Violist for the Stamford Symphony, OK Mozart Festival, and The Little Orchestra Society. She is a member of the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the American Chamber Ensemble, and frequently plays with the Mostly Mozart Festival, the New York City Ballet and is on the faculty of the Composer Conference at Wellesley College. She has to her credit more than 65 chamber music recordings, mostly of contemporary music. These include Grammy winners such as Michael Brecker, Chris Potter, John Zorn, Daniel Schnyder, and Gil Goldstein. She has recently played concerts with Sting, Ornette Coleman, Elton John, and Shirley Bassey and has toured throughout Europe, Poland, Russia, Great Britain, South America, Australia, China, and Japan.

LEALA CYR Backing Vocalist

Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Leala Cyr has proven herself to be a true diamond in the rough. This small-town girl began her concentration on the trumpet at an early age, and soon discovered her gift for music. Already excelling in classical trumpet, Cyr then tried her hand in the jazz band. A newfound love, Leala realized her true passion for jazz singing. Soon after, Cyr became the band's vocalist and eventually was featured as a trumpet and vocal soloist at the prestigious *Essentially Ellington Competition* at the Lincoln Center in New York. Deciding then to study music, Cyr entered the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay where she was later voted "*Best Jazz Vocalist*" in the college division of *Downbeat* magazine's Student Music Awards (2005). It wasn't long before Leala received the *World Tour Scholarship* from the Berklee College of Music and finished her studies there. Since then, Leala has shared the stage with greats such as Esperanza Spalding, Guinga, Mark Walker, Chuck Loeb, Filo Machado, and Greg Hopkins.

Tourdaten: www.karsten-jahnke.de

TEL. TICKETSERVICE: 01805 - 62 62 80
(€ 0,14/Min aus dem dt. Festnetz, Mobilfunk max. 0,42 EUR/Min)
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