



## SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE

*The Music of Chick Corea  
and New Compositions*

Friday, October 12, 2012 . 8PM  
Ina & Jack Kay Theatre

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*The Music of Chick Corea and New Compositions**Approximate running time: 90 minutes with no intermission*

Program will be announced from stage

**Jeff Ballard, drums****Avishai Cohen, trumpet****Robin Eubanks, trombone****Stefon Harris, vibraphone****Matt Penman, bass****David Sánchez, tenor saxophone****Edward Simon, piano****Miguel Zenón, alto saxophone****Chick Corea Compositions, Arrangements by Collective Members:**

Miguel Zenón – “La Fiesta”

Edward Simon – “Spain”

Jeff Ballard – “Children Songs”

Avishai Cohen – “Matrix”

Stefon Harris – “500 Miles High”

David Sánchez – “Crystal Silence”

Robin Eubanks – “Space Circus”

Matt Penman – “City Gate/Rumble”

*There will be an informal meet-and-greet in the lobby following the performance.*

**Jeff Ballard** is one of the most original and inventive drummers in modern jazz. Raised in Santa Cruz, California, he cut his teeth in the Bay Area jazz scene before hitting the road with soul legend Ray Charles at the age of 25. He has since become a highly sought-after collaborator, working with an impressive cast of jazz luminaries including Kurt Rosenwinkel, Danilo Perez, Joshua Redman, Eddie Harris, Diane Schuur, Mike Stern and many others. Ballard’s seamless melding of jazz sensibility with rhythmic influences from around the world was displayed brilliantly as part of Chick Corea’s explosive Origin sextet and New Trio, with whom he performed for six years. Since 2002, Ballard has worked extensively with Fly, the eclectic trio he co-leads with tenor saxophonist Mark Turner and bassist Larry Grenadier. In 2004, he again joined forces with Grenadier as a member of pianist Brad Mehldau’s vaunted trio — a high-profile group often compared to the timeless piano trios of Bill Evans and Keith Jarrett.



Trumpeter **Avishai Cohen** is a leading figure on the international jazz scene and one of the most sought-after players of his generation, “an assertive and accomplished trumpeter with a taste for modernism” according to the *New York Times*. Originally from Tel Aviv, Israel, Cohen began performing at age 10. Relocating to the U.S. to attend the Berklee College of Music, he placed third in the prestigious Thelonious Monk Trumpet Competition in 1997. After developing his craft alongside contemporaries such as pianist Jason Lindner, Cohen has expanded his sonic palette to include African music (with Lionel Loueke), funk (Me’shell Ndegeocello), folk/pop (Keren Ann) and effects-laden avant-garde explorations. He has recorded five heralded albums as a leader, most recently the phenomenal trio CD *Introducing Triveni* with bassist Omer Avital and drummer Nasheet Waits.



A five-time “Trombonist of the Year” in the *DownBeat* Critics Poll, **Robin Eubanks** is the premier jazz trombonist of his generation. In addition to leading his own groups, EB3 and Mental Images, Eubanks has performed and composed on Grammy-winning recordings with Dave Holland and Michael Brecker. In addition, he has worked with music legends Art Blakey, McCoy Tyner, Elvin Jones and the Rolling Stones, to name a few. The native Philadelphian is the recipient of composition grants from Chamber Music America and ASCAP. He is a sought-after educator and is now a tenured professor of trombone at the renowned Oberlin Conservatory and Adjunct Professor at Philadelphia’s University of the Arts.



**Stefon Harris** is committed to exploring the rich potential of jazz composition and blazing new trails on the vibraphone. A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, Harris has received numerous accolades including the Jazz Journalists Association’s “Best Mallet Player” for four years running (2000-2003) and “#1 Rising Star Vibraphonist” in the 2006 *DownBeat* Critics Poll. His string of acclaimed albums includes the Blue Note sessions *Kindred*, *Black Action Figure*, *The Grand Unification Theory*, *African Tarantella: Dances With Duke* and the Grammy-nominated Concord release, *Urbanus*. His latest project is *Ninety Miles*, a CD and DVD made in Havana with saxophonist David Sánchez, trumpeter Christian Scott and a host of master Cuban musicians.



Originally from New Zealand, **Matt Penman** studied at Boston's Berklee College of Music before relocating to New York in 1995. In addition to releasing his own critically acclaimed CDs as a leader, *Catch of the Day* (2007) and *The Unquiet* (2002), he has recorded as a sideman on some 70 other discs and has performed with the likes of Nicholas Payton, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Gary Bartz, Kenny Werner, Nnenna Freelon, Madeleine Peyroux, Brian Blade, John Scofield and Guillermo Klein. His

latest project is the supergroup James Farm, which includes founding SFJAZZ Collective tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman, pianist Aaron Parks and drummer Eric Harland. Their self-titled Nonesuch debut was released this year.



Among the great saxophonists to emerge at the end of the 20th century, Puerto Rican tenor virtuoso **David Sánchez** is in a class by himself. Following studies under the great Kenny Barron at Rutgers, the saxophonist was selected by jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie to join his renowned United Nation Orchestra. Sánchez went on to become one of the most celebrated instrumentalists in jazz, recording nine albums as a leader and winning a Latin Grammy Award for his 2004 Columbia

orchestral session, *Coral*. The five-time Grammy nominee has performed with a roster of greats including Charlie Haden, Eddie Palmieri, Roy Haynes, Tom Harrell and countless others. In addition to his work as a performer, Sánchez has an impressive résumé as an educator, conducting masterclasses, workshops and residencies at the world's top universities and conservatories. His latest album is the Concord release *Ninety Miles*, a project recorded in Cuba and co-led by trumpeter Christian Scott and fellow Collective member, vibraphonist Stefon Harris.



**Edward Simon** was born in the coastal town of Punta Cardón, Venezuela, where he grew up in a family of musicians surrounded by the sounds and rhythms of Latin and Caribbean music. Settling in New York City in 1989, he played with numerous jazz masters, including Herbie Mann, Paquito D'Rivera, Bobby Hutcherson, Bobby Watson, Terence Blanchard and Don Byron. He has produced 11 critically acclaimed albums as a leader, including two *New York Times* top ten jazz records of

the year: *Edward Simon* (Kokopelli, 1994) and *Simplicitas* (Criss Cross, 2005). In 2010 Simon was named a Guggenheim Fellow, and his latest trio CD, *Danny Boy*, has recently been released.



Multiple Grammy nominee and Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow **Miguel Zenón** represents a select group of musicians who have masterfully balanced and blended the often contradictory poles of innovation and tradition. Widely considered as one of the most groundbreaking and influential saxophonists of his generation, he has also developed a unique voice as a composer and as a conceptualist, concentrating his efforts on perfecting a fine mix between Latin American

folkloric music and jazz. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Zenón has released six recordings as a leader including the Grammy-nominated *Alma Adentro* (2011), which is a tribute to the Puerto Rican Songbook. As a sideman he has worked with jazz luminaries such as Charlie Haden, David Sánchez, The Mingus Big Band, Fred Hersch, Kenny Werner, Bobby Hutcherson, Steve Coleman and the SFJAZZ Collective.

Zenón has been featured in articles in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Los Angeles Times*, as well as gracing the cover of *DownBeat* magazine. He has also topped the Rising Star Alto Sax category of the *DownBeat* Critics Poll on four different occasions. As a composer, he has been commissioned by SFJAZZ, The New York State Council for the Arts, Chamber Music America, The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and many of his peers. Zenón has given hundreds of lectures and masterclasses at institutions all over the world, and is a permanent faculty member at New England Conservatory of Music. In 2011 he founded Caravana Cultural, a program that presents free jazz concerts in rural areas of Puerto Rico.

In April 2008, Zenón received a fellowship from the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. Later that year he was one of 25 distinguished individuals chosen to receive the coveted MacArthur Fellowship, also known as the "Genius Grant."