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ENJOY THE RIDE!



We are having a blast putting together this series. This year we're featuring musicians from a wide demographic - from traditional to exotic, from elegant to earthy. Some are creating new language as we speak, others are professing the perfected tradition. Over the last three years, the response has been so phenomenal that we've had to add more shows, and even then we're selling

out. This time out, so more can join the party, we are presenting a one-night block-buster at Manitoba Theatre Centre. The Izzy Asper Jazz Performances are on an upward spiral - we all get to enjoy the ride!

Steve Kirby, Artistic Director

Beverly Aronovitch, Producer



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- ☐ Quintet Package (All five concerts)
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 - ☐ November 8 & 9/08 Lionel Loueke Trio with Gretchen Parlato
 - ☐ March 7 & 8/09 Steve Turre Quintet
 - ☐ April 4 & 5/09 The Monty Alexander Trio
 - ☐ May 23/09 Kurt Elling
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☐ Saturday evenings ☐ Sunday matinees ☐ Sunday evenings (changes to current subscriptions based on availability)

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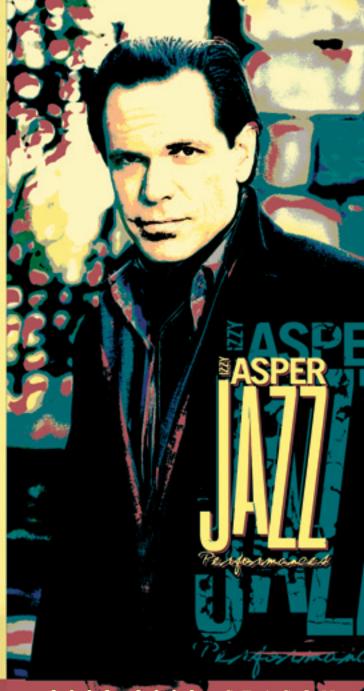
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The Asper Foundation

THE HOTTEST TICKET IN TOWN...

BOBBY WATSON & HORIZON BAND

Saturday, October 4, 2008 8:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, 2008 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.



"A stellar band that blends virtuosic skill and crowdpleasing accessibility" (Star Tribune)

Bobby Watson, the immensely talented alto saxophonist and former music director of Art Blakey's famed Jazz Messengers, blasts open our season with his all-star quintet of headline artists. Watson's three-decade career reads like a "who's who" of jazz with

consistent first place wins on critics' polls, both with his own groups and alongside jazz luminaries like Wynton Marsalis, Louis Hayes, Max Roach and Betty Carter. Collectively, Horizon's band members, all recognized composers, educators and leaders in their own right, have led or appeared on over 200 CDs! The band features five jazz icons: legendary drummer Victor Lewis, trumpet sensation Terrell Stafford, Latin piano virtuoso Edward Simon, and gifted bassist Essiet Akon Essiet. Watson believes his music is about making people feel good. What better way to kick-off the season!

LIONEL LOUEKE TRIO WITH GRETCHEN PARLATO

Saturday, November 8, 2008 8:00 p.m. Sunday, November 9, 2008 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.





"Loueke's playing can only be described as remarkable..." (LA Times)

When Lionel Loueke, one of the world's most innovative

and sought-after guitarists, teams up with an intoxicating new vocal talent, Gretchen Parlato, the musical chemistry is magical. The accolades keep pouring in for Loueke, who wowed Winnipeg audiences recently in his performance with Herbie Hancock's band. Born in Africa, and trained in the US, Lionel's unique blend of Afro and jazz grooves has brought him instant acclaim as "one of the most startling new names to emerge on the cusp of jazz and African music for years" (*The New York Times*).

Parlato, who won the prestigious 2004 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition, has caught the ear—and admiration—of heavy-weights like Herbie Hancock who describes her as "a singer with a deep, almost magical connection to the music." Having performed with the likes of Dianne Reeves, Herbie Hancock and Dave Holland, Gretchen is renowned for her ethereal sound and fusion of jazz, Brazilian and African elements. Stay tuned for an extraordinary evening!

STEVE TURRE QUINTET

Saturday, March 7, 2009 8:00 p.m. Sunday, March 8, 2009 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.



"Turre is perhaps the leading trombonist of this generation" (Rolling Stone Magazine)

A showman par excellence, trombonist Steve Turre is one of the world's preeminent jazz innovators. He's consistently scooped up both the critics' and readers' polls in *Jazz*

Times, Downbeat, and Jazziz for Best Trombone. Besides his stellar work on the trombone, Turre was awarded Best Miscellaneous Instrumentalist for his astonishing music-making on seashells, magical ancient instruments that reach into his Mexican ancestry. Turre is "an amazing, inspiring, consummate musician" (Star Tribune) and his all-star band—which includes our own Steve Kirby on bass—will serve up a menu of the swinging-est, most entertaining music ever.

Be prepared for a musical feast!

THE MONTY ALEXANDER TRIO

Saturday, April 4, 2009 8:30 p.m. Sunday, April 5, 2009 2:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.



"An intoxicating mix of swing, ballads, bursts of boogie, bop, calypso and reggae" (London Telegraph) Swing the blues away with veteran Jamaican-born pianist Monty Alexander's eclectic blend of calypso, gospel, blues and jazz. Monty's stellar four-decade career highlights include nearly 60 recordings under his own

name, regular appearances at big international events like the Montreux Jazz Festival and famous venues like Carnegie Hall, as well as many acclaimed collaborations, including symphony performances with Bobby McFerrin and a Grammy-winning album with Natalie Cole. His music is powered by an infectious personality, a passion for rhythm and a belief in the power of music. "My goal is to uplift," says Alexander. "The piano, to me, is a vehicle for connecting to other human beings. I'm not a bebop musician, I'm not a calypso musician, I'm not a reggae musician. I'm a musician who loves it all!" Fans around the world adore him... so will Winnipeg audiences!

DON'T MISS THIS ONE-NIGHT ONLY PERFORMANCE

AWARD-WINNING SUPERSTAR KURT ELLING

Saturday, May 23, 2009 8:00 p.m. Manitoba Theatre Centre



"The standout male jazz vocalist of our times" (New York Times)

Elling wowed Winnipeg audiences a few years ago at the Jazz Winnipeg Festival—we're ecstatic that he'll be back to pack the house again for a special one-night performance. Recently crowned Male Vocalist of the Year by Downbeat, singing

sensation Kurt Elling is one of the hottest artists on the jazz scene. Dubbed "the most accomplished male jazz vocalist of his generation" (*Chicago Reader*), Elling has repeatedly topped the critics' and readers' polls. With seven Grammy nominations, a string of stellar recordings and a host of critically-acclaimed performances, it's no wonder that Kurt Elling is in demand all

over the world. A guaranteed standing ovation for this show – don't miss it!





PERFORMANCES AT:
The Berney Theatre
Asper Jewish
Community Campus
123 Doncaster St.,
Winnipeg, MB.

* All Performance take place at the Berney
Theatre except the Kurt Elling Performance











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