

## **CHICK COREA TRIO**

Chick Corea *piano*Christian McBride *bass*Brian Blade *drums* 

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Chick Corea piano has attained iconic status in music. The keyboardist, composer and bandleader 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, Corea has touched an astonishing number of musical bases in his career since playing with the genreshattering bands of Miles Davis in the late '60s and early '70s. He has been named Artist of the Year three times this decade in the DownBeat Readers Poll. Born in 1941 in Massachusetts. Corea remains a tireless creative continually reinventing himself through his art.

Corea's classic albums include Now He Sings, Now He Sobs with Miroslav Vitous and Roy Haynes; Paris Concert with Anthony Braxton, Dave Holland and Barry Altschul; and Return to Forever with Joe Farrell, Stanley Clarke, Airto Moreira and Flora Purim; as well as Crystal Silence with Gary Burton; My Spanish Heart, Remembering Bud Powell and Further Explorations with Eddie Gomez and Paul Motian. Corea has also teamed with artists from jazz legend Lionel Hampton to new-generation pianist Stefano Bollani, from banjoist Béla Fleck to vocal superstar Bobby McFerrin. Corea's duo partnerships with Gary Burton and Herbie Hancock have endured decades.

Corea's 2014 release *Trilogy*, a live triple-disc set with bassist Christian McBride and drummer Brian Blade, won two Grammys. The album documents this trio interpreting classic Corea compositions, plus previously unreleased pieces by the pianist, an array of jazz standards and even a prelude by Alexander Scriabin.

Rare for a "jazz musician," 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. Corea recorded his first album of solo piano in 1971, and he continued his intimate journey with the instrument on *Solo Piano—Portraits*. For the 2013 album *The Vigil*, he put together a new-era electro/acoustic quintet, featuring himself on keyboards and longtime associate Tim Garland on reeds, alongside some hot young players.

The year 2015 found Corea as active as he's ever been. A major highlight was his acclaimed world tour with fellow piano legend Herbie Hancock, reuniting for their first full-scale tour as a duo since 1978. That first duet outing—just the pair of world-class musicians playing acoustic pianos—resulted in a pair of massively popular albums still viewed as benchmarks today. Corea and Hancock filled some of the greatest venues on the planet.

His latest album, *Two*, documents his constantly evolving duet with Béla Fleck, the estimable banjoist. In an interview with NPR's *All Things Considered*, recorded during their US tour celebrating album's release, Corea said the duet is "like a friendly, very fast-moving ping-pong game... It opens up whole new ideas for me of how to integrate my phrases. I'm always thinking about accompanying. So that's my pleasure in the duet, is to see how I can make the banjo sound good." Chick Corea last performed at the Hopkins Center in 2012.

Brian Blade *drums*, the multi-talented young veteran, is already widely respected in the jazz world as drummer/composer/leader of Brian Blade and The Fellowship Band, with whom he has released three albums. He is also known as

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS CONTINUED**

the drummer for many heroes of the music world, including Daniel Lanois, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Wayne Shorter, Seal, Bill Frisell and Emmylou Harris.

Blade was born on July 25, 1970, in Shreveport, Louisiana. In 1988, he moved to New Orleans to attend Loyola University. It was at this time that he would become friends with Jon Cowherd. Both Blade and Cowherd were able to study and play with most of the master musicians living in New Orleans, including John Vidacovich, Ellis Marsalis, Steve Masakowski, Bill Huntington, Mike Pellera, John Mahoney, George French, Germaine Bazzle, David Lee, Jr., Alvin Red Tyler, Tony Dagradi and Harold Battiste.

In 1998, Blade and Jon Cowherd began recording their own music with the group Fellowship. The band members are Chris Thomas, Myron Walden, Kurt Rosenwinkel and Melvin Butler. They have released three albums together: Fellowship and Perceptual, both on Blue Note, and the 2008 Verve recording, Season of Changes. Since 2000, Blade has been part of the Wayne Shorter Quartet with Danilo Perez and John Patitucci. His 2009 album Mama Rosa marked a new endeavor for Blade: a lovingly crafted, emotionally affecting song cycle that's deeply rooted in a rich vein of personal experience.

Christian McBride bass, four-time Grammywinner, can be likened to a force of nature, fusing the fire and fury of a virtuoso with the depth and grounding of a seasoned journeyman. Powered by a relentless energy and a boundless love of swing, McBride's path has described a continuous positive arc since his arrival on the scene. With a career now blazing into its third decade, the Philadelphia native has become one of the most requested, recorded and figures in the respected music today. Raised in a city steeped in soul, McBride moved to New York in 1989 to pursue classical studies at the Juilliard School. There he was promptly recruited to the road by saxophonist Bobby Watson. In 2000 the lessons of the road came together in the formation of what would become his longest-running project, Christian McBride Band. In 2009 McBride began focusing this same energy through a more traditional lens with the debut of his criticallyacclaimed Inside Straight quintet, and again with the Christian McBride Big Band, whose 2012 release The Good Feeling won the Grammy for Best Large Ensemble Jazz Album. As his career entered its third decade, McBride added the role of mentor, tapping rising stars pianist Christian Sands and drummer Ulysses Owens, Jr. for the Christian McBride Trio's Grammy-nominated album Out Here.



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