

Press Release

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New Orleans Trumpeter Christian Scott Joins JVC Jazz Festival-Newport '06 Lineup Sunday, August 13 on Waterside Stage

One of the brightest jazz stars to emerge in the last few years is trumpeter **Christian Scott**. He recently made his Concord Jazz debut with **Rewind That**, arguably the most remarkable premiere the genre has seen in the last decade and now he's set to make his JVC Jazz Festival-Newport debut on Sunday, August 13.

Instead of retreading bebop the way so-called young lions did in the early 1990s, Scott delivers a smart, grooved, and plugged-in set of tunes (nine of the 11 tracks are originals) with his electric sextet. Steeped in the jazz tradition and intent on participating in the music's evolution, the New York-based Berklee College of Music grad is indeed a significant new voice poised to make an impact on the future of jazz.

Scott is a natural. Only 22, the trumpeter has both the tone and the conviction of the great players of his instrument. He eschews cliché and gimmickry in favor of an expressive sensibility and a willingness to break rules when it makes musical sense to him. A New Orleans native, Scott represents the next generation of Crescent City horn blowers whose lineage started with the legendary King Oliver and Louis Armstrong and has continued with such marquee trumpeters as Wynton Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, and Nicholas Payton.

"I set out to find my own style to convey how I feel in my heart. I'm not thinking about how many bebop licks I can play," says Scott, who not only won over crowds in performances back home, but has also made a name for himself on the road playing with his uncle, renowned alto saxophonist Donald Harrison, Jr. That gig started when he was 16. "Donald taught me how important it is to be identifiable. He also warned me not to listen to many of the trumpet players who are playing today so I wouldn't sound like them."

Instead, Scott has developed his own distinctive and compelling trumpet voice: a breathy tone that has more in common with the way Ben Webster played the tenor saxophone than the piercing, clarion call the trumpet usually delivers. "It took me two years of concentration to come up with that tone," says Scott, who got technique pointers from veteran horn player Clark Terry. "Apparently Clifford Brown figured out a way to play the trumpet to get that sound, even though there are no recordings of him doing it. Instead of blowing cold air into the instrument, Clifford squeezed out warm air from his diaphragm that created a more breathy tone. I like it because it makes the trumpet sound like the human voice."

Scott hooked up with Concord Music Group on the recommendation of a distributor who witnessed the trumpeter and his band packing the Virgin Megastore in Boston with standing-room-only crowds of excited young adults. Scott sent the label a copy of his self-released, self-titled 2002 album. "They loved it," Scott recalls. At the time, no one at Concord knew that Scott was Harrison's nephew.

While Scott lists all the great jazz trumpeters—Armstrong, Roy Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie, Freddie Hubbard—as influences, he singles out Miles Davis as his "main guy." "Miles started out a bopper, but one day he decided to take a different direction and not be so flashy in his playing," Scott says. "He decided to edit himself, to feel what he was thinking. What he doesn't play is just as great as what he does play. I saw a video recently of him playing, and you could see in his face that he was editing each note he played."

The full festival lineup is as follows: Friday, August 11, 8 pm: John Pizzarelli Big Band - *Dear Mr. Sinatra* and Jane Monheit at the

Newport Casino, International Tennis Hall of Fame, 194 Bellevue Avenue; Saturday, August 12, 11:30 am - 7:00 pm: George Benson, Al Jarreau, Arturo Sandoval, Robert Glasper Trio, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Luciana Souza, Raul Midon, Cyrus Chestnut Quartet, Kenny Barron, Gold Sounds Featuring Cyrus Chestnut, James Carter, Reginald Veal & Ali Jackson, Marc Ribot and others to be announced; Sunday, August 13, 11:30 am - 7:00 pm: Dave Brubeck Quartet, Angelique Kidjo, Chris Botti, Savion Glover, The Bad Plus, George Wein & the Newport All-Stars, James Carter Organ Trio, Avishai Cohen Trio, Hiromi, Marty Ehrlich Quartet, Andy Bey Quartet, Christian Scott and others to be announced.

Tickets:

Friday, August 11, 8 pm: John Pizzarelli Big Band - *Dear Mr. Sinatra* and Jane Monheit at the Newport Casino, International Tennis Hall of Fame, 194 Bellevue Avenue. All seats reserved: \$85.00, \$65.00, \$50.00 and \$30.00.

Saturday August 12 and Sunday, August 13 at Fort Adams State Park (11:30 am – 7:00 pm): General admission: \$65.00 in advance, \$70.00 on festival weekend, if available. Children under 12, \$5.00 at all times; under 2, free. On site festival parking, \$6.00 per vehicle. Reserved seating, JVC Jazz Stage: \$75.00.

TICKETS are on sale now via Ticketweb at <http://www.Ticketweb.com/>, by phone at **866-468-7619** and at the Newport Festival office located at 770 Aquidneck Avenue in Middletown, Rhode Island; cash, checks and major credit cards are accepted. Call 401-847-3700 for more information and office hours. Starting this year, tickets will also be available at the **Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau** located at 23 America's Cup Avenue in Newport.

Tickets are also available by mail order. To order by mail, send a check or money order for the total ticket cost plus a \$4.00 handling charge per order to: Festival Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 605, Newport, RI 02840. Order forms are also available on the festival web site at: <http://www.festivalproductions.net/>.

- ❑ **JVC**, the jazz festival's sponsor, is celebrating its 23rd year of jazz festival sponsorship. JVC is one of the world's leading manufacturers of high quality audio and video equipment.
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- ❑ **Festival Productions, Inc.** has its own website at <http://www.festivalproductions.net/>

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