

Press Release

JVC JAZZ FESTIVAL NEWPORT, R.I.

August 11, 12, 13, 14, 2005

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For Immediate Release:

JVC JAZZ FESTIVAL GUITAR STAGE HIP, COOL AND HOT AT NEWPORT 05

Guitarists are making a big waterside splash at this year's JVC Jazz Festival-Newport, August 13 and 14 at Fort Adams State Park. Some of the hottest, coolest, hippest ax-players will be spinning magical improv, seaside! The new Guitar Stage, located near the ferry drop-off point, will feature guitar sounds of many frequencies and in a wide variety of musical colors. Check it out--**Mark Whitfield, Larry Coryell, Bill Frisell, Julian Lage, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Howard Alden, Romero and Russell Malone** will all perform.

Saturday, August 13 will feature a brilliant and adventurous young guitarist, a George Benson protégé, a swinging traditional player and a flamenco/jazz fusionist. These are the cats: Kurt Rosenwinkel, Mark Whitfield, Newport All-Stars featuring Howard Alden & Warren Vache and Romero, from noon to 5:00 pm.

Born in 1970, **Kurt Rosenwinkel** attended Berklee College of Music in Boston and later apprenticed with Gary Burton from 1991 to 1992 and with Paul Motian's Electric Bebop Band between 1992 and 1994, before branching out as a leader in his own right. An adventurous, searching artist whose playing is marked by a kind of kinetic melodicism, darkly delicate lyricism and cascading, horn-like lines, Rosenwinkel has, over the course of four brilliant recordings for Verve, established an instantly recognizable voice on the guitar -- warm and fluid with a tinge of overdrive, a touch of sustain and echo with a penchant for dissonance. His singing quality on the instrument is all the more enhanced by the fact that he is often literally singing in unison with his single note lines. His new CD on Verve, is entitled **Deep Song**; at Newport, Rosenwinkel's group will feature **Mark Turner** on sax, **Aaron Goldberg** on piano, **Joe Martin** on bass and **Eric Harland** on drums.

An extremely intelligent and creative player, guitarist **Mark Whitfield** is one of the leading forces of contemporary and traditional jazz. Whitfield also graduated from Berklee College of Music. When he moved to New York, he met his all-time idol, George Benson, who took a liking to the aspiring young guitarist. Mark became Benson's protégé and spent many evenings jamming at his mentor's private studio in New Jersey. Within a few months, he had begun to perform and record with many well-known artists including Dizzy Gillespie, Jimmy Smith, Herbie Hancock, McCoy Tyner, Art Blakey, Jack McDuff, Betty Carter, Carmen McRae, Dianne Reeves, Joe Williams, Cleo Laine, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Stanley Turrentine, Clark Terry and many more. Whitfield was later dubbed "The Best Young Guitarist In The Business," by *The New York Times*.

Producer Tommy LiPuma, who was working as Benson's A&R man, got Mark Whitfield his first recording contract with Warner Brothers. For Warner, Whitfield recorded three CDs: *The Marksman* (1990), *Patrice* (1991) and *Mark Whitfield* (1992). In 1993, Mark was signed by Verve: his first CD for the label was *True Blue* (1993), followed by *7th Avenue Stroll* (1995), *Forever Love* (1997), *Fingerpainting*, (1998) and *Take the Ride* (1999). He has also recorded two albums for Herbie Hancock's ground breaking label, Transparent Music. At Newport, Mark will be joined by drummer **Donald Edwards** and bassist **Reuben Rogers**.

The Newport All-Stars featuring guitarist **Howard Alden** and cornetist Warren Vache is a group that was created by festival producer and pianist George Wein. They have performed over the years in many different configurations, some of which featured Wein himself on keyboard. This year's edition also includes trombonist **John Allred**, bassist **Nicki Parrott**, drummer **Leroy Williams** and pianist **Tardo Hammer**. About **Howard Alden**, Owen Cordle in *JazzTimes* wrote: "He may be the best of his generation." George Kanzler of *The Newark Star Ledger* proclaimed that he is "the most impressive and creative member of a new generation of jazz guitarists" and Chip Deffaa of *The New York Post* observed that he is ". . . one of the very finest young guitarists working today."

Infusing classical and flamenco guitar with jazz riffs and contemporary melodies, composer and guitarist **Romero** will make his first Newport appearance on the Guitar Stage. Romero's music is spiced with the exotic traditions that influence flamenco-gypsy, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean folk, and then infused with classical, jazz, and Latin rhythms. Sophisticated, yet accessible, this is music that is at once sensuous, passionate, romantic and inescapably infectious. Romero has performed and recorded with some of world's finest guitarists, including Al Di Meola, Paco De Lucia and John McLaughlin; his new CD is entitled, *Un Segundo Una Vida*.

The Sunday, August 14 Guitar Stage will present "the Clark Kent of electric guitar," a '70s fusion "guitar god," a versatile player who infuses jazz, R&B, and hard bop, and a young player who is classically trained and amazingly inventive. **Bill Frisell**, **Larry Coryell**, **Russell Malone** and **Julian Lage** will show their stuff starting at noon and running to 5 pm.

About guitarist **Bill Frisell**, *Spin Magazine* has written: "Bill Frisell is the Clark Kent of the electric guitar. Soft-spoken and self-effacing in conversation, he apparently breathes in lungfuls of raw fire when he straps on his (guitar) . . . His music is not what is typically called jazz, though it turns on improvisation; it's not rock 'n roll; and it sure ain't that tired dinosaur called fusion. In one of the biggest leaps of imagination since the Yardbirds and Jimi Hendrix, Frisell coaxes and slams his hovering split-toned ax into shapes of things to come . . . But besides being a guitar genius, he's turned into a terrific songwriter. Like Monk, Frisell's harmonic and melodic ideas form a succinct, seamless mesh with outer sonic and rhythmic ideas about his ax."

Moviegoers can hear Frisell playing alongside Bono, Brian Eno, John Hassell and Daniel Lanois on the soundtrack of Wim Wenders' film, *Million Dollar Hotel*, starring Mel Gibson with a screenplay by Bono. He also composed and recorded original soundtrack music for four recent productions including *American Hollow*, an HBO documentary special by Rory Kennedy about an Appalachian family, a public radio program about the human genome called *The DNA Files*, the music for two Gus Van Sant films - *Finding Forrester* and the remake of *Psycho*, and the music for Gary Larson's second animated television project *Tales From The Far Side II*. Frisell's recent Nonesuch release, *Unspeakeable* won a 2005 Grammy for Best Contemporary Jazz Album. Bill Frisell will appear at Newport with drummer **Joey Baron** and Hammond B3 man, **Sam Yahel**.

Larry Coryell is one of the world's acknowledged guitar masters. He has recorded more than 70 albums over the past 35 years as a bandleader, soloist and 'featured accompanist.' Hailed by his legion of fans as one of "the guitar gods" in the late 1970s and as a "truly Renaissance musician who excels at all styles of playing," he has also been christened as "a true pioneer of rock-jazz fusion" by the *New York Times*, and dubbed "the Godfather of Fusion" by Dan Ouellette of *DownBeat Magazine*.

AllMusic.com states: "As one of the pioneers of jazz-rock -- perhaps *the* pioneer in the ears of some -- Larry Coryell deserves a special place in the history books. He brought what amounted to a nearly alien sensibility to jazz electric guitar playing in the 1960s, a hard-edged, cutting tone, phrasing and note-bending that owed as much to blues, rock and even country as it did to earlier, smoother bop influences. Yet as a true eclectic, armed with a brilliant technique, he is comfortable in almost every style, covering almost every base from the most decibel-heavy, distortion-laden electric work to the most delicate, soothing, intricate lines on acoustic guitar."

Russell Malone is one of the most commanding and versatile guitarists performing today. He can move from blues to gospel to pop to R&B and jazz without hesitation, a rare facility that has prompted some of the highest profile artists in the world to call upon him including Diana Krall, Aretha Franklin, B.B. King, Natalie Cole, Wynton Marsalis, David Sanborn, Ray Brown, Ron Carter, Roy Hargrove, George Benson, Shirley Horn, Christina Aguilera, Regina Belle and Harry Connick, Jr.

At Newport, Malone will unite for some blistering sessions with pianist **Benny Green**. An exciting and hard-swinging pianist in the Bud Powell mold, Green ranks alongside Mulgrew Miller and Donald Brown as one of a number of talented hard-bop keyboard stars to have graduated from Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers training ground. During America's hard-bop revival of the '80s, Green established his own distinctive voice as the leader of a number of bands.

Green and Malone are equally at home with classic jazz compositions, standards, pop songs, and originals. On their duo Telarc CDs [2004's *Bluebird* and 2003's *Jazz at the Bistro*] Green and Malone devour tunes like Milt Jackson's "Reunion Blues," a driving hard bop performance with spine-tingling solos. Equally thrilling are their jaunty takes of material such as Charlie Parker's rarely heard blues "Bluebird," and the saxophonist's intricate "Passport," the latter with Malone providing a percussion by tapping on his guitar for a chorus.

Classically trained at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, guitarist **Julian Lage** has also studied at Sonoma State University, Ali Akbar College of Music, and Berklee College of Music in Boston. It was at Berklee that he was "discovered" by vibraphonist Gary Burton who was particularly impressed by Lage's skills as improviser. "We had to do various takes on different tunes, and it struck me how none of his solos were alike. He was constantly inventive but without a need to show off," said Burton. "His way of proving himself is not by being flashy, but by discovering the meaning in the music."

This is the root of Lage's genius. While Julian's Conservatory background steeped him in technique, he finds his inspiration elsewhere, which deeply informs his playing. "I'm looking for more of a personality thing. The people who inspire me aren't based on how fast or good they play. Musicians like Gary Burton, Jim Hall, Bill Evans, Ravi Shankar even, just seem so innovative and creative. That really attracts me—people who have such a pure thing going. It's the energy, instead of technique, which knocks me out every time."

Julian's first recorded effort is as a featured performer on Burton's latest album *Generations*, released in April, 2004 on Concord Records. Lage also toured as an integral part of the Gary's Generations Band, a quintet, which included Makoto Ozone on piano, James Genus on bass and Gary Spencer on drums. Three of Julian's original compositions appear on the album, alongside tunes by Pat Metheny, Carla Bley, Steve Swallow, and Oscar Peterson. *Generations* opens with the Lage-penned original "First Impression" and also includes his classical/tango hybrid "Early" and the soulful "The Title Will Follow." Lage appeared at Newport last year with Burton on the JVC Stage and he does so again this year on the Pavilion Stage; this year he also shows his stuff on the Guitar Stage alongside pianist **Taylor Eigsti**.

The lineup for the JVC Jazz Festival Newport 2005 is as follows:

Thursday, August 11 at the Jane Pickens Theatre, 49 Touro Street, Newport, RI, 7 pm: Jazz on Film: "Miles Electric: A Different Kind of Blue" Miles Davis - Live At The Isle of Wight - 1970. General Admission tickets: \$15.00.

Friday, August 12 at The Newport Casino, International Tennis Hall of Fame, 194 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI, 8 pm: An Evening With Eartha Kitt with Musical Director Daryl Waters; Artie Shaw Orchestra Under the Direction of Dick Johnson. All seats reserved: \$85.00, \$65.00, \$50.00 and \$30.00.

Saturday, August 13, 11:30 am – 7:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park, Fort Adams Drive, Newport, RI: **JVC Jazz Stage:** Wynton Marsalis Quintet; Charles Lloyd Quartet with Geri Allen, Reuben Rogers & Eric Harland; Patricia Barber; Medeski Martin & Wood; Saxophone Summit featuring Dave Liebman and Joe Lovano with Phil Markowitz, Cecil McBee & Billy Hart; Jon Faddis Quartet – “Gillespiana” with David Hazeltine, Kiyoshi Kitagawa and Dion Parson; **Pavilion Stage:** McCoy Tyner Trio featuring Charnett Moffett and Eric Gravatt with Special Guests Ravi Coltrane & Terell Stafford; T.S. Monk Sextet with Winston Byrd, Dave Jackson, Bob Porcelli, Helen Sung, Willie Williams and introducing Rachael Price; Carla Bley & Lost Chords with Steve Swallow, Andy Shepherd & Billy Drummond; Brad Mehldau; TRIO! Stanley Clarke – Bela Fleck – Jean-Luc Ponty; **Guitar Stage:** Kurt Rosenwinkel Group; Mark Whitfield Trio featuring Donald Edwards & Reuben Rogers; Romero; and The Newport All-Stars featuring Howard Alden, Warren Vache, John Allred, Nicki Parrott, Leroy Williams. 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.

Sunday, August 14, 11:30 am – 7:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park, Fort Adams Drive, Newport, RI: **JVC Jazz Stage:** Roy Haynes 80th Birthday Celebration featuring Chick Corea, Gary Burton, Joshua Redman & Christian McBride plus Roy Haynes’ Fountain of Youth Band with Marcus Strickland, Martin Bejerano & John Sullivan; Dave Brubeck Quartet with Randy Jones, Bobby Militello & Michael Moore and Special Guest Wynton Marsalis; Steps Ahead (2005) featuring Mike Mainieri, Mike Stern, Steve Smith, Bill Evans & Richard Bona; Chick Corea Trio with Christian McBride & Jeff Ballard; Dave Holland Big Band with Robin Eubanks, Josh Roseman, Jon Arons, Taylor Haskins, Alex "Sasha" Sipiagin, Duane Eubanks, Chris Potter, Antonio Hart, Mark Gross, Gary Smulyan, Steve Nelson, Nate Smith; Joshua Redman Elastic Band. **Pavilion Stage:** Don Byron Ivey-Divey Trio featuring Jason Moran & Billy Hart; Gary Burton’s Generations with Julian Lage, Vadim Nesolovskyi, Luques Curtis & James Williams; Joe Lovano with the Hank Jones Trio featuring George Mraz & Lewis Nash; The Cannonball Legacy Band featuring Louis Hayes, Vincent Herring, Jeremy Pelt, Vincente Archer & Rick Germanson; Matt Wilson’s Arts & Crafts with Terell Stafford, Gary Versace & Martin Wind. **Guitar Stage:** Bill Frisell Trio with Joey Baron & Sam Yahel; Larry Coryell; Russell Malone & Benny Green Duo; Julian Lage & Taylor Eigsti Duo. 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 & INFORMATION:

TICKETS are on sale 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.**

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 21st year of jazz festival sponsorship. JVC is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of high quality audio and video equipment.

- Borders is the official on-site book & music retailer of the JVC Jazz Festival-Newport.
- Say Aloha to Mauna Loa, a proud sponsor of the 2005 JVC Jazz Festival-Newport! Come try our tasty and convenient macadamia nuts. We're giving away tons of free samples and you can show off your surfing talents! Try 'em roasted or wrapped in rich creamy milk chocolate for a healthy bite of paradise.
- ABC 6, WLNE-TV is the official television partner of the JVC Jazz Festival-Newport.
- WGBH 89.7 is the Official Boston Radio Station of the JVC Jazz Festival-Newport.
- 99.3 Swing FM WJZS is the Official Rhode Island Radio Station of the JVC Jazz Festival-Newport.
- Festival Productions, Inc. has its own website at <http://www.festivalproductions.net/>

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