

Press Release



August 11, 12, 13, 14, 2005

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For Immediate Release:

PIANIST BRAD MEHLDAU ADDED TO JVC JAZZ FESTIVAL-NEWPORT 2005 ROSTER

Newport, RI--Pianist Brad Mehldau has been added to the artist lineup at this year's JVC Jazz FESTIVAL-NEWPORT. Mehldau will appear in a solo performance on the Pavilion Stage on Saturday afternoon August 13. Mehldau's most recent release is a solo CD on the Nonesuch label entitled, *Live In Tokyo*.

Brad Mehldau is a pianist who combines jazz models such as Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, Oscar Peterson and classical elements such as Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann in his distinctive style. He considers the Beethoven Sonatas an inspiration, and German music and poetry as big influences. He is also considered by some to be a courageous jazz pianist who dares a lot while remaining aware of both jazz and classical traditions. Mehldau describes his style as "romantic." For him, music is, above all . . . the expression of one's personality.

Like many of his contemporaries, Mehldau began his career with heavy classical training. Born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1970, he started experimenting with the piano when he was just four, long before he was exposed to jazz. He took classical piano lessons from the age of six to fourteen and went on to study piano and composition at Berklee School of Music. Brad moved to New York City in 1988 where he studied at the New School of Social Research and worked with a variety of musicians and made several recordings as a sideman.

Brad Mehldau has developed his own style, which he attributes to the influence of his musical peers, specifically bandleaders Peter Bernstein, Jessie Davis and David Sanchez. Other musicians with whom he often worked also had an influence on Brad - musicians such as Mark Turner, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Perico Sambeat, Leon Parker, Avishai Cohen and Chris Potter, to name a few. What's more, he met and played with his longstanding trio mates, Larry Grenadier and Jorge Rossy in several projects.

In 1994, Brad's first major international exposure came as a member of the Joshua Redman Quartet, with which he recorded *Moodswing* and toured the US and Europe for a year and a half. A year later, he created his own Brad Mehldau Trio, together with Grenadier on bass and Rossy on drums. Shortly thereafter, their first album *Introducing Brad Mehldau* came out to widespread praise. Since 1996, the trio recorded five CDs on Warner Bros. Records with the titles *The Art of the Trio*. Mehldau also has a solo piano recording entitled *Elegiac Cycle* and a recording called *Places* which includes both solo piano and trio songs. *Elegiac Cycle* and *Places* can be considered 'concept' albums as they are made up exclusively of original material and have central themes that hover over the compositions. Then there is *Largo*, a collaborative effort with the brilliant musician and producer Jon Brion, and another release, *Anything Goes*, which returned to the trio format with Grenadier and Rossy.

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 Septet; TRIO! Stanley Clarke – Bela Fleck – Jean-Luc Ponty; Charles Lloyd Quartet with Geri Allen, Reuben Rogers & Eric Harland; Patricia Barber; Medeski Martin & Wood; Jon Faddis Quartet – “Gillespiana” with David Hazeltine, Kiyoshi Kitagawa & Dion Parson & special guest Slide Hampton. **Pavilion Stage:** McCoy Tyner Trio featuring Charnett Moffett and Eric Gravatt with special guests Ravi Coltrane & Terrell Stafford; Saxophone Summit featuring Dave Liebman, Joe Lovano, & Michael Brecker with Phil Markowitz, Cecil McBee & Billy Hart; Carla Bley & Lost Chords with Steve Swallow, Andy Shepherd & Billy Drummond; T.S. Monk Sextet with Winston Byrd, Dave Jackson, Bob Porcelli, Helen Sung, Willie Williams and introducing Rachael Price; Brad Mehldau **Guitar Stage:** Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet; Mark Whitfield Trio featuring Donald Edwards & Reuben Rogers; The Newport All-Stars featuring Howard Alden, Warren Vache, John Allred, Nicki Parrott, Frank Wess, Leroy Williams, and a pianist to be announced. 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 Wynton Marsalis, 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; Steps Ahead (2005) featuring Michael Brecker, Mike Mainieri, Mike Stern, Steve Smith & 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 Terrell 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.
- 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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