McCARTER PRESENTS JAZZ IN JUNE

Inaugural festival to feature four events in McCarter’s Berlind Theatre, June 8 - 15

THE BAD PLUS

Friday, June 8 at 8 p.m.

The Bad Plus. (L-R) Reid Anderson, bass; Orrin Evans, piano; Dave King, drums.

For 17 years, The Bad Plus has constantly searched for rules to break and boundaries to cross, bridging genres and techniques in their trademark specialty: deconstructing songs from the pop/rock and R&B worlds, and better than anyone at mixing the sensibilities of post-60s jazz and indie rock. Lineup changes are nothing new in the jazz world, and this year Trenton native Orrin Evans joined Reid Anderson and Dave King as the group’s pianist, replacing Ethan Iverson in the era-defining left-of-center trio. Tickets: $55
JOEY ALEXANDER TRIO
Saturday, June 9 at 8 p.m.

Joey Alexander will perform piano with Kris Funn on bass. (drummer tba).

Born on island of Bali in Indonesia, 14-year-old Joey Alexander began teaching himself to play piano at the age of six, and has been impressing critics and fellow musicians ever since his US debut at Jazz at Lincoln Center in 2014. Wynton Marsalis was an early mentor, calling him “my hero who plays with the emotional depth like that a young adult.” Joey’s double-Grammy-nominated first album, My Favorite Things, was followed by Countdown (2016), and his latest, Joey.Monk.Live, on which he pays tribute to the pianist and composer Thelonious Monk, who serves as Alexander’s guiding inspiration.

Whatever he plays—whether the songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein or jazz immortals like Coltrane, Monk or Strayhorn—exhibits his deft touch, adventurous spirit, and improvisatory verve. Tickets: $65
CHRISTIAN SANDS
Thursday, June 14 at 8 p.m.

Pianist Christian Sands (pictured) will perform with Eric Wheeler, bass; Caio Afune, percussion; and Jerome Jennings, drums.

Christian Sands is already an emerging force with five Grammy nominations at age 28. Sands started playing the piano at the age of four (professionally at ten) and expresses himself through an extensive vocabulary of patterns, textures, and structures, which The New York Times called “groove-drenched, gospelly and smartly plotted—a balance of physical body and electric charge”.

His stylistic range includes everything from stride piano and swing to be-bop, progressive jazz, fusion, Brazilian, and Afro-Cuban. It was this versatility and spirit that caught the attention of his mentor, the renowned bassist Christian McBride, with whom he toured for six years with his Insight Straight band.

Sands’ first trio album Reach spent four weeks at the top of the Billboard Jazz Charts and includes both originals and covers. Recently, he was selected to supervise the recording legacy of Erroll Garner, succeeding the late Gerri Allen, and will return to McCarter in April 2019 as Music Director of the Monterey Jazz Festival On Tour ensemble. Tickets: $45
For over forty years, Fred Hersch has continued to reinvent the standard jazz repertoire unlike anybody else, which helps explain his ten Grammy nominations (including two this year) not to mention 52 recordings as composer, bandleader, and theatrical conceptualist/innovator of individualistic jazz—a “jazz for the 21st Century” (The New York Times). No one has said it better than his fellow pianist Jason Moran: “Fred at the piano is like LeBron James on the basketball court—he’s perfection.”

The title of latest solo CD is Open Book, a recording that one critic called “a recording that makes it seem as if Fred Hersch is the finest jazz pianist in the world.” And the album’s title is serendipity itself: Herch’s memoir Good Things Happen Slowly (Random House, 2017) tells the fascinating story of how a gay Jewish kid from Cincinnati broke into the highest reaches of New York’s jazz scene—where he still reigns. Tickets: $55
**Ticket information**

All performances for **Jazz in June** will take place in McCarter’s Berlind Theatre. Single tickets range from $45–$65. Package discounts are available: save 10% when purchasing tickets for two events, 15% for three events, and 20% for all four events (plus a complementary glass of wine). Tickets and packages can be purchased online at [mccarter.org](http://mccarter.org), by phone at (609) 258-2787, or in person at the McCarter Ticket Office.

**ABOUT McCARTER THEATRE CENTER**

Thanks to the efforts of Special Programming Director William W. Lockwood, McCarter Theatre Center is a premier presenter of artists renowned around the world and across genres as varied as dance, classical, pop, jazz, performance art, comedy, magic, children's theatre, and more.

McCarter is supported by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Princeton University, and over 2,000 individuals, corporations, community leaders, and foundations.

For further inquiries and more information, contact: Tom Miller, Director of Public Relations [tmiller@mccarter.org](mailto:tmiller@mccarter.org) or 609.258.6524.

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