SFJAZZ Collective:  
Music of Miles Davis  

Jazz 100: The Music of Dizzy, Ella, Mongo and Monk
About the Artists

SFJAZZ Collective Plays The Music of Miles Davis & Original Compositions

Miguel Zenón – Alto Saxophone
David Sánchez – Tenor Saxophone
Sean Jones – Trumpet
Robin Eubanks – Trombone
Warren Wolf – Vibraphone, Marimba
Edward Simon – Piano
Matt Penman – Bass
Obed Calvaire – Drums

SFJAZZ Collective

An all-star ensemble comprising eight of the finest performer/composers at work in jazz today, the SFJAZZ Collective’s mission each year is to perform fresh arrangements of works by a modern master and newly commissioned pieces by each Collective member. Through this pioneering approach, simultaneously honoring music’s greatest figures while championing jazz’s up-to-the-minute directions, the Collective embodies SFJAZZ’s commitment to jazz as a living, ever-relevant art form. Over their 10-year existence, the Collective has honored the music of John Coltrane, Ornette Coleman, Herbie Hancock, Thelonious Monk, Wayne Shorter, McCoy Tyner, Horace Silver, Stevie Wonder, Chick Corea, Joe Henderson, and Michael Jackson. For 2016-17, they pay tribute to trumpeter, composer, and innovator Miles Davis. More than any other figure, Davis changed the sound of jazz—not once, but consistently over his career—from the birth of bebop in the 1940s to the integration of rock approaches that gave rise to the fusion movement in the 1970s.

Launched in 2004 by SFJAZZ in San Francisco, the SFJAZZ Collective has become one of the most exciting and acclaimed groups on the jazz scene. The award-winning SFJAZZ Center in San Francisco is the Collective’s home base.

The current octet is a burnished international ensemble comprising alto saxophonist Miguel Zenón, tenor saxophonist David Sánchez, vibraphonist Warren Wolf, trumpeter Sean Jones, trombonist Robin Eubanks, pianist Edward Simon, bassist Matt Penman and drummer Obed Calvaire.

In addition to its outstanding line-up with a leaderless format, the SFJAZZ Collective has also been praised for the innovative approach to repertoire. Through the pioneering approach of simultaneously honoring jazz’s recent history while championing the music’s up-to-the-minute directions, the Collective embodies SFJAZZ’s commitment to jazz as a living, ever-relevant art form.

As soloists, composers, and bandleaders, the SFJAZZ Collective represents what’s happening now in jazz. They also demonstrate that jazz has truly become an international language. Hailing from Ohio, Baltimore, Miami, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and New Zealand, the Collective’s multi-cultural lineup mirrors the explosion of jazz talent around the globe. However, the jazz community only reached its current state by maintaining its traditions.
while simultaneously embracing innovation. This, too, is the essence of the SFJAZZ Collective. These exceptional artists come together in the name of jazz as a constantly evolving, quintessentially modern music.

The idea for the Collective arose from discussions between SFJAZZ’s founder and executive artistic director Randall Kline and saxophonist and founding Collective member Joshua Redman. While deeply respectful of jazz’s origins and early traditions, SFJAZZ was concerned that the modern side of jazz, from roughly the mid-20th-century to the present day, was often overlooked in the public eye in comparison with the music of jazz’s so-called “Golden Age.” Both Kline and Redman were eager to showcase, in a manner that would resonate with jazz aficionados and newcomers alike, the artistic continuum from modern masters to today’s new generation of players. Much like chamber music, the music is designed for a small group of instruments to be performed in intimate settings and atmospheres including performing arts centers, concert halls and salons.

Past Collective members have included the likes of Eric Harland, Mark Turner, Joshua Redman, Bobby Hutcherson, Avishai Cohen, Stefon Harris, Dave Douglas, Nicholas Payton, Joe Lovano, Josh Roseman, Renee Rosnes, Robert Hurst, Brian Blade and others.

**Miguel Zenón**  
Alto Saxophone  
Original Member from 2004  
Multiple-Grammy nominee and Guggenheim and MacArthur fellow Miguel Zenón was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He has released nine recordings as a leader, including his most recent, *Identidades are Changeable* (2014). He has collaborated with some of the most distinguished artists in jazz, a list that includes Charlie Haden, Bobby Hutcherson, David Sanchez, Steve Coleman, Fred Hersch and Kenny Werner, among others.

**David Sánchez**  
Tenor Saxophone  
Member 2012 – Present  
A native of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, tenor saxophonist David Sánchez has had a spectacular career. A 2004 Grammy winner, six-time nominee, and recipient of Chamber Music America’s “New Works: Creation and Presentation Program” grant, he has recorded nine albums and performed with a roster of greats including Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Haden, Roy Haynes, Tom Harrell, Kenny Barron and Eddie Palmieri.

**Sean Jones**  
Trumpet  
Member 2015 – Present  
Warren, Ohio-born Sean Jones discovered the trumpet at age 10 through the music of Miles Davis. From 2005 to 2010, the Rutgers alum was lead trumpet for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, and has worked with major artists including Joe Lovano, Tia Fuller, Tom Harrell, Steve Turre, and Nancy Wilson, among others. He is a dedicated educator and has released seven albums as a leader, including his 2014 quartet release, *im*pro*vise: Never Before Seen.

**Robin Eubanks**  
Trombone  
Member 2008 – Present  
Grammy winner Robin Eubanks is the premier jazz trombonist of his generation, with a career that includes collaborations with Dave Holland, Art Blakey, Elvin Jones, Eddie Palmieri, Sun Ra, The Rolling Stones and others. Robin won the 2014 *JazzTimes* Critics Poll for Best Trombonist and is a multiple winner of *DownBeat*’s Readers and Critics Polls. The native Philadelphian serves on the faculty of the Oberlin College Conservatory and Berklee School of Music, and his newest album is a big band project called *More Than Meets the Ear*.

**Edward Simon**  
Piano  
Member 2010 – Present  
Edward Simon was born in the coastal town of Punta Cardón, Venezuela. He is a three-time Chamber Music America New Jazz Works grantee, a 2014 Doris Duke Impact Award nominee and a 2010 Guggenheim Fellow. He has produced 14 critically acclaimed albums as a leader, including two *New York Times* top ten jazz records of the year: *Edward Simon (Kokopelli, 1995)* and *Simplicitas* (Criss Cross, 2005). Pianist for the SFJAZZ Collective since 2010, his newest album, *Agora*, is a collaboration with Argentinian singer and guitarist Guillermo Rozenthuler.

**Matt Penman**  
Bass  
Member 2005 – Present  
Originally from Auckland, New Zealand, Matt Penman is one of the premier bassists in jazz. In addition to releasing his own critically acclaimed CDs as a leader, *Catch of the Day* (2007) and *The Unquiet* (2002), he has recorded as a sideman on over 70 other discs and has performed with Joe Lovano, Nicholas Payton, Madeleine Peyroux, Brian Blade, John Scofield, and others. An SFJAZZ Collective member since 2005, Penman works with the supergroup James Farm, which includes saxophonist Joshua Redman, pianist Aaron Parks and drummer Eric Harland.

**Obed Calvaire**  
Drums  
Member 2013 – Present  
A Miami native of Haitian descent, Obed Calvaire is one of the most exciting young drummers on the current jazz scene. A member of the SFJAZZ Collective since 2013, Mr. Calvaire has performed and recorded with artists as diverse as Wynton Marsalis, Seal, Eddie Palmieri, Vanessa Williams, Dave Holland, Mary J. Blige, Stefon Harris, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Peter Cincotti, Music Soulchild, Nellie McKay, Joshua Redman, and Lizz Wright to name a few. Currently, Obed can be found playing with Monty Alexander, Richard Bona, Sean Jones, and Yosvany Terry.
Jazz 100: The Music of Dizzy, Ella, Mongo and Monk

2017 marks the centennial celebration for four visionary icons of music all born in the same glorious year: Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald, Mongo Santamaria and Thelonious Monk. Jazz 100 showcases both the dynamic individual artistry of each icon and the powerful unifying threads between them which helped shape and inform not only the evolution of jazz but modern music as we now recognize it. Musical director and former Gillespie pianist Danilo Perez has carefully assembled a world class ensemble of virtuosos, bandleaders and composers in their own right including Chris Potter (saxophone, woodwinds), Avishai Cohen (trumpet), Wycliffe Gordon (trombone, vocals), Lizz Wright (vocals), Roman Diaz (percussion, vocals), Ben Street (bass) and Adam Cruz (drums) to reflect and pay homage to some of our history’s most important and timeless musical voices.

Danilo Pérez

Pianist, composer, educator and social activist, Danilo Pérez is among the most influential and dynamic musicians of our time. Born in Panama in 1965, Pérez started his musical studies when he was 3 years old with his father, a bandleader and singer. By age 10, he was studying the European classical piano repertoire at the National Conservatory in Panama. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in electronics in Panama, he studied jazz composition at the prestigious Berklee College of Music. While still a student, he performed with Jon Hendricks, Terence Blanchard, and Paquito D’Rivera and soon began touring and/or recording with artists such as Dizzy Gillespie United Nations Orchestra from (1989 – 1992), Jack DeJohnette, Tito Puente, Charlie Haden, Michael Brecker, Joe Lovano, Wynton Marsalis, and Roy Haynes. In 2000, Danilo joined Wayne Shorter to form Shorter’s great quartet with John Patitucci and Brian Blade. Since 2003 he has been touring with a regular trio featuring Ben Street and Adam Cruz. Children of The Light, a collaboration with fellow Wayne Shorter Quartet members John Patitucci and Brian Blade released their debut album of the same name on Mack Avenue in September of 2015 to critical acclaim.

In 1993, Pérez turned his focus to his own ensembles and recording projects, releasing eight albums as a leader, earning Grammy® and Latin Grammy nominations for Central Avenue (1989), Motherland (2000), and Across The Crystal Sea (2008). In 1996 he was signed by producer Tommy Lipuma to join the Impulse label and recorded Panamonk, a tribute to Thelonious Monk. Pérez released Providencia, his debut for Mack Avenue Records, in August of 2010 which was nominated for a 2011 Grammy Award in the category of “Best Instrumental Jazz Album.” As a composer he has been commissioned by Lincoln Center, The Banff Center, Chicago Jazz Festival and Imani Winds Quintet among others. In 2015, Pérez premiered two brand new commissions “Expeditions – Panamania 2015” at the Panamerican games in Toronto and “Detroit World Suite – La leyenda de Bayano” at the Detroit Jazz Festival.

Pérez, who served as Goodwill Ambassador to UNICEF, has received a variety of awards for his musical achievements, activism and social work efforts. He currently serves as UNESCO Artist for Peace, Cultural Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Founder and Artistic Director of the Panama Jazz Festival, and Artistic Director of the Berklee Global Jazz Institute in Boston’s Berklee College of Music.
Chris Potter
A world-class soloist, accomplished composer, and formidable bandleader, Grammy-nominated saxophonist Chris Potter has emerged as a leading light of his generation. Potter’s music shows limitless creativity and a vibrant sense of swing, prompting critics, musicians, and fans alike to cite him as the one of the finest saxophonists today. Throughout his career, Potter has performed and recorded with artists as diverse as Steely Dan and Herbie Hancock, and has toured the world over with the Dave Holland Quintet, the Overtone Quartet, and his own projects like the jazz-funk group, Chris Potter’s Underground.

Avishai Cohen
Voted a Rising Star three years running in the DownBeat Critics Poll, trumpeter Avishai Cohen has become globally recognized as a musician with an individual sound, an ever-creative player-composer open to multiple strains of jazz. Aside from acclaimed trio work under the moniker Triveni, the trumpeter also records and tours the world as part of the Mark Turner Quartet, and with the 3 Cohens Sextet with his sister, clarinetist-saxophonist Anat, and brother, saxophonist Yuval. Cohen was also a member of the prestigious SFJazz Collective for several years until 2015. Cohen was named as the artistic director of the International Jerusalem Festival in 2015. In February 2016, Cohen released and began touring behind his highly anticipated ECM debut, Into the Silence to unanimous critical praise.

Wycliffe Gordon
Trombonist and educator Wycliffe Gordon has an impressive career touring the world performing hard-swinging, straight-ahead jazz and receiving great acclaim from audiences and critics alike. His unmatched modern mastery of the plunger mute, and exceptional technique has solidified Gordon a place in musical history as one of the top trombonists of his generation. Gordon is a three-time recipient of the Downbeat Critics Poll “Best in Trombone” while
Jazz Journalists Association have named him “Trombonist of the Year” eight times since 2001. He recently received the Louis Armstrong Memorial Prize presented by the Swing Jazz Culture Foundation. Gordon has released 18 solo CDs and 7 co-leader CDs, as well as on countless projects with other artists including Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Natalie Merchant, Dianne Reeves, Anat Cohen, Ricky Skaggs, Arturo Sandoval and Doc Severinsen to name a few.

Lizz Wright

Lizz Wright has been charming music fans worldwide ever since she appeared on the late pianist and composer Joe Sample’s 2002 disc, The Pecan Tree (Verve). The following year, she gained even wider recognition for her critically acclaimed debut record, Salt (Verve). Produced by the legendary Tommy LiPuma, the album helped introduce one of the most captivating female vocalists of her generation as it raced to number two on Billboard’s “Top Contemporary Jazz” chart. After releasing four acclaimed records for Verve, Wright moved to Concord Records to release her fifth disc, Freedom & Surrender. With Freedom & Surrender Wright achieved her career first Billboard #1 Contemporary Jazz record.

Ben Street

New York-area jazz double bassist Ben Street is one of the most sought after bassists in jazz. After studying at The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Street went on to perform and record with many great jazz artists, notably Kurt Rosenwinkel on the album Next Step, Ben Monder on the album Dust and the legendary Sam Rivers on the album Violet Violets. Street has performed and toured with Danilo Perez, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Roswell Rudd, Lee Konitz, John Scofield, David Sanchez, Terence Blanchard, and many others. Street is the son of saxophonist and saxophone mouthpiece maker Bill Street and is a native of Maine.

Adam Cruz

Drummer, composer, and educator Adam Cruz was born in New York City and has been a vital creative force on the international jazz scene for the last two decades. He leads his own group, is an integral part of renowned pianist Danilo Pérez’s trio, and regularly works with artists such as Tom Harrell, The Mingus Big Band, Joey Calderazzo, Chris Potter, Steve Wilson and Edward Simon. Adam currently teaches at CCNY and the Berklee Global Jazz Institute. As a drummer, Adam represents a unique place in the American jazz lineage. His mixed ethnic background informs his playing in ways that transcend easy stylistic categorization. The wealth of his rhythmic knowledge, his deep sense of jazz swing and his knowledge of Latin American rhythms all coalesce into his personal sound, giving his playing a powerful depth and a rare and distinctive musicality.

Roman Díaz

Venerated elder statesman Román Díaz, a master percussionist from Havana, Cuba, an important Olú Aña or “keeper of the sacred drum”—is considered a pillar of the New York City jazz avant-garde and one of Afro-Cuban music’s great innovators. As a member of Cuba’s groundbreaking Rumba group Yoruba Andabo, Díaz aided in the creation of the sound that has defined rumba since the 1980s and performed and/or recorded with legends including Mercedes Valdés. Díaz has participated in notable projects by Jane Bunnett, Michele Rosewoman, Danilo Pérez, Omar Sosa, David Virelles and Henry Threadgill among others. Díaz has been featured on compilations including the Calle 54 soundtrack and the Grammy-nominated Raíces Habaneras project.