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# October Fall 09

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# MONK AT 92 PIANO MARATHON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 5:00PM

WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER WINTER GARDEN

## PROGRAM ORDER

5:00pm	Joan Stiles	7:05pm	Emilio Solla & Elio Villafranca
5:10pm	Armand Hirsch		
5:15pm	Aaron Diehl	7:20pm	Osmany Paredes
5:25pm	Rob Rodriguez & Christian Sands	7:30pm	Arturo O'Farrill
5:40pm	James Weidman	7:40pm	Frank Kimbrough
5:50pm	Emmet Cohen & Armand Hirsch	7:50pm	Clarice Assad
		8:10pm	Randy Weston
6:05pm	Armen Donelian	8:30pm	Zim Ngqawana Quartet
6:15pm	Junior Mance		
6:25pm	Geri Allen		
6:35pm	Harold O'Neal		
6:45pm	Rodney Kendrick		

Tonight, many of the greatest pianists from the world of jazz gather to pay tribute to America's preeminent jazz pianist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Each year on this date for the next decade, pianists will gather to honor Thelonious Monk and his contributions to American music on the march to the centennial of his birth in 2017.

We thank the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, Adventure Music, Devore Fidelity, Fazioli Pianoforti, Tone Imports, Klavierhaus, Sennheiser, and Duke Markos Audio.

Jim Luce, Producer  
[www.WorldPianoSummit.com](http://www.WorldPianoSummit.com)

**Joan Stiles** writes and plays brilliantly with great respect for melody and clarity. She is a skilled musical architect, dedicated to the craft of balance and dynamics, of blend and boldness. She is more than just a graceful interpreter of Mary Lou Williams, Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk—her playing illuminates the masterpieces she made her own.

Jazz guitarist **Armand Hirsh**, who is an 18 year old Columbia University freshman, began his formal music training at age 5 under renowned drummer Eddie Locke. At the age of 12 he debuted at The Bitter End and has been touring since, performing at legendary jazz festivals—North Sea, Monterey, Montreal, New Orleans—and in premier NYC venues—Beacon Theatre, BB Kings, Knitting Factory, CBGB's, 55 Bar, Smalls and SMOKE.

**Aaron Diehl's** distinctive interpretations of the music of Scott Joplin, "Jelly Roll" Morton, Art Tatum, Duke Ellington and other masters pay homage to the tradition while establishing his own original voice. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Diehl is a 2007 graduate of the Juilliard School where his teachers included Kenny Barron, Eric Reed and Oxana Yablonskaya. Immediately following graduation from high school he toured with the Wynton Marsalis Septet.

Pianist and composer **Rob Rodriguez** was educated at New World School of the Arts and the University of Miami. He has performed with Jerry Bergonzi, Jon Faddis, Maria Schneider, Giovanni Hidalgo, Charlie Haden, Arturo Sandoval, Ray Barretto, Roy Haynes, Chick Corea and many more. His compositions have garnered him an ASCAP Young Composers award and a commission from Chamber Music America.

**Christian Sands** began playing the piano at age 3 and composing at 5. His meteoric rise in the jazz world already includes two appearances at the 2006 and 2007 Grammy® Awards, as well as an outrageous, highly publicized duet with Oscar Peterson. Sands was a special guest at Dr. Billy Taylor's "Jazz at the Kennedy Center" series and played at a 2008 NSO Pops Salute to Jazz in Washington, D.C.

Pianist **James Weidman** has been a sideman and accompanist over the past 20 years. Two years after college, he moved to New York to be at the center of jazz. Once there, he began playing with many jazz greats, including Cecil Payne, Pepper Adams and Sonny Stitt. Weidman spent a year working with Bobby Watson, five years with Steve Coleman's "Spirit Of Life Ensemble," and had a six-year tenure with Abbey Lincoln. In recent years, he has enjoyed a fruitful relationship with Joe Lovano in various musical organizations.

Jazz prodigy **Emmet Cohen** has garnered praise for his phrasing and compositions. In 2008 he won a national competition to perform at the

Grammy® Awards. Cohen regularly dazzles audiences with his sophisticated compositions and professional performance style. A freshman at University of Miami, he was selected by the Grammy® Foundation from among hundreds of student applicants across the nation to perform at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy® Awards in Los Angeles.

**Armen Donelian**, pianist, composer and bandleader, has provided welcome relief from the clichés of jazz pianism plaguing this era. His piano playing reveals a masterful command rooted in classical and jazz studies, clean articulation, a deft, swinging touch, access to a broad dynamic spectrum, a virtuosic harmonic vocabulary and a boundless source of creative ideas. Along with his compositional genius, he spans American and European improvisational, classical and folk idioms.

**Junior Mance** shares his birth date with Thelonious Monk. Mance began playing the piano at the age of 5 and began formal training at age 8. In 1947 he joined Gene Ammons' band and began his recording career. Later, he joined Lester Young for nearly two years, and served in the 36<sup>th</sup> Army Band at Fort Knox with Cannonball Adderley. After his discharge in 1953, Mance became part of the house rhythm section at the Bee Hive Jazz Club in Chicago and accompanied Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins, Sonny Stitt, and many others.

**Geri Allen** is a celebrated, award-winning pianist/composer. She has recorded and performed with artists as diverse as Charles Lloyd, Mal Waldron, Sir Simon Rattle and the Birmingham Symphony, Vernon Reid, Tony Williams, George Shirley, Ron Carter, Lee Konitz, Me'Shell Ndegelocello, Marian McPartland, Mary Wilson and The Supremes, Jack De Johnette, Betty Carter, Bill Cosby, Charlie Haden, Hal Wilner, Mino Cinelu, Marianne Faithful, Wayne Shorter, Joan Rivers, Charlie Haden, Bobby Hutcherson, Chico Hamilton, among many others.

**Harold O'Neal** began playing piano at age 14 while a student at Paseo Performing Arts Academy. By 16 he was working professionally. After high school he enrolled at Berklee College of Music, and began touring with saxophonist Bobby Watson in 2001. He has performed with many greats, including Elvin Jones, Vanessa Rubin, Kenny Garrett, Richard Davis, Joe Chambers, Rodney Whitaker, Paquito D'Rivera, Roy Hargrove, Marvin' Smitty Smith and many others.

**Rodney Kendrick's** unique percussive and harmonic piano style is a distinctive blend of classic jazz, '70s funk, and gospel. In his 20's he moved to New York to study Black American Classical music and quickly connected with Barry Harris, who was his teacher/mentor for over 20 years. Kendrick has worked with George Benson, Freddie Hubbard, Clark Terry, Frank Morgan,

Terence Blanchard, J.J. Johnson, Stanley Turrentine, James Brown, George Clinton and Abbey Lincoln to name a few.

**Emilio Solla** earned a degree in Piano at the National Conservatory of Music in Buenos Aires. From 1983-1994, he was a fixture of the new Argentinean music scene, building a reputation as a composer who fused modern tendencies of Argentine folk, tango with jazz. In Spain, he studied conducting with Miquel Ortega and composition with Gabriel Brncic. He has lectured at Gotemburg School of Music (Sweden), Bates College (USA), and the Jazz & Pop Conservatory (Finland). In 2005 he played for the first time in NYC, both with his own group and as side man to Pablo Aslan's Avantango.

Pianist and composer **Elio Villafranca** was born in Cuba and classically trained in percussion and composition at El Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana. As a sideman, he has collaborated with Jon Faddis, Sonny Fortune, Lenny White, Horacio "El Negro" Hernández, Ralph Peterson, Giovanni Hidalgo, Mark Egan, Eddie Henderson, Miguel Zenon, Candido Camero, Ray Vega and Johnny Pacheco. Recently Villafranca completed separate European tours with Grammy® nominated, Blue Note recording artists saxophonist Jane Bunnett and guitarist Pat Martino.

**Osmany Paredes** is a pianist, composer and arranger whose style blends jazz, Afro-Cuban rhythm and classical music. Born in Santa Clara, Cuba, he began his musical education at the age 5 with his father, Guillermo Paredes. At 8, he started his formal education in classical piano and continued at the National School of Music where he graduated with honors. Since his arrival to the United States in 2003, Paredes has performed and recorded with David Murray, Richard Bona, Giovanni Hidalgo, George Garzone, Howard Johnson, Dave Samuels, Roy Hargrove, Jane Bunnett and Issac Delgado.

**Arturo O'Farrill** was born in Mexico and grew up in New York City. The son of big band leader Chico O'Farrill, he was educated at the Manhattan School of Music and the Brooklyn College Conservatory. From 1979-83, O'Farrill played piano with the Carla Bley Big Band. He went on to work with a wide spectrum of artists including Wynton Marsalis, Dizzy Gillespie, Steve Turre, Papo Vazquez, the Fort Apache Band, Lester Bowie and Harry Belafonte. Recently, O'Farrill received the Distinguished Alumnus Medal from Brooklyn College and served as the Alan and Wendy Pesky Artist-in-Residence at Lafayette College.

**Frank Kimbrough** is a Palmetto Records artist and has been active on the New York jazz scene for over 25 years. He was a founding member and Composer-in-Residence of the Jazz Composers Collective (1992-2005). As a leader, he most often performs solo or with his trio. As sideman, he is active recording and touring with the Maria Schneider Orchestra, Ted Nash's Still

Evolved quintet and the Kendra Shank Quartet, and also played with Dewey Redman's quartet. He currently teaches at the Juilliard School.

[www.frankkimbrough.com](http://www.frankkimbrough.com)

**Clarice Assad** is making her mark in the music world as a pianist, vocalist and composer. Her music has been performed and recorded by many prominent orchestras, soloists and chamber musicians, including violinists Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Iwao Furusawa, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, LA Guitar Quartet, Cavatina Duo, Aquarelle Guitar Quartet, and organist David Schrader. Her compositions and arrangements have been recorded on Sony Classical, Universal Music, NSS Music, Nonsuch, Chandos Records, Telarc and Rob Digital in Brazil.

By any measure, a tribute to Thelonious Monk cannot be complete without the participation of our honored pianist, **Randy Weston**. After contributing six decades of musical direction and genius, Weston remains one of the world's foremost pianists and composers today. Encompassing the vast rhythmic heritage of Africa, his global creations musically continue to inform and inspire. The Chief of the tribe of jazz pianists, we are honored to present Randy Weston, a true innovator and visionary, for the third consecutive year of our decade-long tribute to Thelonious Monk and celebration of his centennial.

South African saxophonist, flutist, pianist, vocalist, composer and bandleader **Zim Ngqawana** was born in 1959 in New Brighton Township, Port Elizabeth, in Eastern Cape Province. He is a passionate inheritor (and extender) of South African jazz idioms. He is also an erudite and respectful listener who has absorbed the American saxophone masters and crafted a highly personal sound on tenor, soprano and alto as the context requires. That sound can be mannered and meditative in the style of a Mark Turner, or robustly lyrical in a Tranean vein. Sometimes it can just be straightforwardly faithful to the rollicking "township gutbucket" of Dudu Pukwana, or to that "South African crying sound" of the legendary Kippie Moeketsi, with all the local color such faithfulness would connote. Every note has a social meaning. I'm singing my mother's knowledge of the plants that grew around her; my father's religion; the African transformation that we need." In Zim Ngqawana, modernism meets historicity. New York meets Sophiatown and the tributary fervor of the Eastern Cape. An important figure in jazz has emerged from Africa to launch a program, to rekindle a sorely missed colloquy.

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FALL 2009 PROGRAMMING**

**HARVESTWORKS DIGITAL MEDIA ART CENTER**

***RATE OF CHANGE: TIME AND SPACE IN ELECTRONIC ART***

September 29–October 24, Tuesday–Saturday, 12:00–4:00pm

WFC Courtyard Gallery

***A GLIMPSE OF GERMANY***

October 6–November 2, 7:00am–11:00pm daily

WFC Winter Garden

**MONK AT 92 PIANO MARATHON**

Friday, October 9, 5:00pm

WFC Winter Garden

**WNYC Radio's *New Sounds Live***

**VERNON REID**

***ARTIFICIAL AFRIKA***

Saturday, October 24, 8:00pm

WFC Winter Garden

**LATIN AMERICAN PIANO FESTIVAL**

Monday, November 9, 12:00pm

WFC Winter Garden

**60x60 DANCE**

Friday, November 13, 12:30–1:30pm & 7:00–8:00pm

WFC Winter Garden

**CANSTRUCTION®**

**17th Annual NYC Competition**

November 12–23, 7:00am–11:00pm daily

Winter Garden complex

**EAT: WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER RESTAURANT SHOWCASE**

Friday, October 16, 11:00–2:30pm

WFC Winter Garden

**WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER HAUNTED HOUSE**

Saturday, October 31, 12:00–3:00pm

## arts>World Financial Center

### MISSION

The mission of arts>World Financial Center is to serve as the leading showcase in Lower Manhattan for visual and performing arts – from the intimate to the spectacular – presenting both emerging and established artists.

With its waterfront Winter Garden as a focal point, the artistic process is made accessible in a free, open and interactive manner to workers, residents and the broader public of cultural consumers.

Since 1988, arts>World Financial Center has presented interdisciplinary arts programming with an emphasis on commissioned works, site-specific installations and premieres, year-round and free to the public.

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