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Big names booked for Asper jazz series

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BASSIST Christian McBride, clarinetist Anat Cohen and pianist Bill Charlap are among the big guns booked for the 2012-13 Izzy Asper jazz Performances series.

The five-concert series opens Sept. 22 and 23 with a celebration of Dizzy Gillespie's Afro-Cuban music with trumpeter Marcus Printup, pianist Edward Simon and Cuban expat drummer Dafnis Prieto. Printup is a celebrated trumpeter as a leader and as a mainstay of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Christian McBride, on tap for Oct. 13 and 14 with his Inside Straight quintet, is one of the top bassists of his generation playing straight-ahead jazz, or something a little more funky.

The Hot Club of Detroit, a Gypsy jazz and swing quintet featuring French vocalist Cyrille Aimee, raises the ghost of the great guitarist Django Reinhardt on Oct. 13 and 14.

Anat Cohen, one of three Israeli siblings who have made names for themselves in Israel and New York, will be here March 9 and 10 leading her quartet. She has made a name as a master of the clarinet but is a terrific tenor saxophonist as well.

The Bill Charlap Trio closes out the season April 20 and 21, 2013, with a show highlighting the Cole Porter songbook with singer Freddy Cole, Nat's brother and a successful singer in his own right. Charlap, no stranger to the city, is a delightful pianist.

All acts perform three shows: Saturday evening, and Sunday afternoon and evening. Ticket information is available at 477-7534.

The final Asper show of this season is April 21 and 22 with singer Dee Daniels paying tribute to Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee and Sarah Vaughan.

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