



Steve Kirby

In next year's season we take you on a jazz cultural tour through the heart of different countries and different eras, starting off with a Detroit and Chicago-style chicken and rib shack vibe, a combination of Jimmy Smith meets Gene Ammons and Clark Terry led by the hard bop legend Mike LeDonne on piano and organ.

Next up is the fabulous Omer Avital, known for his exotic and innovative bass playing. Omer and his quintet put a unique spin on old new and familiar jazz songs and rhythms in a high energy extravaganza of jazz mixed with a tinge of the Middle East.

November's show is a tribute to three of the high priestesses of jazz vocals. The all-star line up features vocalist Carla Cook, a New York legend that many believe was cut from the same cloth as these great singers. With innovative piano virtuoso Lynne Arriale, and Downbeat poll winner Grace Kelly on tenor saxophone, these ladies will deliver a legacy of beauty, power, wit and poignancy.

In the spring we will feature the rising stars of today's jazz scene. Pianist Aaron Diehl is taking New York by storm with his dynamic super quartet. Diehl will be joined by singer Charanee Wade, a favorite performer at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Wade has been described as following in the footsteps of Nancy Wilson.

We end the season with a celebration of the music of Stevie Wonder, bringing back the talented Kenny Washington, a versatile and powerful tenor voice that can deliver it all - anything from a ballad to a pop song, to R & B to the most sensitive jazz. You can expect a barn-burning finale of yet another stellar season. We look forward to seeing you there!

Steve Kirby, Artistic Director

Beverly Aronovitch, Producer

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The Omer Avital  
Quintet

**BLOWIN' THE  
BLUES AWAY**



The Mike LeDonne  
Quintet

**MEDITERRANEAN MIX**

**CELEBRATING THE MUSIC  
OF NINA SIMONE, ABBY  
LINCOLN & JONI MITCHELL**



Lynne Arriale, Carla Cook, Grace Kelly

**RISEING STARS**



The Aaron Diehl  
Quartet

**A TRIBUTE TO STEVIE WONDER**



Kenny  
Washington

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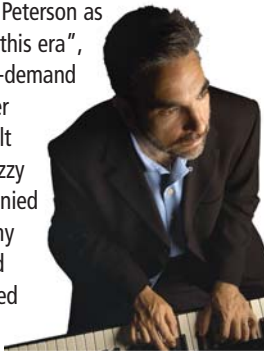




## Blowin' The Blues Away THE MIKE LEDONNE QUINTET

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Get your groove on with this swinging program of blues favorites from renowned groove master and New York piano and B3 organ icon, Mike LeDonne. Praised by Oscar Peterson as "one of the most talented pianists of this era", LeDonne has been one of the most in-demand session musicians in New York for over 30 years, backing jazz legends like Milt Jackson, Benny Golson, Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie and Sonny Rollins. Accompanied by a stellar band of saxophonist Jimmy Greene, drummer Greg Hutchison and bassist Steve Kirby, this is a guaranteed knock-out season opener!



## Mediterranean Mix THE OMER AVITAL QUINTET

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Praised by critics as, "extraordinary" (*New York Times*), "roaringly inventive" (*JAZZIZ*), and, "one of the most exciting musicians to come onto the jazz scene in the last 20 years" (*DownBeat*), Israeli-born Omer Avital's ensemble fuses exotic Middle Eastern grooves, its endless colors and joyful rhythms with traditional jazz language to create a unique blending of two musical traditions and cultures. Avital has recorded and toured with Wynton Marsalis, Kenny Garrett, Brian Blade, Joshua Redman, Brad Mehldau, Roy Haynes and many others. His last sell-out appearance on the Berney stage brought him standing ovations from the ecstatic audiences. We're bringing him back for more!



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## Celebrating the Music of NINA SIMONE, ABBY LINCOLN & JONI MITCHELL

Lynne Arriale, piano; Carla Cook, vocals;  
Grace Kelly, saxophone

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Three outstanding female artists combine forces to salute the great women in music. Lauded by critics worldwide, "Arriale's brilliant musicianship places her among the top jazz pianists of the day" (*New York Times*), "Arriale's stunning piano work is putting the heart back in jazz" (*The Sunday Times London*). With 13 chart-topping CDs and 20 of international touring, *Downbeat* describes her as "a powerhouse. ...haunting, gorgeous." Twenty-two year old saxophone prodigy Grace Kelly, Winner of *Downbeat* Critics' Poll Alto Saxophone Rising Star, has taken the jazz world by storm. She's a huge new talent who has already performed with a long list of big names, including Wynton Marsalis, Dave Brubeck, Phil Woods and Esperanza Spalding. Critics describe Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist Carla Cook as "a jazz singer who truly re-covers the standard waterfronts with fresh coats of paint. ....a straight ahead jazz diva with a gospel soul, big band heart, classical cool and improv hot." (*Jazz Times*). Backed by Evan Gregor on bass and Ross Pederson on drums, these three artists will make incredibly beautiful music together!



All performances in the Berney Theatre, Asper Jewish Community Campus  
123 Doncaster Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba,  
except May 14 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

## Rising Stars THE AARON DIEHL QUARTET

With New York vocalist Charenee Wade

Saturday, April 16, 2016 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 17, 2016 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Hailed by the Chicago Tribune as "the most promising discovery that [Wynton] Marsalis has made since Eric Reed", Aaron Diehl has captured the attention of the jazz world with many awards including the 2013 Jazz Journalists' Association Award for Up-And-Coming Artist and the 2011 Cole Porter Fellow in Jazz of the American Pianists' Association. Diehl has performed with the Wynton Marsalis Septet, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, The Boston Symphony Orchestra, Benny Golson, Hank Jones, and Wycliffe Gordon, to name a few. With vocalist Charenee Wade, a first runner-up in the 2010 prestigious Thelonious Monk Vocal Competition, you'll witness the next major stars on the jazz galaxy!



## In the Key of Stevie A TRIBUTE TO STEVIE WONDER

Saturday, May 14, 2016 3:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.  
Winnipeg Art Gallery

featuring vocalist Kenny Washington with  
The University of Manitoba Jazz Faculty Ensemble

We've put together the best talent in town to pay homage to Motown legend Stevie Wonder. To headline this all-star salute chocked full of Wonder's most beloved hit songs, we welcome back "the Superman of the Bay Area jazz scene" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), vocal jazz virtuoso Kenny Washington, who consistently thrills audiences with his soulful interpretations, seemingly limitless range, and rapid-fire scatting. Backed up by Steve Kirby's top-notch band and singers, you're in for a not-to-be-missed season closer!

