



Vijay Iyer & Wadada Leo Smith

«A Cosmic Rhythm With Each
Stroke»

Mercredi / Mittwoch / Wednesday

11.01.2017 20:00

Salle de Musique de Chambre

Vijay Iyer & Wadada Leo Smith

«A Cosmic Rhythm With Each Stroke»

Wadada Leo Smith trumpet

Vijay Iyer piano

~ 75' sans entracte / ohne Pause / without intermission

Backstage 19:30 SMC

Meet the artists: Wadada Leo Smith and Vijay Iyer in conversation with Francisco Sasseti (E)

Vijay Iyer and Wadada Leo Smith have performed together many times over the years in Wadada's much heralded «Golden Quartet». In 2016 the duo released a recording of new compositions for ECM Records, with subsequent live performances. In the tradition of Joseph «King» Oliver with Ferdinand «Jelly Roll» Morton, and Louis Armstrong with Earl «Fatha» Hines, Wadada and Vijay will explore the rich, resonant textures of that distinctive combination of piano and trumpet.

You could hardly find two more critically-acclaimed artists to present. If you've seen the latest Downbeat Critics' Poll you know that Vijay is Artist of the Year (Wadada tied for 6th) and also won Jazz Group of the Year. Wadada was runner-up to Maria Schneider for Composer of the Year and was also #3 in the Trumpet Category. His «Great Lakes Suite» was the #4 Album of the Year. Wadada's masterwork «Ten Freedom Summers», about pivotal events in the Civil Rights movement, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Music a couple of years ago. Vijay Iyer is a MacArthur Genius and a Professor of Music at Harvard. They're a powerful and distinctive combination, with a new record coming out on perhaps the most prestigious label in jazz.

Wadada Leo Smith trumpet

Wadada Leo Smith, trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and improviser is one of the most acclaimed creative artists of his times, both for his music and his writings. For the last five decades, Wadada Leo Smith has been a member of the historical and legendary collective Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). He distinctly defines his music as «Creative Music». Wadada Leo Smith's diverse discography reveals a recorded history centered around important issues that have impacted his world. Wadada Leo Smith was the 2013 finalist for the most prestigious award in music, the Pulitzer Prize; he is a recipient of the 2016 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award and the Hammer Museum's 2016 Mohn Career Achievement Award. His other recent awards include: 2016 Trumpeter of the Year; 2015 Composer of the Year; and 2013 Musician of the Year, awards presented by the Jazz Journalists Association. The prestigious *DownBeat Magazine* has selected Wadada Leo Smith for their November 2016's cover story. He was the 2013 winner of their 61st Critics Poll in the Composer of the Year category.

Vijay Iyer piano

Grammy-nominated composer-pianist Vijay Iyer was voted *DownBeat Magazine's* Artist of the Year in 2016, 2015 and 2012. He was named *Downbeat's* 2014 Pianist of the Year, a 2013 MacArthur Fellow, and a 2012 Doris Duke Performing Artist. In 2014 he began a permanent appointment as the Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts in the Department of Music at Harvard University. He has released twenty albums covering remarkably diverse terrain, most recently for the ECM label. The latest include «A Cosmic Rhythm With Each Stroke» (2016), «Break Stuff» (2015), «Mutations» (2014), and «Radhe Radhe: Rites of Holi» (2014). Iyer's trio made its name with two tremendously acclaimed and influential albums, «Accelerando» (2012) and «Historicity» (2009). The Vijay Iyer Trio was named 2015 Jazz Group of the year in the DownBeat International Critics Poll, with Iyer having earlier received an unprecedented quintuple crown in the 2012 Downbeat Poll (winning Jazz Artist of the Year, Pianist of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year, Jazz Group of the Year, and Rising Star Composer categories), as well as a quadruple crown in the JazzTimes extended critics poll (winning Artist of the Year, Acoustic/Mainstream Group of the Year, Pianist of the Year, and Album of the Year). Iyer received the 2012 and 2013 Pianist of the Year Awards and the 2010 Musician of the Year Award from the Jazz Journalists Association, and the 2013 ECHO Award for best international pianist. Iyer's 2013 collaboration with poet Mike Ladd, «Holding It Down: The Veterans' Dreams Project», based on the dreams of veterans of color from America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, was hailed as #1 Jazz Album of the Year by the *Los Angeles Times*. Along with their previous projects «In What Language?» (2004) and «Still Life with Commentator» (2007), «Holding It Down» rounded out a trilogy of politically searing albums about post-9/11 American life. Iyer's accomplishments extend well beyond his recordings. His recent composer commissions include *Playlist for an Extreme Occasion* (2012) written for Silk Road Ensemble, *Dig The Say* written for Brooklyn Rider, *Mozart Effects* (2011) and *Time, Place, Action* (2014) for Brentano String Quartet, *Bruits* (2014) for Imani Winds and pianist Cory Smythe, *Rimpa Transcriptions* (2012) written for Bang on a Can All-Stars, *UnEasy* (2011) commissioned by NYC's Summerstage, *Three Fragments* (2011) for Darcy James Argue's Secret Society. His orchestral work *Interventions* was commissioned and premiered by the American Composers Orchestra in 2007 under the baton of Dennis Russell Davies. Forthcoming commissions include pieces for Jennifer Koh, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and So Percussion. His concert works are published by Schott Music. A polymath whose career has spanned the sciences, the humanities, and the arts, Iyer received an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the cognitive science of music from the University of California, Berkeley. He has published in *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Wire*, *Music Perception*, *JazzTimes*, *Journal of the Society for American Music*, *Critical Studies in Improvisation*, in the anthologies *Arcana IV*, *Sound Unbound*, *Uptown Conversation*, *The Best Writing on Mathematics: 2010*, and in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Critical Improvisation Studies*. Iyer has taught at Manhattan School of Music, New York University, and the New School, and he is the Director of The Banff Centre's International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music. Iyer recently finished a multi-year residency with San Francisco Performances, cultivating new audiences and working with schools and community organizations. He is a Steinway artist and uses Ableton Live software.

www.vijay-iyer.com

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