

WUSTL *MUSIC*

Friday, December 3, 2021 - 8:00 P.M.
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Music Center



Marc Copland Trio
with
Drew Gress & Billy Drummond

Biographies



It doesn't seem right to think of him as an elder statesman, but pianist and composer **Marc Copland**, (born 1948) has been spinning out sounds like no other pianist since the mid-1970's. His output as a leader is staggering: over 40 critically acclaimed CDs, in solos, duos, trios, quartets and quintets. The albums, recorded for over ten different labels, feature major jazz voices of the past and present: John Abercrombie, Ralph Alessi, Joey Baron, Mike Brecker, Randy Brecker, Dennis Chambers, Mark Ferber, Billy Hart, Dave Liebman, Victor Lewis, Joe Lovano, Greg Osby, Gary Peacock, Bill Stewart, Robin Verheyen, Ken Wheeler, and others. But if you were thinking of Copland as an older musician who has slowed down, stopped developing, and simply resting on his laurels—you couldn't be more wrong.

"I've never seen anything like this," says saxophonist Robin Verheyen. "He's an inspiration, coming up with new ideas and new sounds all the time. It's the kind of energy and growth you'd expect from someone in the prime of their creative life. And he's not only a major voice with such a distinctive sound and approach—you won't find a better accompanist anywhere."

After years of recording for many of the world's finest labels (Challenge, ECM, Hatology, Nagel-Heyer, Pirouet, Savoy, Sketch, Soul Note, etc.), Copland took the plunge in 2016 and started his own label. The pianist's foray into the record business has grown every year, bucking the general downward trend of CD sales. His latest release, *John* (illusions / mirage), has received *Down Beat Magazine's* "Editor's Pick," CHOC from *Jazz Magazine* (France), "CD of the Month" from *Stereoplay* (Germany), and five stars from both *Rondo* (Germany) and *Neu Züricher Zeitung* (Switzerland). Dan McClenaghan of *allaboutjazz.com* put it succinctly: "Copland is a genius...he creates the loveliest of sounds." The respected blog, *jazzstation*, awarded him "#1 Acoustic Pianist of the Year" for 2020.



Drew Gress is one of New York's most in-demand bassists, and a longtime companion of pianist Copland in trios, quartets, and (lately) in duo as well. He is also a gifted composer, as one can hear on the beautiful *Figment* from the trio's new release on *Illusions/Mirage*. Equally adept at playing all kinds of jazz, his credits in addition to his own bands include John Abercrombie, Ralph Alessi, Tim Berne, Bill

Carrothers, Ravi Coltrane, Tim Berne, Don Byron, Uri Caine, Marc Copland, Dave Douglas, John Hollenbeck, Fred Hersch, Jack DeJohnette, and John Surman. Gress currently teaches in the NYU jazz department in New York.



Acclaimed by *Downbeat* as “one of the hippest bandleaders now at work,” **Billy Drummond’s** thrilling, powerful, and highly musical playing has also made him one of the most in-demand drummers anywhere, making appearances with a veritable who’s who of jazz greats on over 350 albums including (to name a few) Horace Silver, Eddie Henderson, Joe Henderson, Bobby Hutcherson, JJ Johnson, Sonny Rollins, Buster Williams, Steve Kuhn, Charles Tolliver, Nat

Adderley, Charles McPherson, James Moody, Sheila Jordan, Andrew Hill, Ron Carter, Carla Bley, Eddie Gomez, Hank Jones, Freddie Hubbard, Lee Konitz, Stanley Cowell, Archie Shepp, Joe Lovano, Javon Jackson, Chris Potter, Ralph Moore, Vincent Herring, Franco Ambrosetti, Sadao Wantanabe, and Toots Thielemans. He has made three albums as a leader—including *Dubai*, a *New York Times* Number 1 Jazz Album of the Year—and five as a co-leader, including *We’ll Be Together Again in Three’s Company*, a trio with Javon Jackson and legendary bassist Ron Carter, which made several “Top Ten of the Year” lists. *Modern Drummer* magazine recently honored *Dubai* as one of the “50 Crucial Jazz Drumming Recordings of the Past 10 years.” Asked what’s important in jazz, Drummond says “most of all, to play from your heart.” Drummond currently teaches in the jazz department at the Juilliard school in NYC.

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