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Trio: Joshua Redman, Christian McBride, Brian Blade

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November 12, 1997 at 8pm

Modlin Center for the Arts

&
Camp Concert Hall
Booker Hall of Music

TRIO

featuring

Joshua Redman

Christian McBride

Brian Blade

Selections will be announced from the stage.

There will be no intermission.

About the Artists

Joshua Redman, *saxophone*



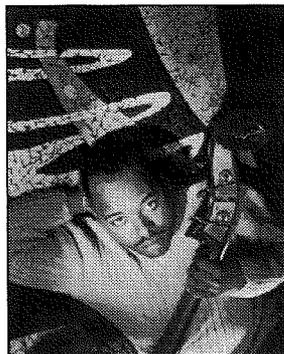
In the five years since he turned his back on law school and chose a career in music, saxophonist Joshua Redman has been on a path of constant progress, with musical successes matched by popular recognition in a manner rarely seen in the jazz world. After graduating *summa cum laude* from Harvard College, and following a summer of work with his father, the legendary Dewey Redman, Joshua created a sensation by taking first prize in the Thelonius Monk institute of Jazz saxophone competition in 1991. He hasn't looked back since.

The growing legion of Joshua Redman fans has come to rely on his Warner Bros. albums to chart the constant growth that defines his music. His 1993 debut, *Joshua Redman*, captured the excitement of a new voice taking flight in the company of such talented contemporaries as Christian McBride and Kevin Hayes (who have gone on to carve their own niche in the jazz world). *Wish*, released later in 1993, demonstrated that Redman's tenor saxophone could also excel in the company of such giants as Pat Metheny, Charlie Haden and Billy Higgins, all of whom toured with Redman at the end of the year. 1994's best-selling *MoodSwing* was another major achievement. This was Redman's first album with his own touring band (featuring McBride, Brad Mehldau and Brian Blade), the first to be made up exclusively of his own compositions and also marked his debut on soprano saxophone. *Spirit of the Moment*, from 1995, continued the string of triumphs in a two-CD set recorded live at the Village Vanguard, documenting the Redman quartet (now featuring pianist Peter Martin, bassist Christopher Thomas and drummer Blade) and highlighting Redman's writing skills with 11 new compositions, while capturing the intensity and affirmation of his live performances.

Now the journey continues with *Freedom in the Groove*. Once again, Redman's band and music have evolved, and once again he has triumphed. The 10 original compositions he introduces reflect the open, anti-categorical spirit one would expect from a musician born in 1969 who virtually has kept his ears wide open from birth.

Christian McBride, *bass*

Named "Jazz Artist of the Year" in 1996 by *Gavin* magazine, Christian McBride is the most sought-after young bassist in jazz. He has two recordings



to his name as a leader (*Gettin' To It* and *Number Two Express*) and is credited with over 100 others. McBride was inspired to play the bass by his father, Lee Smith, who played with some of the major acts of the '70s, including the Delfonics, Billy Paul, Blue Magic and Major Harris. His great uncle, Howard Cooper, also played acoustic bass but went the avant-garde route with such musicians as Sunny Murry and Byard Lancaster.

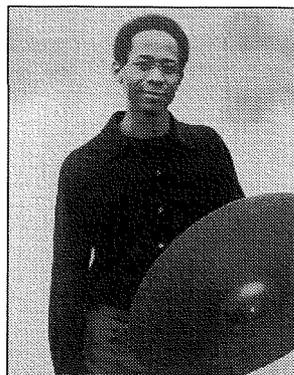
After studying classical bass at Philadelphia's High School for the Performing Arts, as well as with bassist Neil Courtney of the Philadelphia Orchestra, McBride was awarded a scholarship to attend The Julliard School of Music in Manhattan. However, New York-based musicians had other plans for him, and Bobby Watson was the first to recruit McBride for his band.

Work with Betty Carter, Wynton Marsalis, Freddie Hubbard, Benny Green and Joshua Redman, among others, followed. Now McBride divides his time between working and recording with a vast array of musicians and leading his own band—featuring saxophonist Tim Warfield, pianist Anthony Wonsey and drummer Carl Allen.

McBride's recent projects include appearances with McCoy Tyner, Kathleen Battle and David Sanborn. He also recorded with Dave Brubeck and appeared with him on a live Grammy telecast. McBride also has a featured musical role in the Robert Altman film, *Kansas City*, and was a part of Chick Corea's All Star Quintet (which includes Joshua Redman, Wallace Roney and Roy Haynes) during the summer of 1996.

Brian Blade, *drums*

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on July 25, 1970, Brian Blade began playing drums in church at the age of thirteen. After moving to New Orleans in 1988 to study anthropology at Loyola University, he became a part of the musical community there, performing with local musicians and classmates. Brian Blade has since become a coveted sideman (both on tour and in the recording studio) with many of the best in the jazz field: Ellis Marsalis, Daniel Lanois, Joshua Redman, Kenny Garrett, Joni Mitchell. At the age of 26, by association alone, Blade has developed a reputation as one of the most talented drummers in the world.



Brian has been an integral part of the Joshua Redman Band since 1994. He is praised for his rhythmic skill and equally complimented for his musical sensitivity. According to Joshua, "He's a master in his own right. He's, I think, the greatest young jazz drummer playing today...Brian has the ability to play with great fire and intensity, but at the same time, play with complete musicality and complete sensitivity, which is rare for a drummer." (*OffBeat* magazine, March 1997)