



The Sixty-sixth Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,651st Concert

Chris Brubeck's Triple Play
Chris Brubeck, *piano, trombone, bass*
Peter Madcat Ruth, *harmonica*
Joel Brown, *guitar*

December 23, 2007
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

The musicians will announce the program from the stage.

The Musicians

When Chris Brubeck, Joel Brown, and Peter Madcat Ruth perform together as Triple Play, they captivate audience members of all ages, consistently earning standing ovations and high praise. Brubeck and Madcat have been playing together since their youthful collaboration in the rock-and-roll band, Sky King. Brown and Brubeck have been playing together for twelve years, having toured with folk singer Bill Crofut. Triple Play's most recent CD, *Watching the World*, earned a four-and-a-half star rating (out of five) from *All Music Guide*, with the comment, "It's great to hear a group that combines top-notch musicianship, potent originals, and a touch of humor."

Chris Brubeck first distinguished himself as a jazz musician, performing and recording with his father, the legendary jazz pianist Dave Brubeck. Chris Brubeck sings and plays bass, trombone, piano, and guitar. In the past few decades he has earned international acclaim as a composer, performer, and leader of his own groups. His irrepressible enthusiasm is matched by his fluid command of jazz, blues, folk, funk, pop, and classical musical styles. Brubeck has appeared on stage with such diverse artists as Bob Dylan, Béla Fleck, Stéphane Grappelli, B. B. King, Bobby McFerrin, Gerry Mulligan, Willie Nelson, Dawn Upshaw, and Muddy Waters, and has been featured on dozens of recordings. He has written three musicals and hundreds of songs, including covers sung by rhythm-and-blues legends Bobby Womack and Patti Labelle.

An award-winning composer, Brubeck clearly understands the nuances of contemporary music. Over the last decade he has created an impressive body of symphonic work while maintaining a demanding touring and recording schedule with his two bands, the Brubeck Brothers Quartet and Triple Play. His recent compositions include *Convergence: Concerto for Orchestra*, commissioned and performed by the Boston Pops to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Boston's Symphony Hall, and *Interplay for Three Violins and Orchestra*, which won the 2002 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for best composition for television broadcast.

Peter Madcat Ruth has established an international reputation through his exhilarating virtuosity on the harmonica. Numerous national television and radio appearances, symphony orchestra performances, radio and television advertisements, and harmonica workshops attest to his reputation as one of the best and most versatile harmonica players in the world. He is equally at home playing blues, country, folk music, jazz, and rock and roll. *Performance Magazine* refers to him as “a harmonica virtuoso who is rapidly approaching legend [sic] status.” Madcat’s music has been evolving since he started playing nearly forty years ago in Chicago, where he studied harmonica with Big Walter Horton. He later moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan where he was a key presence in two of the city’s finest progressive rock bands—New Heavenly Blue and Sky King. By the mid 1970s, Madcat was touring the world with Dave Brubeck. Madcat later turned to solo performing, infusing the folk and blues tradition with elements of rock and jazz. In 1990 he teamed up with guitarist and singer Shari Kane to form the duo Madcat and Kane.

Guitarist Joel Brown’s eclectic career has taken him to England for a recording with the London Symphony Orchestra and to Carnegie Hall for concerts with soprano Dawn Upshaw. He has appeared at Alice Tully Hall with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Barbican Centre in London, the Chamber Music Festival at Saratoga, New York, Music in the Mountains in British Columbia, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Tanglewood Festival. In addition to touring and recording with Triple Play, Brown has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Martinů Chamber Orchestra in the Czech Republic and the Saint Cecilia Orchestra in Italy as well as many other orchestras across the United States. He is a founding member of the trio Tritonis, which has recorded five new pieces that Brown commissioned. He is the featured guitarist in a Koch International Classics recording with the London Symphony Orchestra, *Bach to Brubeck*; with Frederica von Stade in *Across Your Dreams* with the Empire Brass on King’s

Court and Celtic Fair; and in Bill Crofut's final recording, *Dance on a Moonbeam*, on Telarc Records. This year Brown's newest CD, *Christmas Cedar and Spruce*, was released on Albany Records, and features Chris Brubeck and Peter Madcat Ruth as well as members of his own family. He is senior artist-in-residence at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Next Week at the National Gallery of Art

National Gallery Orchestra

José Serebrier, *guest conductor*

Carole Farley, *soprano*

New Year Concert

Music by Johann Strauss Jr., Tchaikovsky, and other composers

December 30, 2007

Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court

Next Month at the National Gallery

New York Chamber Soloists

Music by Carter, Fried, Mozart, Saint-Saëns, and Vivaldi

January 6, 2008

Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court



Vilnius String Quartet

Music by Beethoven, Brahms, and Narbutaite

January 13, 2008

Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court



Jeni Slotchiver, pianist

Music of North and South American origin by Busoni,
Gottschalk, Guarnieri, Guastavino, Ignone, Viana, and Villa-Lobos

January 20, 2008

Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court



Central Bucks High School West Chamber Choir

Music by Cage, Caldwell, Gjeilo, Ohrt, and Samson

January 27, 2008

Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court

For the convenience of concertgoers
the Garden Café remains open until 6:00 pm.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the
performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones,
pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of
the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

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