

ICA LIVE



Photo by Zack Smith

The Institute of Contemporary Art presents

Joshua Redman Group featuring Gabrielle Cavassa *where are we*

Friday, September 29
Saturday, September 30

Welcome

Welcome to the ICA's Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater.

Each year, the ICA welcomes visionary performing artists whose creativity, inventiveness, and imagination inspire us to rethink and reframe our relationship to one another and our world. Their restless, inventive artistic explorations not only showcase their extraordinary talents, but also invite us to gather together and share in the pleasures of live performance.

This fall, we are proud to share with you an extraordinary season of musical performers featuring legendary talents and emerging voices. The remarkable Joshua Redman Group, joined by singer Gabrielle Cavassa, ask us to consider, through song, the meaning of place and home. Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, and Shahzad Ismaily create a mesmerizing, hypnotic soundscape in *Love in Exile*. The ever-inventive singer-songwriter serpentwithfeet explores the tender and beautiful ways queer love blossoms in a nightclub in *Heart of Brick*, featuring choreography by Raja Feather Kelly and direction by visual artist Wu Tsang. Anjimile's haunting vocals belie the strength of his stories of survival, resilience, and spiritual rebirth.

From all of us at the ICA, thank you for coming, and we hope you enjoy your time here.

John Andress

BILL T. JONES DIRECTOR/CURATOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

Like the show? Let us know!

#ICABoston



@ICABoston



@icaboston

Joshua Redman Group
where are we
featuring Gabrielle Cavassa

Saxophone

Joshua Redman

Bass

Joe Sanders

Vocals

Gabrielle Cavassa

Drums

Brian Blade

Piano

Aaron Parks

ICA PRODUCTION CREW

September 29

Audio Engineer

Kevin Corzett

September 30

Audio Engineer

Kevin Corzett

Master Electrician

Ndanu Mutisya

Master Electrician

Emily Bearce

Crew Member

Squier

Crew Member

Squier

House Manager

Carly Martin

House Manager

Julie Streeter

Biographies

Joshua Redman is one of the most acclaimed and respected jazz artists to have emerged in our generation.

It is hard to imagine a year of firsts for a musician as prolific as Redman, with a career spanning over 30 years. And yet, 2023 proved to be exactly that: He launched his debut album on the venerable Blue Note Records label, **where are we**. This album was planned largely by phone and text — a direct result of the exigencies of the pandemic — and finds Redman recording with a vocalist and writing lyrics for the first time.

Through the lens of geographic location, Redman and his band march across the United States, asking us to take a critical examination of what we find. Of this particular assemblage, hand-picked for this album, Redman says “The magic of this particular gathering of musicians was that we were able to come together from points afar, to converge (physically and creatively) in a particular place at a particular time, and to embrace, with fullest imagination and without slightest reservation, the ethic of ‘serving the songs.’ In this sense, **where are we** is perhaps above all a meditation on the power and importance of place — the unique human beauty created when we locate ourselves in shared physical spaces together with others; the loss, anomie, and angst suffered when we divide ourselves unnaturally and unjustly apart.”

But a young Joshua Redman wasn't destined to be a musician.

In 1991 Redman graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College. He had already been accepted by Yale Law School, having deferred entrance for what was supposed to be only one year. Instead, he moved to New York City and immediately found himself immersed in the jazz scene. Five months later, Redman won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Saxophone

Competition and began touring and recording with jazz masters such as Jack DeJohnette, Charlie Haden, Elvin Jones, Joe Lovano, Pat Metheny, Paul Motian, Dewey Redman, and Clark Terry.

Redman is as renowned for his musicianship as he is for his prescience in assembling talent. One of his earliest bands, heard on his 1994 album *MoodSwing*, includes musicians who would later become some of the most influential artists of their generation: pianist Brad Mehldau, bassist Christian McBride, and drummer Brian Blade. They reunited nearly 30 years later, releasing *RoundAgain* (2020) and *LongGone* (2022) to resounding critical acclaim and sold-out performances worldwide.

Redman has recorded nearly two dozen albums, but his prodigious talent has taken him beyond the bandstand as well: he's helmed the creation of the SFJAZZ Collective, an ensemble distinguished by a unique emphasis on composition; expanded jazz departments via his appointments as a Visiting Artist at Stanford University and as the Artistic Director of the Roots, Jazz, and American Music program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; and written music for film. He wrote and performed the music for Louis Malle's final film *Vanya on 42nd Street* and is both heard and seen in the Robert Altman film *Kansas City*.

He has recorded and/or performed with a vast array of luminaries, both in jazz and beyond, including Dave Brubeck, Chick Corea, the Dave Matthews Band, Herbie Hancock, Elvin Jones, Quincy Jones, Big Daddy Kane, B.B. King, Yo Yo Ma, the Rolling Stones, the Roots, McCoy Tyner, and Stevie Wonder, to name a few.

Born in Berkeley, California, he is the son of legendary saxophonist Dewey Redman and dancer Renee Shedroff.

Hailing from Escondido, California, **Gabrielle Cavassa** is a vocalist-composer of Italian descent who is making waves with her distinctive voice and intimate expression. Cavassa independently released her self-titled debut album in 2020 to critical acclaim and won the International Sarah Vaughan Jazz Vocal Competition in 2021.

Cavassa's relationship with music began with an early love for records. She remembers "obsessively listening" to albums as a child and later amassed a record collection through which she began her education in music. While studying at San Francisco State University, Cavassa began her career as a vocalist in San Francisco clubs, crediting the Bay Area music scene for her development as a young artist. In 2017, Cavassa moved to New Orleans, where she worked with and was inspired by the city's most influential voices, including Jamison Ross, Nicholas Payton, and Ashlin Parker. She has toured domestically and internationally with her own group and as the featured vocalist with the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

Shimmering in her own humanness, Cavassa's expression contains a vulnerability that reaches at the crux of our humanity. Her songwriting and interpretation explore moods of sensuality, melancholy, and humor, as though she is reading from a diary.

Aaron Parks released his Blue Note solo debut *Invisible Cinema* at the age of 25 following three Blue Note releases with trumpeter Terence Blanchard. The BBC declared it "one of the great albums of 2008." *JazzTimes* hailed him as "a new visionary." The *San Jose Mercury News* named his *Alive in Japan* release their 2013 Top Jazz Album of the year. He has released two albums on ECM, including a solo piano recording and a trio record featuring Billy Hart and Ben Street. He has performed and recorded with Kurt Rosenwinkel, Dhafer Youssef, Terri Lyne Carrington, Ambrose Akinmusire, Gretchen Parlato, Kendrick Scott, and Marcus Miller, among others. He is also a founding member of James Farm with

Joshua Redman, Matt Penman, and Eric Harland. His latest project, Aaron Parks Little Big, hailed by PopMatters as “what jazz can be in the new century,” was released in late 2018; the follow-up, *Little Big II: Dreams of a Mechanical Man*, was released in May 2020 to critical acclaim. Later that year, Aaron was one of six composers selected to participate in Sundance Institute’s prestigious Film Music and Sound Design Lab. In 2022, he released a pair of collaborative trio albums with Matt Brewer and Eric Harland.

Brian Blade was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, where the first music he experienced was the Gospel and songs of praise as a congregant in Zion Baptist Church, where his father, Brady L. Blade, Sr., has been the pastor since 1961. Through music appreciation classes in elementary school, he found his way to the violin at age nine. Inspired by Brady L. Blade, Jr., his older brother and Zion Baptist Church drummer, Blade switched from violin to drums in middle school. Throughout his high school years, under the tutelage of Dorsey Summerfield, Jr., he began listening to the music of John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Thelonious Monk, Elvin Jones, and Joni Mitchell. After graduation, he attended Loyola University in New Orleans. From 1988 through 1993, Blade studied and played with most of the master musicians living in New Orleans, such as John Vidacovich, Ellis Marsalis, Steve Masakowski, Bill Huntington, Mike Pelleria, John Mahoney, George French, Emile Vinette, Germaine Bazzle, David Lee, Jr., Alvin Red Tyler, Tony Dagradi, and Harold Battiste.

In 1997, with pianist Jon Cowherd, he formed the Fellowship Band, whose members include bassist Christopher Thomas and saxophonists Myron Walden and Melvin Butler. The Fellowship Band released its debut album, *Fellowship*, in 1998, followed by *Perceptual* in 2000, *Season of Changes* in 2008, *Landmarks* in 2014, and *Body and Shadow* in 2017.

While continuing to work with the Fellowship Band, Blade has been a member of the Wayne Shorter quartet since 2000,

and he has recorded across multiple genres with a broad range of musical talent, including Daniel Lanois, Joni Mitchell, Kenny Garrett, Ellis Marsalis, Chick Corea, Marianne Faithfull, Norah Jones, Emmylou Harris, and Bob Dylan.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, **Joe Sanders** acquired his voracious appetite for music in adolescence, soaking up sounds from a wide array of sources — everything from the blues on the radio to the exalted voices of the Baptist Church.

He left the Midwest to attend the Brubeck Institute in Stockton, California, studying under the tutelage of Christian McBride, which prepared him to perform alongside such renowned jazz artists as Dave Brubeck, Terence Blanchard, Ron Carter, Roy Hargrove, John Clayton, Jimmy Heath, Charlie Haden, Herbie Hancock, Charles Lloyd, Wayne Shorter, and Geri Allen. After a stint at the Thelonious Monk Institute, Sanders relocated to New York City in 2007, where he eventually emerged as an integral part of the thriving jazz scene. This relocation proved to be most fortuitous, expanding his repertoire and allowing him to establish relationships with visionaries such as Gerald Clayton, Christian Scott, Justin Brown, Ambrose Akinmusire, and Fabian Almazan. Through these partnerships, he expanded his way of conceptualizing the bass, music, and life, culminating in the release of his 2012 debut album on the Criss-Cross label, *Introducing Joe Sanders*, which included a Jerome Foundation/Jazz Gallery commissioned piece written for four basses, piano, saxophone, and drums. With an unquenching thirst for knowledge, Sanders continues to push his boundaries, deepen his knowledge of the history of jazz, and explore the infinite possibilities of the unknown. Sanders's most recent album, *Humanity*, is a commentary on the constant violence affecting our daily lives and an entreaty to see one another's humanity and treat all with compassion and love. He tours regularly with his ensemble, Joe Sanders' Infinity, and as a member of Kendrick Scott Oracle and the Gerald Clayton Trio.

Upcoming Performances



Photo by Ebru Yildiz

Love in Exile: Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, and Shahzad Ismaily
October 8

Grammy Award–winning vocalist Arooj Aftab debuts her *Love in Exile* Trio in Boston, featuring two celebrated collaborators: pianist Vijay Iyer and multi-instrumentalist Shahzad Ismaily. The trio creates lush, haunting collaborative soundscapes of meditation and yearning. Rich improvisations bloom into achingly provocative experimentation and creates a sound described by Aftab as “about self-exile and the search for freedom and identity, and finding it through love and music.”

Upcoming Performances



Photo by Fabian Hammerl

serpentwithfeet: Heart of Brick
October 12 + 13

Brooklyn-born musician serpentwithfeet's experimental electronic music tenderly explores passion and love between gay Black folks. *The Guardian* said of his 2021 record *DEACON*, "There can be few albums this year more wholesome, soppy, or unabashedly life-affirming." He joins MacArthur "genius" Fellow Wu Tsang and choreographer Raja Feather Kelly to present *Heart of Brick*, a theatrical dance and musical performance that tells the story of two men finding themselves and falling in love in a gay dance hall and captures the multi-generational spirit of the Black queer community. Combining music created for the performance with material from serpentwithfeet's new album, as well as older songs, *Heart of Brick* is an evocative new work that embodies the sweetness and sincerity at serpent's core.

Now on View at the ICA



Venetia Dale, *Venetia Dale*, 2023-24.
Installation view, *2023 Foster Prize*, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, 2023-24.
Photo by Mel Taing.

2023 James and Audrey Foster Prize

Aug 24, 2023 – Jan 28, 2024

The *2023 James and Audrey Foster Prize* presents the work of Cicely Carew (b. in Los Angeles), Venetia Dale (b. in Winfield, IL), and Yu-Wen Wu (b. in Taipei, Taiwan). Working in a range of media, these Boston-area artists each engage with the theme of states of change, whether through personal experiences, the passage of time, or materials' transformation in the making of an artwork.



Installation view, *Tammy Nguyen*, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, 2023-24.
Photo by Mel Taing.

Tammy Nguyen

Aug 24, 2023 – Jan 28, 2024

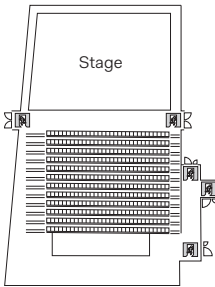
Connecticut-based multidisciplinary artist Tammy Nguyen (b. 1984, San Francisco) creates paintings, works on paper, unique artist books, and publications, including through her independent imprint Passenger Pigeon Press. In the densely layered symphonic space of her gilded paintings, Nguyen explores contradiction and confusion through intertwining narratives of geopolitical, environmental, and spiritual subjects.

Membership gets you more!

Join today to begin a year of inspiration and discovery. ICA members enjoy special access to our exhibitions, performances, and events, while also providing vital support to the museum and the arts in Boston.

Learn more about ICA Membership opportunities at icaboston.org/membership or by emailing membership@icaboston.org.

Learn more about the ICA at icaboston.org.



Barbara Lee Family Foundation
Theater Fire Exits

The ICA is supported in part by grants from the Barr Foundation; Bloomberg Philanthropies; the Mellon Foundation; and the Mass Cultural Council, which receives support from the State of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston
25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston MA 02210
617-478-3100 info@icaboston.org

