

The Jazz Gallery Residency Commission is proud to announce its 2016-2017 recipients

JOEL ROSS, MARIA GRAND & ADAM O'FARRILL

Concerts to be held in spring 2017

Adam O'Farrill: 14 + 15 April

Joel Ross: 12 + 13 May

Maria Grand: 16 + 17 June

About The Jazz Gallery Residency Commissions

In addition to giving performance opportunities to young artists, The Jazz Gallery also has a strong track record of nurturing compositional talent, having commissioned new work annually since 2002 which evolved into the Residency Commissions program, which grants talented composers and bandleaders the resources to work on large-scale projects that will have enduring and transformative effects on their creative development.

We encourage commissioned artists to think outside their usual box and deeply explore their creative ideas and take risks by removing financial and space constraints.

To this end, Residency Commission recipients receive a commissioning fee ranging from \$7,500.00, as well as unrestricted access to our performance space for an entire season to compose, rehearse, and record during off-hours, culminating in the premiere of their new work later in the season.

Since 2002, our Commissions program has supported 44 artists' creation of 46 new works, many of which have since been commercially released and several of which have been nominated for GRAMMY Awards; however, our focus for the program is not the end products. We are more concerned with providing the process for the artists, most of whom are receiving a commission for the first time in their careers.

The program also showcases the multitude of cultural influences in New York's contemporary jazz scene; recent Residency Commission recipients include: Ambrose Akinmusire, Gerald Clayton, Jen Shyu, Kris Davis, Sachal Vasandani, Amir ElSaffar, Linda Oh, Ben Wendel, Joe Sanders, John Escreet, and more.

Our 2017 Residency Commissions program will feature Maria Grand, Joel Ross, and Adam O'Farrill.

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ADAM O'FARRILL

Adam O'Farrill was born in Brooklyn, NY on September 8th, 1994. He grew up surrounded by a deep musical legacy. His grandfather was Chico O'Farrill, the legendary Afro-Cuban composer and arranger (worked with Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Stan Kenton among others). His father is jazz pianist and bandleader Arturo O'Farrill, who also founded the nonprofit organization, Afro Latin Jazz Alliance. His mother, Alison Deane, is a classical pianist and professor at CUNY City College. His brother, Zack O'Farrill, is a drummer and composer. Adam began studying piano at age 6, and trumpet at age 8.

O'Farrill attended the famous Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music, Art and Performing Arts, where he met one of his most influential teachers, Robert Apostle. He now is finishing up his undergraduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music where he has studied trumpet with Laurie Frink, Thomas Smith, Tony Kadleck, and Greg Gisbert, and is currently studying composition with Reiko Fueting. He also attended the Banff Centre in Summer 2013 for the Jazz and Creative Music Workshop, directed by Vijay Iyer.

Adam released two albums with his brother, under the O'Farrill Brothers Band, on ZOHO Music. They are 2011's *Giant Peach*, and 2013's *Sensing Flight*. Both received critical acclaim, especially the latter one. *Sensing Flight* was one of *Jazztimes'* Top 50 Albums of 2013, and also received a 4-star review in *Downbeat Magazine*. Dan Bilawsky of *All About Jazz* said of the album: "...drummer Zachary O'Farrill and still-in-his-teens trumpeter Adam O'Farrill have gone a step beyond, reaching a level of artistic confidence that eludes most musicians of any age."

In November 2014, O'Farrill competed in the 2014 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Trumpet Competition, where he performed before a panel of judges that was comprised of Ambrose Akinmusire, Randy Brecker, Roy Hargrove, Quincy Jones, Jimmy Owens, and Arturo Sandoval. He was one of the top 3 finalists (of 13 semifinalists, and hundreds of applications), and was awarded 3rd Place. In March 2014, Adam was a member of MSM Jazz Arts Quintet, and they competed at the Keep an Eye Competition in Amsterdam, NL. O'Farrill won the Best Soloist prize for his performance, and the group went on to win the 1st Place prize. He is also a recipient of the ASCAP Gerswhin Award and the ASCAP Student Jazz Composer Award.

In 2014, Adam also formed his first band as a leader, a quartet called *Stranger Days*. It is comprised of Chad Lefkowitz-Brown on tenor saxophone, Walter Stinson on bass, and Zack O'Farrill on drums. Very much influenced by film and theater, the band takes ideas of human

nature and conversation and finds new musical and instrumental applications of those ideas within the framework of the band and the compositions, which are mainly of Adam's. Each piece is meant to feel like a scene, where the focus is put on the characters' actions, both in dialogic and coloristic ways, and how those actions affect the landscape of the piece. In this case, the musicians are the characters.

Recently, Adam was featured on saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa's new 2015 album, *Bird Calls*. It is a Charlie Parker inspired project, and O'Farrill is featured alongside Mahanthappa, pianist Matt Mitchell, bassist Francois Moutin, and drummer Rudy Royston. It was released on the ACT Label in February, and has garnered wide critical acclaim. Ben Ratliff of the NY Times said of O'Farrill's performance: "a poised and battling straight-ahead jazz musician, running variations on the unusual melodic material and attacking it with complete presence, in his own voice." Will Layman of PopMatters says: "Adam O'Farrill, just a kid, feels like a headline flying off the front of the Times: sizzling and sharp, assured the way you dream of being, and unable to play an obvious line, a cliché, a standard phrase."

O'Farrill has performed and/or recorded with Arturo O'Farrill, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Vijay Iyer, Ambrose Akinmusire, Randy Weston, Dave Liebman, Fred Ho, Christian McBride, Roy Hargrove, Joe Lovano, DJ Logic, and more. He has also been featured in bands led by many diverse artists at the vanguard of creativity, such as the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, Stephan Crump's Rhombal, Ben Van Gelder Sextet, Travis Reuter Band, Samora Pinderhughes' Transformations Suite, Gabriel Zucker and The Delegation, The Eco-Music Big Band, The Gregorio Uribe Big Band, the Livio Almeida Brazilian Dectet, Paul Bloom's Aeneid Project, and more. O'Farrill has also played with many young, rising NY rock bands and electronic musicians, including Sister Helen, Caverns, The Jacobins, MAXO, and Sleator/Westmoreland/Soto. Adam has performed all over the world, at prestigious venues including the Newport Jazz Festival (Newport, RI), Teatro Mella (Havana, CU), Mount Fuji Jazz Festival (Japan), Bimhuis (Amsterdam, NL), the White House (Washington, DC), Birdland (New York, NY), Montclair State University (Montclair, NJ), Marian's Jazz Room (Bern, CH), and more.

Adam O'Farrill's *Stranger Days* has performed at many venues, including the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center, The Jazz Gallery, Yale University, and Williams College. They just recorded an album in January, co-produced by Arturo O'Farrill. The album does not currently have a title or release date, but is expected to come out in the Fall of 2015. *Stranger Days* will be holding a mini-residency at the New York Botanical Garden this summer, as a part of the Frida Kahlo: Art-Garden-Life exhibition. They will perform original and existing music inspired not only by traditional Mexican music of all kinds, but also the life and art of Frida Kahlo. Check the SHOWS page for upcoming dates.

MARIA GRAND

Up-and-coming saxophonist María Grand was born in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1992, to a Swiss mother and an Argentinian father. Upon her moving to New York in 2011, she quickly became

the protégée of legendary musicians such as Steve Coleman, Billy Harper, and Antoine Roney, as well as NEA Jazz Master Von Freeman. She has since toured extensively with MacArthur Awardee Steve Coleman and the Five Elements as well as Steve Coleman and the Council of Balance and Steve Coleman and Natal Eclipse. She is a regular member of free funk/avant-garde jazz drummer, composer, poet, producer and professor Doug Hammond's Quintet and of mridangam artist and scholar Rajna Swaminathan's RAJAS. She also performs with Grammy Award winner Román Filiú in his quintet Ouroboros. María can be heard on Steve Coleman's latest and critically acclaimed album, Synovial Joints.

A composer on her own right, María is currently working on her first orchestral work; she has composed for saxophone quartet as well as numerous pieces for her band. As a leader she has performed at The Jazz Gallery; Seeds; Three Concentric Sections in New York, and AMR Jazz Club and The Walden in Switzerland.

María has performed alongside jazz luminaries Julian Priester, Vijay Iyer, Craig Taborn, Jen Shyu, Marcus Gilmore, Adam Cruz, Anthony Tidd, Sean Rickman, Arthur Hoyle, Eric Alexander, Miles Okazaki, among others; she has toured Europe and the United States, playing in venues and festivals such as the Village Vanguard in New York, La Villette Jazz Festival in Paris, Saafelden Jazz Festival in Austria, the Half Note Club in Athens, Millennium Park in Chicago, Roulette in Brooklyn, the Blue Whale in Los Angeles, the Northsea Jazz Festival (Netherlands), Porgy and Bess (Austria), Bird's Eyes (CH), IloJazz Festival in Guadeloupe, Millennium Park in Chicago, etc.

Stay tuned for the upcoming release of her debut album, featuring María Grand on tenor saxophone, vocals, compositions and lyrics; Román Filiú on alto saxophone and flute; David Bryant on keyboards; Rashaan Carter on bass; and Craig Weinrib on the drums!

JOEL ROSS

Highly anticipated vibraphonist, Joel Ross is making waves across the nation. The Chicago native has performed with notable jazz musicians that include Herbie Hancock, Louis Hayes, Christian McBride, Stefon Harris, Gerald Clayton, The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and many others. Ross has been twice selected as a Thelonious Monk Institute National All-Star and a 2013 YoungArts Jazz Finalist. He has had the opportunity to perform at the Brubeck, the Monterey and Chicago Jazz Festivals, along with performing at venues such as Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola in New York, SF Jazz in San Francisco, Club Vibrato in Los Angeles and a host of others. Recently, Ross completed a two year fellowship with the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet in California. He now is a New York resident attending the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music studying under the direction of Stefon Harris.

“...Ross’ precocious creativity, facility, and confidence were downright shocking. His style is so unique and developed that it changed my image of the vibraphone itself. Though his musicality [shone] through brightly, I was most impressed by the revolutionary way in which he approached the physicality of the instrument, reworking classic limitations as creative allowances. In contrast to the metallic sustain of players like Gary Burton, Ross’ tone was brittle, percussive and woody; instead of letting his notes ring out and wash over each other indefinitely he exploited the relatively sharp decay of each hit. This allowed him to throw down precise flurries while sounding neither muddy nor blunted.” – Asher Wolf, All About Jazz

“Ross swings effortlessly on the vibraphone, sometimes opting for a brittle sound reminiscent of Lionel Hampton, other times creating smooth and expressive lines in the vein of Milt Jackson. Yet while Ross’s sound is grounded in tradition, his rhythmic approach is very contemporary—intensely syncopated and excitingly abstract.” – Kevin Laskey, The Jazz Gallery

“[Ross is a] bright young vibraphonist on his own rocket-like trajectory,...he’s somebody I’ll keep my eye on in the coming months.” – Nate Chinen, The New York Times