

**CENTER
FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE
UCLA**

**CAP UCLA Welcomes Jazz Piano Virtuoso
Matthew Whitaker**

Sunday, May 21 at 7 pm at The Theatre at Ace Hotel



“His approach to jazz is that of a distinctive soul.” — The Miami Times

[LOS ANGELES — April 27, 2023] [UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance \(CAP UCLA\)](https://cap.ucla.edu) proudly presents jazz piano virtuoso **Matthew Whitaker** on Sunday, May 21 at 7 pm at The Theatre at Ace Hotel. Whitaker will perform music from his third and latest album, *Connections*, a sixteen-track collection that serves as a bold declaration of his maturity as a player, composer and bandleader. Tickets start at \$40 and are available now at cap.ucla.edu or by calling 310-825-2101.

Whitaker has been garnering acclaim for almost as long as he has been making music. At just 13 years old, he became the youngest artist to be endorsed by Hammond Organs in their over

80-year history. At 15 he was named a Yamaha Artist; the youngest musician to join the stellar roster of jazz pianists. Now 22 years old, Whitaker has a career that has taken him all over the world, playing on renowned stages including Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, The Apollo, Carnegie Hall, SFJAZZ Center, Newport Jazz Festival and international venues in France, Italy, Germany, Indonesia, UK, Australia, Switzerland, Portugal, Japan, Spain, Morocco and South Korea.

In 2010, Whitaker was a winning participant in the *Child Stars of Tomorrow* competition, as part of Amateur Night at the Apollo. A year later, at just 10 years old, he was invited to perform at Stevie Wonder's induction into The Apollo Theater's Hall of Fame. He returned to the Apollo for FOX TV's revival of *Showtime at the Apollo* in 2016, where he won the audience over with his rendition of Stevie Wonder's classic "I Wish."

In both 2019 and 2020, Whitaker won The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Foundation's Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composers award for his compositions, *Emotions and Underground*. Whitaker has appeared on television programs such as FOX TV's *Showtime at the Apollo*, the *Today Show*, *Harry Connick Jr Show*, *Ellen* and *60 Minutes*. He recently starred, produced and scored the All Arts documentary *About Tomorrow* as well as composed the original score for the film *Starkeisha*, currently streaming on Hulu. Whitaker's three studio albums include *Outta The Box*, *Now Hear This*, and *Connections* where he has collaborated with Derrick Hodge, Ray Chew, Jon Batiste, Christian McBride and Regina Carter.

Funds provided by the Henry Mancini Tribute Fund and the Kevin Jeske Young Artist Fund.

The CAP UCLA 2023 spring programs continue on Thursday, June 22 with Dan Froot & Company's *Arms Around America: Live Podcast Recording*.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA presents

[Matthew Whitaker](#)

Sunday, May 21 at 7 pm

The Theatre at Ace Hotel

929 S Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Tickets start at \$40.

Artist's Website: [Matthew Whitaker](#)

ABOUT THE THEATRE AT ACE HOTEL DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

The Theatre at Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles is Ace's loving reanimation of the historic United Artists Theater. Built-in 1927 for the maverick film studio founded by Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks, The Theatre stands as a monument to a group of seminal American artists — modern iconoclasts striking out on their own. Ace's restoration of this majestic space serves as a singular stage for art, film, dance and creative celebration in the heart of the Broadway Theater District's vibrant modern renaissance. View all upcoming events at The Theatre at Ace Hotel DTLA at Theatre.AceHotel.com.

ABOUT CAP UCLA

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](#) (CAP UCLA) is the public-facing research and presenting organization for the performing arts at the University of California, Los Angeles—one of the world's leading public research universities. We are housed within the UCLA School of the Arts & Architecture along with the Hammer and Fowler museums. The central pursuit of our work as an organization is to sustain the diversity of contemporary performing artists while celebrating their contributions to culture. We acknowledge, amplify and support artists through major presentations, commissions and creative development initiatives. Our programs offer audiences a direct connection to the ideas, perspectives and concerns of living artists. Through the lens of dance, theater, music, literary arts, digital media arts and collaborative disciplines, informed by diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, artists and audiences come together in our theaters and public spaces to explore new ways of seeing that expands our understanding of the world we live in now.

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Hanya Bruner
The ACE Agency
hanya@theaceagency.com

Katri Randall
The ACE Agency
katri@theaceagency.com

IMAGES: Images of Matthew Whitaker are available for download [here](#).