

Photo by Monica Jane Frisell



Photo by Ogata

Bill Frisell FIVE
featuring Tony Scherr, Kenny Wollensen, Rudy Royston and Thomas Morgan

Ambrose Akinmusire Owl Song
featuring Bill Frisell and Herlin Riley

Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 8 pm
The Theatre at Ace Hotel

CENTER
FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE
UCLA

WELCOME TO THE 2023–24 SEASON

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross cultural platforms — by leading artists from around the globe.

Our mission aligns with UCLA's mission of education, research and civic engagement by providing cultural and experiential programs that provoke inquiry and facilitate connection and creativity.

cap.ucla.edu



Dear audience:

I want to thank each and every one of you: the UCLA leadership and staff, our newly appointed Artistic Director at UCLA's Center of the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA), Edgar Miramontes, the former Artistic Director Kristy Edmunds, family and friends in helping to make The Nimoy theater a reality.

My late husband, Leonard Nimoy, believed that art, music, dance and spoken word had the power to change lives. He had a passion for the theater in particular. Unlike film and television, theater is a high-wire act: there are no second takes, no zooms, no over-the-shoulders, no "let's go again." Theater unfolds like life. One gives it their best shot moment to moment, in the hope that it lands and resonates.

I hope that you consider becoming a part of The Nimoy's future and supporting its programs. There are areas of the theater yet unnamed, such as the main lobby, the bar, the upper lobby, and the artist's entrance, as well as our campaign to have seats in the theater named for family and friends.

Thank you all for going on this journey and celebrating together this momentous occasion. Keep coming back. May the UCLA Nimoy Theater, "Live Long and Prosper."

With a full heart,

Susan Bay Nimoy







CAP UCLA Presents

Ambrose Akinmusire Owl Song
featuring Bill Frisell and Herlin Riley

Bill Frisell FIVE
featuring Tony Scherr, Kenny Wollesen, Rudy Royston and Thomas Morgan

Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 8 pm
The Theatre at Ace Hotel

Program duration: 90 minutes
15 minute intermission

Funds provided by the NEA Challenge Grant Endowment.

KCRW LA ist kJAZZ 88.1 FM KPFK 90.7FM

BIOGRAPHIES

Bill Frisell

Bill Frisell's career as a guitarist and composer has spanned more than 40 years and many celebrated recordings, whose catalog has been cited by *Downbeat* as "the best recorded output of the decade."

His latest recording is *Valentine*, on Blue Note, a trio album with Thomas Morgan (bass) and Rudy Royston (drums) that has been hailed as "a masterpiece" by *Downbeat*. "They consistently and strikingly play as one, voices intertwined, completing phrases as if sharing a single thought... Even overdubs are so perfect that everything feels utterly organic... the performances represent jazz playing at its most sublime."

Recognized as one of America's 21 most vital and productive performing artists, Frisell was named an inaugural Doris Duke Artist in 2012. He is also a recipient of grants from United States Artists, Meet the Composer among others. In 2016, he was a beneficiary of the first FreshGrass Composition commission to preserve and support innovative grassroots music. Upon San Francisco Jazz opening their doors in 2013, he served as one of their Resident Artistic Directors. Bill is also the subject of a documentary film by director Emma Franz, entitled *Bill Frisell: A Portrait*, which examines his creative process in depth. He has received an honorary doctorate from the Berklee College of Music. Mr. Frisell is managed by Songtone (songtone.com)

Ambrose Akinmusire

Described by *NPR Music* as "a trumpeter of deep expressive resources and a composer of kaleidoscopic vision," Ambrose Akinmusire has made a home at the crossroads of different musical forms and languages, from post-bop and avant-garde jazz to contemporary chamber music and hip-hop to singer-songwriter aesthetics. He began recording for Blue Note in 2011, earning widespread acclaim for his albums *when the heart emerges glistening* (produced by Jason Moran), *the imagined savior is far easier to paint* ("gorgeous, moving" – *JazzTimes*), *A Rift in Decorum: Live at the Village Vanguard* ("amazingly effective" – *DownBeat*), *Origami Harvest* (Top Albums of 2018, *New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Los Angeles Times*), and on the tender spot of every calloused moment (2021 Grammy nominee, Best Jazz Instrumental Album).

Akinmusire has also received numerous prestigious composer commissions; created music for film and television projects including the new Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal series *Blindspotting*, appeared as a featured soloist with the legendary artists Archie Shepp and Roscoe Mitchell and made signal contributions to groundbreaking albums including Mary Halvorson's *Code Girl*, Brad Mehldau's *Finding Gabriel* and Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly* (on the closing track "Mortal Man"). He also played on Joni Mitchell's 2014 release *Love Has Many Faces* and in 2018 accompanied Chaka Khan, James Taylor and other luminaries honoring Mitchell in a gala concert documented on *Joni 75: A Birthday Celebration*. Other sideman highlights include Jack DeJohnette, Marcus

Miller, Steve Coleman Terri Lyne Carrington and many others. Akinmusire received his second Grammy nomination, this time for "Best Improvised Solo" on Carrington's 2022 release, *New Standards Vol 1.* He is the Artist Director for the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz.

Tony Scherr

Born in New Haven CT, Tony Scherr (guitar, bass) is one of the most in-demand sidemen in New York City. As a bassist, guitarist, or singer, he has worked with Bill Frisell Trio, Sexmob, John Lurie's Lounge Lizards, Willie Nelson, Rickie Lee Jones, Ani DiFranco, Jason Collett (Broken Social Scene), Rufus Wainwright, Norah Jones, Madeleine Peyroux, Jesse Harris, Richard Julian, Sasha Dobson, Shawn Colvin, The Abrams Brothers and Teddy Thompson, among others. "Tony Scherr has a few different profiles as a musician, each of them sharp-honed . . . and generously melding into the others." — *The New York Times*

Kenny Wollesen

Kenny Wollesen is a drummer, vibraphonist, percussionist and instrument builder based in New York City. He is the founder of the Wollesonic Laboratories (wollesonic.com) and the mastermind behind Sonic Massages and the Himalayas marching band. He has worked with John Zorn, Norah Jones, Tom Waits, Sean Lennon, Ben Goldberg, Steve Bernstein, Jonas Mekas, Butch Morris, Ilhan Ersahin, Hal Wilner, Eivind Opsvik, John Medeski, Jim Hall and has been a vital member of Bill Frisell's ensembles and projects for over 15 years. Recently

his instruments were featured in Teller's (of the legendary magician duo, Penn & Teller) production of the *The Tempest* presented at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas & the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, MA.

Thomas Morgan

Thomas Morgan is a double bass player with a unique approach to the instrument and an exceptional musical understanding. He has played on more than ninety recordings and toured all over the world as a member of bands led by Bill Frisell, Jakob Bro, Jim Black, Dan Weiss, Craig Taborn, Paul Motian, John Abercrombie, Dave Binney, Steve Coleman and Tomasz Stanko, among many others. It is Thomas Morgan's extraordinary way of being in the moment in music and putting his own signature on it that has made him one of the most in demand jazz bassists on the international scene.

Rudy Royston

A native of Ft. Worth, Texas, Rudy Royston was raised in Denver, Colorado. He studied classical percussion at the University of Denver. While in college, Rudy began playing with trumpeter Ron Miles, whom Rudy deems his greatest teacher and music mentor. It was on Ron Miles recording *Woman's Day* that Rudy first played with Bill Frisell. A major figure in the Denver music scene, Rudy performed with artist such as Dotsero, Leslie Drayton, Joe Keel, and Nelson Rangell. He began teaching music in public schools before relocating to the east coast. In 2006, he moved to New Jersey to pursue

graduate studies in music at Rutgers University, studying Jazz percussion with Victor Lewis. Since moving, Rudy has begun performing steadily with Bill Frisell in quartet and trio settings. He quickly integrated into the New York music scene, performing with, in addition to his own band configurations as a leader, Dave Douglas, Branford Marsalis, Javon Jackson, Linda Oh, JD Allen, Sean Jones, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Jennifer Holiday, Ralph Bowen, Bruce Barth, Don Byron, Jason Moran and Jenny Scheinman, to name a few. A lover of all genres of music, Rudy continues to expand his horizons as he gains increasing recognition in the world of Jazz.

DESIGN FOR SHARING (DFS)

Each year, Design for Sharing (DFS) brings thousands of K-12 public school students from across Los Angeles to CAP UCLA venues for free performances and interactive workshops with professional artists.

DFS programs are open to any public school in greater Los Angeles, and are always free to attend.

cap.ucla.edu/dfs

CAP UCLA





Wu Man

Sun, Oct 15 at 7 pm
The Nimoy

Called both "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipa," and "...the pre-eminent ambassador for traditional Chinese music in the U.S." Wu Man is recognized as the world's finest player of this ancient Chinese lute-like instrument, whose inventive artistry is unparalleled.

"...the world's finest player of the pipa..."
— The New York Times

cap.ucla.edu/wuman



UCLA NIMOY THEATER

CAP UCLA has built a new home for live performance in Westwood!

Located near the UCLA campus on Westwood Boulevard, The Nimoy is a reimagining of the historic Crest Theatre as a flexible, state-of-the-art performance space.

This dynamic and intimately scaled venue immerses audiences in a profoundly engaging experience of live performance — while providing contemporary performing artists from Los Angeles and around the world expanded opportunities to develop and present new work.

cap.ucla.edu/nimoy

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance acknowledge the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and South Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Ancestors (Honuukvetam), Elders (Ahihirom), and relatives/relations (Eyoohinkem) past, present and emerging.

There is no room for racism, intolerance, or inequity.

Anywhere

Not on our stages, in our offices, on our loading docks, in the box office lines, or on the dance floor.

With anyone

Not with our staff, crew, artists, volunteers, ushers, audiences or fans.

We uphold and embrace principles of antiracism, equity,

diversity and **AUTHENTIC** inclusion as integral to our mission.

We must **EMPOWER** the historically underrepresented.

We must **UPLIFT** excluded voices.

We must **RESIST** structural racism.

We will **COMMIT** fiercely to our responsibility to observe, absorb, consider, contemplate, endure, share and engage in this change.

We **STAND AGAINST** all forms of discrimination.

We will **STRIVE** to make our organization more equitable and inclusive.

As part of UCLA's School of Art & Architecture (SOAA), we — UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) and Theater Management Services (TMS) — are committed to connecting and creating space for the arts and for all communities.

We acknowledge our organizations' histories as being predominantly white institutions. We are facing uncomfortable truths about systemic racism as we work to make the deep changes necessary to transform the organizational dynamics in our work culture and business practices and dismantle existing oppressive structures. We know there will be shortcomings, which we will face head on. We commit to continually addressing and adapting to changes as they arise. It is only in an improved, supportive work environment that everyone can be fully present, and respected as their true authentic selves.

This statement was drafted by a committee of staff members from both the Center for the Art of Performance and Theater Management Services, from a variety of backgrounds, viewpoints and perspectives.

Together we stand with UCLA's School of Art and Architecture's EDI statement.

CAP UCLA COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

CAP UCLA Executive Producer Council

The Executive Producer Council is CAP UCLA's philanthropic leadership group, which develops and contributes resources vital to CAP UCLA's programming and mission. The Council champions the creative development and presentation of live programs and public dialogue with contemporary performing artists by providing direct support for CAP UCLA's annual programming. The Council is engaged in dialogue about the artistic and curatorial practices that inform annual programs, long-term initiatives and collaborative planning efforts which stand at the heart of CAP UCLA's mission and public purpose.

Design for Sharing (DFS) Council

The Design for Sharing Council is a group of dedicated supporters whose efforts help to resource the K-12 arts education programs of DFS.

cap.ucla.edu/councils





Nano Stern

Screening of *We'll Be Singing by September*

Thu, Oct 19 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

Nano Stern extends his artistic activism from music to film with *We'll Be Singing by September.* Co-produced by Stern, the documentary explores the history, development and transcendence of Chilean music during the socialist government of Salvador Allende.

After viewing the documentary, join us on Oct 20 at 8 pm as Stern performs the songs of Víctor Jara.

cap.ucla.edu/nano-screening

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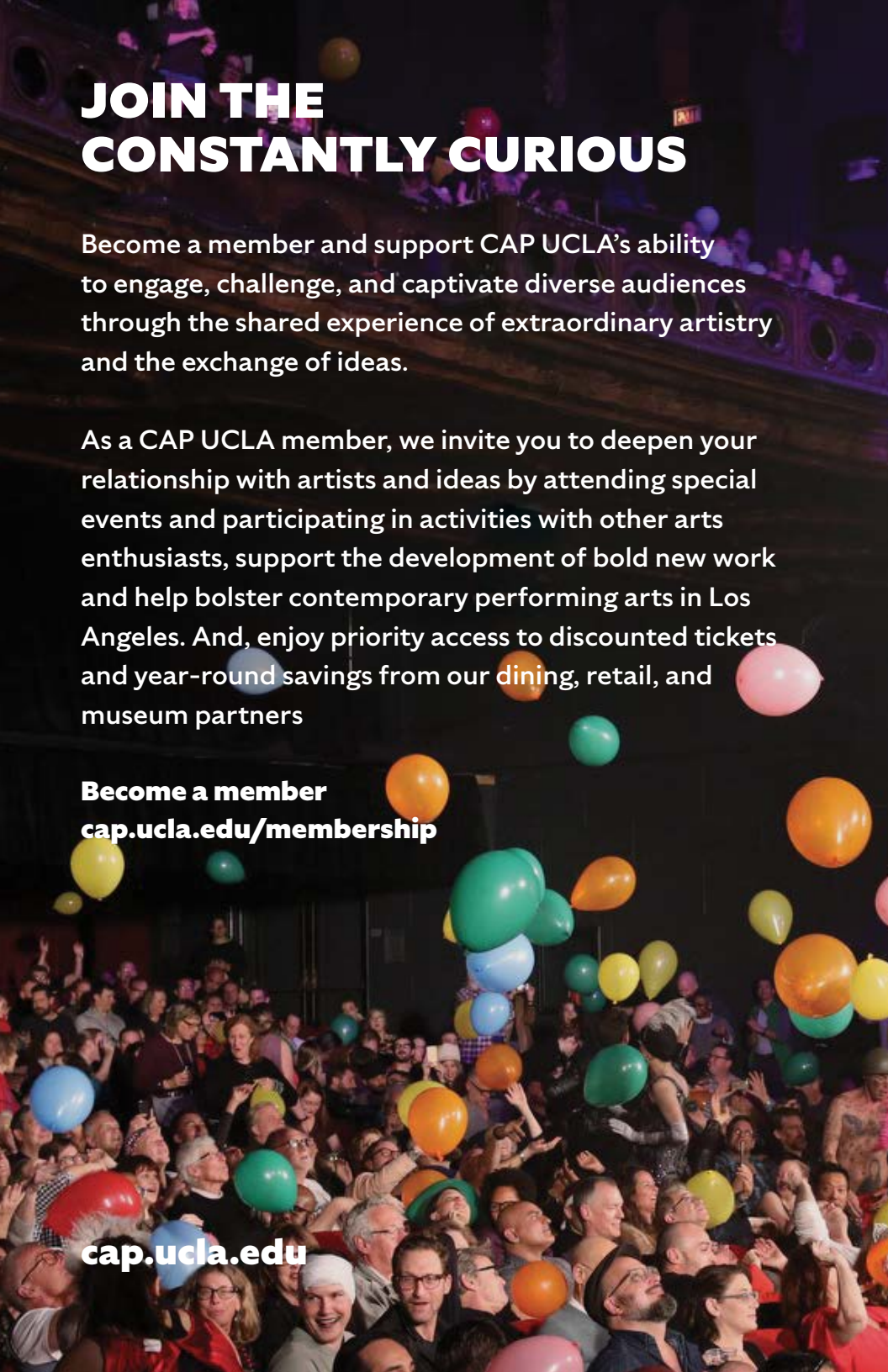
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The opening of The Nimoy offers donors a rare opportunity to create a lasting legacy while celebrating their passion for contemporary performing arts at UCLA. Learn more about naming a seat in The Nimoy — CAP UCLA's newest home for live performance — and other opportunities to become a part of this state-of-the-art theater.

cap.ucla.edu/give-nimoy





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As a CAP UCLA member, we invite you to deepen your relationship with artists and ideas by attending special events and participating in activities with other arts enthusiasts, support the development of bold new work and help bolster contemporary performing arts in Los Angeles. And, enjoy priority access to discounted tickets and year-round savings from our dining, retail, and museum partners

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