



## MEDIA RELATIONS CONTACT

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## FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES

[MondaviArts.org/press](http://MondaviArts.org/press)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Dec. 10, 2008

### **Blue Note Records 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—On Tour—At the Mondavi Center**

**Davis, Calif.—Blue Note Records** was the leading jazz record company in the world from its founding in 1939 through the 1960s, recording virtually all the jazz greats of that era. On **Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 8 p.m.**, the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**, welcomes to **Jackson Hall** the **Blue Note 7**, an **all-star jazz septet—Bill Charlap, piano; Peter Bernstein, guitar; Ravi Coltrane, tenor and soprano sax; Lewis Nash, drums; Nicholas Payton, trumpet; Peter Washington, bass; Steve Wilson, alto sax—in** a performance celebrating the label's 70-year legacy through the exploration of classic tunes by **Bud Powell, Thelonious Monk, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter** and many others.

“The **Blue Note 7** is a true collaboration, an all-star band comprised of the next generation of major players, all leaders in their own right,” says **Bruce Lundvall, president of Blue Note Records**. “They are also the A-list of accomplished arrangers and composers, steeped in the Blue Note tradition, reimagining this time-honored repertoire in a fresh way.”

“It is a special thing to see so many jazz greats on stage all at once, particularly when it's in celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the venerable **Blue Note Records**, which has done, and continues to do, so much for jazz.” **Jeremy Ganter, Mondavi Center associate executive director**.

**Blue Note Records 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—On Tour** appears at **Jackson Hall** on **Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 8 p.m.** Pricing is \$45/35/25 for regular tickets and \$22.50/17.50/12.50 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at [MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org), through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. This event is presented as part of the **KXJZ Jackson Hall Jazz Series**, which culminates with the **Vanguard Jazz Orchestra** on **Mar. 20**.

In a related event, **Ravi Coltrane, Blue Note 7 saxophonist**, joins **Peter Williams, artistic director of Yoshi's jazz club**, and **Gary Vercelli, jazz music director at KXJZ**, in “**History in Blue: The Life and Times of Blue Note Records**,” a **Forum@MC** panel discussion hosted by **Jeffrey Callison** of **KXJZ's “Insight.”** The discussion takes place on **Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 5 p.m.** in the **Studio Theatre**. As with all **Forum@MC** events, admission is free.

Another noteworthy same-day event is “**One Night, 70 Years of Jazz**,” a **UC Davis Extension seminar** comprising the **5 p.m. Forum@MC discussion, a reception with jazz historian Lewis Watts**, and the **8 p.m. Jackson Hall performance**. For details, visit [extension.ucdavis.edu](http://extension.ucdavis.edu) or call 530-757-8777 (800-752-0881 toll-free).

- **Blue Note Records 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary–On Tour**
- **Tue., Jan. 13, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Studio Theatre**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$45/35/25 regular; \$22.50/17.50/12.50 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**  
**866-754-2787 (toll-free)**  
**530-754-5402 (TDD)**  
[MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org)

- For musician biographies, please read on. -

**Bill Charlap**, Blue Note 7 musical director and pianist, was born in New York City into a musical family and began his piano studies at age 3. In the late 1980s, Charlap joined baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan's quartet, and he has been the pianist in alto saxophonist Phil Woods' quintet since 1995. He has also performed and recorded with Wynton Marsalis, Tony Bennett, Freddy Cole and Jim Hall. In 1997, Charlap formed his trio with bassist Peter Washington and drummer Kenny Washington. The group's recordings include 2004's "Somewhere: The Songs of Leonard Bernstein" (Blue Note), for which Charlap received a GRAMMY nomination. The group's most recent Blue Note release is "The Bill Charlap Trio: Live at the Village Vanguard" (2007).

Guitarist **Peter Bernstein** has been part of the jazz scene in New York and abroad since 1989. He has participated in more than 60 recordings and numerous festival, concert and club performances with musicians from all generations. As a leader, Bernstein has made five recordings for the Criss Cross Jazz label. The latest, "Heart's Content," features the all-star rhythm section of Brad Mehldau, Larry Grenadier and Bill Stewart. As a writer and performer, he has developed a distinctive, unforgettable guitar voice that is his alone.

**Ravi Coltrane**, sax, is the son of jazz innovators John and Alice Coltrane. Ravi began playing clarinet in middle school, moving to saxophone upon entering the California Institute of the Arts in 1986. In 1991, Ravi hooked up with Elvin Jones, his father's renowned drummer from the 1960s, and received his first taste of the jazz life. Within a year, he relocated to New York City and began playing with a variety of players: Jack DeJohnette, Rashied Ali, Wallace and Antoine Roney, Geri Allen, Kenny Barron, Cindy Blackman, Joe Lovano, Joanne Brackeen, Gerry Gibbs, Graham Haynes and Steve Coleman. Ravi's relationship with Coleman through most of the 1990s, including tours and appearances on several Coleman albums, was particularly influential on the budding saxophonist. In 1997, after performing on more than 30 recordings as a sideman, Ravi entered the studio to record "Moving Pictures," his first album as a leader. One of his most recent endeavors was to guide his mother's return to recording after a 26-year hiatus. The result, "Translinear Light" (Impulse!), was released in 2004 (just three years before Alice's death) and features Alice and Ravi along with Charlie Haden, Jack DeJohnette, James Genus, Jeff Watts and Oran Coltrane.

**Lewis Nash** began playing drums at age 10, and by 18 he was performing with local jazz groups in his hometown of Phoenix. By the time he was 21, Nash had become the "first call" jazz drummer in the region, working with Sonny Stitt, Art Pepper, Red Garland, Lee Konitz, Barney Kessell and Slide Hampton during their Phoenix engagements. In 1981, Nash moved to New York City and joined the trio of the great jazz vocalist Betty Carter, touring internationally and playing on her recordings. Ron Carter hired Nash in 1984 as a member of the bassist's nonet, quintet and quartet. Branford Marsalis then asked Lewis to join his band, and that active association—spanning two years and several continents—is documented on Marsalis' GRAMMY-nominated recording "Random Abstract." The year 1988 marked the return to the jazz scene of trombone master J.J. Johnson, who frequently asked Nash to provide rhythm duties for his

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band. That same year, Nash joined the Don Pullen/George Adams quartet, succeeding the late Dannie Richmond. The next year proved to be even busier for Nash, who toured with legendary saxophonist Sonny Rollins and performed with Stan Getz, Art Farmer, Clark Terry and Milt Jackson. From 1990 to 2000, Lewis was a member of the Tommy Flanagan Trio, and he is featured on seven CD recordings with the late piano master. To date, Nash's discography of more than 300 recordings includes projects with jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Benny Carter, Hank Jones and John Lewis, as well as new jazz stars Diana Krall, Joe Lovano and Roy Hargrove.

**Nicholas Payton**, trumpet, was born in New Orleans, also into a musical family. Payton took up the trumpet at age 4. Encouraged by his pianist-singer mother and his bass-playing father, he swiftly reached a level of proficiency that enabled him at age 9 to play alongside his father in the Young Tuxedo Brass Band. At 12, he was a member of the All Star Jazz Band, playing with the group both locally and at European festivals. Encouraged by Wynton Marsalis, he played semiprofessionally throughout his school years and then enrolled at the New Orleans Centre for Creative Arts. He next attended the University of New Orleans, where he studied with Ellis Marsalis. During the early 1990s, Payton played throughout the U.S. and Europe and recorded with many leading jazz musicians. In 1993, he toured with Jazz Futures II; the year after that, with Elvin Jones. He joined the Rising Star circuit tour of Europe in 1996. Memorably, he appeared at club engagements with veteran trumpeter Doc Cheatham, the pair recording shortly before Cheatham's death in 1997. Payton's technical mastery is remarkable, and he plays with a clear, ringing sound that brings added depths to the bop styling in which he appears most comfortable. Clearly, his is a talent that is developing confidently as he matures.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, **Peter Washington** began playing bass in junior high school, and by age 14 had already played a season with a community-based symphony orchestra. Throughout his high school years, he concentrated on classical music but also played electric bass and guitar in rock bands. While studying at UC Berkeley, he developed an interest in playing jazz, and he soon was freelancing in and around the Bay Area with John Handy, Bobby Hutcherson, Frank Morgan, Ernie Andrews and Ernestine Anderson. In 1986, while still in college, he joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and moved to New York. Washington performed with the Messengers through 1999 and then went on to do freelance work, touring and recording (several hundred CDs at last count) extensively with Mingus Dynasty, Benny Golson, Milt Jackson, Dizzy Gillespie, Johnny Griffin, Hank Jones, Toshiko Akiyoshi and David "Fathead" Newman. As a long-standing member of the Tommy Flanagan Trio, he was joined with Lewis Nash in one of the stellar jazz groups of the 1990s. Toward the end of that decade, he joined the Bill Charlap Trio with Kenny Washington, once again playing in one of the most highly regarded trios of the recent past.

**Steve Wilson**, alto sax, began his formal training at age 12. Playing saxophone, oboe and drums in school bands, he also played in various R&B and funk bands throughout his teens, moving on to a year-long stint with singer Stephanie Mills. He then decided to major in music at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, affording him opportunities to perform and study with Jimmy and Percy Heath, Jon Hendricks, Jaki Byard, John Hicks, Frank Foster and Ellis Marsalis. In 1986, he landed a chair with O.T.B (Out of the Blue), a sextet of promising young players recording on Blue Note. In 1988, Wilson toured the U.S. and Europe with Lionel Hampton. From 1998–2001, he was a member of Chick Corea's GRAMMY-winning sextet Origin. A musician's musician, Wilson has brought his distinctive sound to more than 100 recordings led by such celebrated and wide-ranging artists as Chick Corea, George Duke, Michael Brecker, Dave Holland, Dianne Reeves, Bill Bruford, Gerald Wilson, Maria Schneider, Joe Henderson, Charlie Byrd, Billy Childs, Karrin Allyson, Don Byron, Bill Stewart, James Williams and Mulgrew Miller. Wilson has seven recordings under his own name, leading and collaborating with such stellar musicians as Lewis Nash, Carl Allen, Steve Nelson, Cyrus Chestnut, Greg Hutchinson, Dennis Irwin, James Genus, Larry Grenadier, Ray Drummond, Ben Riley and Nicholas Payton.

For more information on the **Blue Note 7**, including their new album "Mosaic," please visit [BlueNote.com](http://BlueNote.com).

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