

## ARTISTS & PROGRAMS 2009/10

### IVA BITTOVÁ

The Czech singer, violinist, and actress describes her work as “my own personal folk music.” In her singularly original and powerful performances, she sings, plays, and acts simultaneously to create pieces that are “... so intimate and personal you can almost feel her breath on your ears.” (CMJ). Her music is deeply rooted in the classical and gypsy music of the tiny Moravian villages where she spent her formative years.

#### Iva Bittová Solo

**Trios** with: Don Byron, clarinet; and Lisa Moore, piano; or Hamid Drake, drums; or Marc Ribot, guitar

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### THEO BLECKMANN

#### Berlin-Las Vegas

An iconic musical journey starting in gritty, war-torn Berlin and taking refuge in glamorous Las Vegas. Starring Bleckmann's vocal acrobatics and sublime arrangements by Fumio Yasuda for piano and string quartet. Featuring songs by Eisler, Weill, Brecht, Rodgers/Hammerstein, Loewe/Lerner, Porter, Loesser, Sherman Bros.

Theo Bleckmann, voice  
with Fumio Yasuda or Rob Schwimmer, piano;  
& the Todd Reynolds String Quartet

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### TIN HAT

Forging a new acoustic sound that defies categories, while striking universal chords, Tin Hat makes free-wheeling chamber music for the 21st century. Combining jazz, American roots music, classical, Eastern European folk, bossa nova, and avant-garde, the San Francisco-based group is acclaimed for its captivating live performances.

Carla Kihlstedt: violin, vocal; Mark Orton guitar, dobro  
Ben Goldberg: clarinet; Ara Anderson: trumpet

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### DON BYRON

#### NEW: Don Byron New Gospel Quintet

Byron's newest project grows out of his exhaustive study of black gospel music. Gospel pioneer Thomas A. Dorsey is a major inspiration, and Byron revisits some of the master songwriter's works alongside other classics and new original songs written in the gospel tradition. Featuring DK Dyson, vocal; Frank Wilkins, piano; Brad Jones, bass; Pheeroan AkLaff, drums.

#### Don Byron Ivey-Divey Trio

Named after Byron's 2004 release *Ivey-Divey* - nominated for a Grammy and voted “Record of the Year” by Jazz Times - the acclaimed trio expands on the album's affectionate tribute to saxophone legend Lester Young and his great '40s trio with pianist Nat “King” Cole and drummer Buddy Rich. Featuring Jason Moran, piano; Billy Hart, drums.

#### NEW: Don Byron Quartet

Also inspired by the work of Lester Young as well as Eddie Harris, the quartet focuses on Byron's own tunes, including new compositions commissioned by Chamber Music America. Featuring Edward Simon, piano; Kenny Davis, bass; Billy Hart, drums.

#### NEW: Don Byron Plays the Music of Mickey Katz

A reunion of the groundbreaking and virtuosic klezmer ensemble that recorded Byron's eponymous Nonesuch album and spearheaded the klezmer revival in the 1990s. Dedicated to the music of the great Mickey Katz, clarinetist, humorist, bandleader, and musical director for Spike Jones. (9 musicians)

#### Don Byron Plays Junior Walker

Featured on the 2006 album *Do the Boomerang*, this hard-grooving sextet performs the music of soul legend, saxophonist and singer Junior Walker, including the hits “Shotgun,” Roadrunner,” and “What does it take to win your Love.” Featuring vocalist Dean Bowman. (6 musicians) “... it's funky, it swings, and the grooves are deep and wide... soul with a jazzman's sense of adventure.” —Billboard

### DAFNIS PRIETO

The Cuban-born drummer has become a major force on the international jazz scene, first as a groundbreaking percussionist and in-demand sideman for many prominent musicians and lately as an acclaimed bandleader and original composer. His groups cover a wide range, from hard-driving Latin jazz to chamber music inflected string writing.

#### Dafnis Prieto Sextet and Quartet

**Absolute Quintet** (with violin and cello)

**ProVerb Trio** (with rap artist Kokayi)

**Special dance project** with **Judith Sanchez-Ruiz**

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### RON MILES

The Denver-based trumpeter has been a longtime collaborator of Bill Frisell and Don Byron and is heralded among his peers for his formidable technique and beautiful sound. He now steps forward as a bandleader and composer whose music is equally influenced by Ellington, Gospel, R&B, Monk, Ornette Coleman, and Coltrane.

#### Ron Miles Quartet and Sextet

**Special Quartet** featuring Bill Frisell, guitar;  
Reginald Veal, bass; Matt Wilson, drums

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### EDWARD SIMON

One of the most original and compelling jazz pianists today, Edward Simon looks beyond the borders of traditional jazz. With his Ensemble Venezuela he creates a highly original sound, combining jazz harmonies and improvisation with the Afro-Venezuelan and folkloric music of his native country. His trio and quartets are equally sublime.

#### Ensemble Venezuela (6 musicians)

**Edward Simon Trio and Quartet** (personnel tba)

**Afinidad:** with David Binney, saxophone;  
Scott Colley, bass; Antonio Sanchez, drums

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