

TD Jazz Concerts

Echoes of an Era

featuring Lisa Fischer, Lenny White, Javon Jackson, and Orrin Evans

Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 8pm

This is the 1,487th concert in Koerner Hall

Lisa Fischer, vocals

Javon Jackson, saxophone

Michael Rodriguez, trumpet & flugelhorn

Orrin Evans, piano

John Patitucci, bass

Lenny White, drums

Lisa Fischer

The Grammy and Oscar-winning powerhouse vocalist Lisa Fischer is blazing her own path, reveling in the chance to dive into every vocal possibility, and singing songs with “amazing power, energy, and projection,” according to Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones. At first glance Fischer might seem like a paradox. She spent much of her career exulting in the role of the ultimate team player as an elite backup singer for artists such as Luther Vandross, the Rolling Stones, Sting, Tina Turner, or Nine Inch Nails. Even after she scored a chart-topping R&B hit, “How Can I Ease the Pain,” and a 1992 Grammy Award for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, she decided to focus on her already thriving career supporting the world’s biggest acts. But when her story was featured in the Oscar-winning 2013 documentary *20 Feet From Stardom*, Fischer seized the moment to rediscover herself. Together with the Grand Baton, she has gathered a far-ranging repertoire of songs, including many she made her own during her backup years. With her infinite textures, shades, and hues, combined with the bountiful soul, affectionate humour, and exquisite taste that defines her music, Lisa Fischer leads listeners to whole new universes of her own design.

Javon Jackson

Javon Jackson is Professor of Jazz and Director of the Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz Studies in The Hartt School at the University of Hartford. In his career as musician, Javon has toured and recorded with artists that include Art Blakey, Elvin Jones, Charlie Haden, Freddie Hubbard, Joanne Brackeen, Cedar Walton, Donald Byrd, and Curtis Fuller. As leader or co-leader, Mr. Jackson has participated in 23 recording projects that have included such renowned artists as Dianne Reeves, Cassandra Wilson, Ron Carter, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Les McCann, Lisa Fischer, Kenny Garrett, Lenny White, Fred Wesley, and Christian McBride. Javon’s 2022 recording project, *The Gospel According to Nikki Giovanni*, was nominated for a 2023 NAACP Image Award. In June 2023, Javon Jackson released a recording project entitled “*With Peter Bradley*” *Soundtrack and Original Score*. Jackson’s original score to the film and soundtrack features pianist Jeremy Manasia, bassist David Williams, and drummer Charles Gould along with guest trumpeter Greg Glassman.

Michael Rodriguez

Grammy Award-winning trumpeter/composer Michael Rodriguez was inspired to pursue music as a career by his father, drummer Roberto Rodriguez. He has toured and performed with such jazz icons as Clark Terry, Bobby Watson, Quincy Jones, Joe Lovano, Toshiko Akiyoshi Orchestra, Jessica Simpson, Chico O’Farrill Orchestra, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra, Lincoln Center Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, Charlie Haden’s Liberation Music Orchestra, Jon Faddis and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, The Carla Bley Band and Quintet, The Clayton Brothers, Kenny Barron Quintet, Conrad Herwig’s “Latin Side” Projects, Clayton Brothers Quintet, Harry Connick, Jr., Bob Mintzer, Yosvany Terry Quintet, Eddie Palmieri Septet, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, and the Smithsonian Jazz Orchestra, among others. In 2008, Michael became a member of the Gonzalo Rubalcaba Quintet and, in 2019, he joined Chick Corea’s Spanish Heart Band, which won a Best Latin Jazz Album Grammy for *Antidote* in 2020. His other albums include five with his brother, pianist Robert Rodriguez, and two as a leader: *Reverence* and *Pathways*. He is currently a member of the internationally acclaimed group SFJazz Collective.

Orrin Evans

During his kaleidoscopic quarter-century as a professional jazz musician, pianist Orrin Evans has become the model of a fiercely independent artist who pushes the envelope in all directions. Never supported by a major label, Evans has ascended to top-of-the-pyramid stature on his instrument, as affirmed by his #1 ranking as “Rising Star Pianist” in the 2018 *DownBeat* Critics Poll. Three Grammy nominations for his raucous, risk-friendly Captain Black Big Band stamp his bona fides as a bandleader and composer. In addition, Evans’s multifarious leader and collaborative projects include the Eubanks Evans Experience (a duo with eminent guitarist Kevin Eubanks), the Brazilian unit Terreno Comum, Evans’s working trio with bassist Luques Curtis and drummer Mark Whitfield, Jr., and Tarbaby (a collective trio with bassist Eric Revis and drummer Nasheet Waits). Evans is also a dedicated educator and sits on the boards of several jazz and education focused festivals and non-profit organizations.

John Patitucci

Acoustic and electric bassist John Patitucci has been at the forefront of the jazz world for the last 30+ years. He is a four-time Grammy Award winner, has been nominated over 20 times, and has played on many other Grammy Award-winning recordings. He has performed and/or recorded with jazz giants such as Dizzy Gillespie, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Stan Getz, Freddie Hubbard, Roy Haynes, Wynton Marsalis, Michael Brecker, Kenny Garrett, Victor Feldman, and Nancy Wilson. John has also performed and/or recorded with pop artists such as Natalie Cole, John Mayer, Alicia Keys, Joni Mitchell, Bono, Sting, Norah Jones, James Taylor, Carole King, and Paul Simon. An active composer with 18 solo recordings of his own, he has been commissioned to write for various chamber music groups. His composition *Hypocrisy* was premiered by the Royal Conservatory Orchestra along with Danilo Pérez, Brian Blade, and Mr. Patitucci. After touring with the award-winning Wayne Shorter Quartet for over 20 years, John continues to tour with his own projects, including the John Patitucci Electric Guitar Quartet, his Brazilian Trio, and the John Patitucci Trio featuring saxophonist Chris Potter and drummer Brian Blade.

Lenny White

Lenny White is one of jazz’s most dynamic and influential drummers. At 19, he made a historic debut recording *Bitches Brew* with Miles Davis, followed by *Red Clay* with Freddie Hubbard, Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, and Ron Carter – albums later ranked first and second on *JazzTimes*’ list of the top jazz recordings of the 1970s. White quickly became a sought-after player, performing with Woody Shaw, Gato Barbieri, and Curtis Fuller before gaining worldwide acclaim as the drummer for Chick Corea’s pioneering group Return to Forever. Over a five-decade career, he has appeared on hundreds of recordings, led more than 20 projects of his own, and collaborated with artists such as Chaka Khan, Nancy Wilson, Marcus Miller, and Michel Petrucciani. His work has earned four Grammy Awards and broad respect across genres. Today, White is a professor at NYU’s Steinhardt School and continues expanding into concert music with new orchestral and percussion compositions.

Lisa Fischer made her Royal Conservatory debut on January 29, 2016, and tonight marks her fourth appearance in Koerner Hall. Javon Jackson made his Conservatory debut on April 2, 2022. John Patitucci made his Conservatory debut on May 4, 2013, and this is his fifth appearance in Koerner Hall. Lenny White made his Conservatory debut on September 26, 2009, during Koerner Hall’s Grand Opening Festival, and this is his third appearance in Koerner Hall. Orrin Evans and Michael Rodriguez are making their Conservatory debuts.