

Joshua Redman Group featuring Gabrielle Cavassa

***“where are we”* Tour**

Friday, February 2, 2024 at 8pm

This is the 1,262nd concert in Koerner Hall

Joshua Redman, saxophone

Gabrielle Cavassa, vocals

Paul Cornish, piano

Phillip Norris, bass

Nazir Ebo, drums

Joshua Redman

Joshua Redman is one of the most acclaimed and respected jazz artists to have emerged in our generation.

With a career spanning over 30 years, it is hard to imagine a year of firsts for a musician as prolific as Redman. And yet, 2023 proved to be exactly that: launching his debut album, *where are we*, on the venerable Blue Note Records label. This album was planned largely by phone and text – a direct result of the exigencies of the pandemic – and finds Redman recording with a vocalist and writing lyrics for the first time.

Through the lens of geographic location, Redman and his band march across the United States, asking us to take a critical examination of what we find. Of this particular assemblage, hand-picked for this album, Redman says “The magic of this particular gathering of musicians, was that we were able to come together from points afar, to converge (physically and creatively) in a particular place at a particular time; and to embrace, with fullest imagination and without slightest reservation, the ethic of ‘serving the songs.’ In this sense, *where are we* is perhaps above all a meditation on the power and importance of place – the unique human beauty created when we locate ourselves in shared physical spaces together with others; the loss, anomie, and angst suffered when we divide ourselves unnaturally and unjustly apart.”

But he was not supposed to be a musician. In 1991, Redman graduated from Harvard College summa cum laude and had already been accepted by Yale Law School, having deferred entrance for what was only supposed to be one year. Instead, he moved to New York City and immediately found himself immersed in the jazz scene. Five months later, Redman won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Saxophone Competition and began touring and recording with jazz masters such as Jack DeJohnette, Charlie Haden, Elvin Jones, Joe Lovano, Pat Metheny, Paul Motian, Dewey Redman, and Clark Terry.

As renowned for his musicianship as he is for his prescient ability to assemble talent, one of Redman’s earliest bands, heard on his 1994 album *MoodSwing*, includes musicians who would later become some of the most influential artists of their generation: pianist Brad Mehldau, bassist Christian McBride, and drummer Brian Blade. They reunited nearly 30 years later, releasing *RoundAgain* (2020) and *LongGone* (2022) to resounding critical acclaim and sold-out performances worldwide. He has recorded nearly two dozen albums, but Redman’s prodigious talent has taken him beyond the bandstand as well: helming the creation of the SFJAZZ Collective, an ensemble distinguished by a unique emphasis on composition; expanding jazz departments via his appointments as a Visiting Artist at Stanford University and as the Artistic Director of the Roots, Jazz, and American Music program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; and writing music for film. He wrote and performed the music for Louis Malle’s final film *Vanya on 42nd Street* and is both seen and heard in the Robert Altman film *Kansas City*. He has recorded and/or performed with a vast array of luminaries, both in jazz and beyond: Dave Brubeck, Chick Corea, The Dave Matthews Band, Herbie Hancock, Elvin Jones, Quincy Jones, Big Daddy Kane, B.B. King, Yo-Yo Ma, The Rolling Stones, The Roots, McCoy Tyner, and Stevie Wonder, to name a few.

Born in Berkeley, California, he is the son of legendary saxophonist Dewey Redman and dancer Renee Shedroff.

Gabrielle Cavassa

Hailing from Escondido, California, Gabrielle Cavassa is a vocalist-composer of Italian descent who is making waves with her distinctive voice and intimate expression. Cavassa independently released her self-titled debut album in 2020 to critical acclaim and won the International Sarah Vaughan Jazz Vocal Competition in 2021.

Cavassa's relationship with music began with an early love for records. She remembers "obsessively listening" to albums as a child and later amassed a record collection through which she began her education in music. While studying at San Francisco State University, Cavassa began her career as a vocalist in San Francisco clubs, crediting the Bay Area music scene for her development as a young artist. In 2017, Cavassa moved to New Orleans where she worked with and was inspired by the city's most influential voices, including Jamison Ross, Nicholas Payton, and Ashlin Parker. She has toured domestically and internationally with her own group and as the featured vocalist with The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

Shimmering in her own humanness, Cavassa's expression contains a vulnerability that reaches at the crux of our humanity. Her songwriting and interpretation explore moods of sensuality, melancholy, and humour, as though she is reading from a diary.

Joshua Redman made his Royal Conservatory debut on April 14, 2012, and tonight marks his fifth appearance in Koerner Hall. All the other artists are making their Conservatory debuts tonight.