

## TD Jazz Concerts

### The Jon Cowherd Trio and Larnell Lewis & Joy Lapps

Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 8pm

This is the 1,301st concert in Koerner Hall

**Jon Cowherd**, piano

**John Patitucci**, bass

**Brian Blade**, drums

**Larnell Lewis**, drums & co-bandleader

**Joy Lapps**, steelpan & co-bandleader

**Elmer Ferrer**, guitar

**Rob Christian**, woodwinds

**Jeremy Ledbetter**, piano & keys

**Rich Brown**, bass

**Roshane Wright**, percussion

## Jon Cowherd

The Kentucky-raised, New Orleans-schooled, New York-based Cowherd is best known for his long-running partnership with drummer/bandleader Brian Blade, with whom he co-founded the Grammy Award nominated Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band, whose acclaimed, influential albums showcase Cowherd's stellar keyboard work and singular compositional skills. When not recording and touring with the Fellowship, Cowherd has worked extensively with a broad array of players and singers from the jazz, pop, and rock worlds, including Joni Mitchell, Norah Jones, Brandi Carlile, KD Lang, Rufus Wainwright, Rosanne Cash, Iggy Pop, Glen Hansard, Cassandra Wilson, John Scofield, and Lizz Wright.

Cowherd has also released three first albums as a leader. *Mercy*, which features Bill Frisell, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade; *Gateway* with Blade, Steve Cardenas, and Tony Scherr; and the most recent *Pride & Joy* featuring Alex Acuña, Chris Potter, Blade, and Patitucci. Cowherd and Blade also directed the all-star Joni Mitchell tribute *Joni 75* along with such artists as Brandi Carlile, Glen Hansard, Emmylou Harris, Norah Jones, Chaka Khan, Diana Krall, Kris Kristofferson, Los Lobos with Marisol, Graham Nash, Seal, James Taylor, and Rufus Wainwright.

As an arranger, Cowherd has scored for big band, strings, and symphony orchestra for Brandi Carlile, Cassandra Wilson, Lizz Wright, and Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band, and also composed and arranged many works for Le Coq records vocalist Andy James.

## Larnell Lewis

Larnell Lewis is a Grammy Award-winning musician, composer, producer, and educator. A Toronto native, Larnell has quickly established himself as one of the most diverse and in-demand drummers currently on the music scene. Along with his long-standing position behind the drums in Snarky Puppy, Larnell has led many highly successful groups of his own and toured the globe with some of the most well-known names in music, including Laila Biali, Etienne Charles, Gregory Porter, Jeremy Ledbetter, Lalah Hathaway, Pat Metheny, Lisa Fisher, Kurt Elling, and more.

Larnell's immense talent, fierce creativity, and continually evolving musical style is what has kept him at the top of the list as a musical collaborator for artists across the globe. In the spring of 2020, Larnell released his sophomore album entitled *Relive The Moment*, which revisited six compositions from his debut album *In The Moment*, and included a new piece titled "The Forgotten Ones."

His vast talents, not just as a musician but as a producer, also landed him the opportunity to act as musical director for a performance during the Toronto International Film Festival's premiere of the critically acclaimed documentary of Quincy Jones, *QUINCY* (directed by Rashida Jones & Al Hicks), where he led performances from the likes of Yebba Smith, Mark Ronson, and Chaka Khan.

Larnell's talents can be seen worldwide via his various social media platforms, which have a combined total of almost 500,000 followers. Larnell not only possesses undeniable talent, but a spirit unlike any other that excites, inspires, and encourages music fans of all ages to further explore their musical tastes as they follow him on the road he has paved for himself. [www.larnelllewismusic.com](http://www.larnelllewismusic.com)

## Joy Lapps

Internationally lauded artist and composer Joy Lapps activates spaces for community building and creative expression. The award-winning instrumentalist of Antiguan and Barbudan descent treats the steelpan as a tool for engagement, anchoring her artistry in a profound, community-centered musical tradition. She aims to amplify women's contributions in every facet of her work, giving nuanced attention to women of the steelband movement.

To date, Joy has issued five independent albums: *How Great Thou Art* (2004), *Make a Joyful Noise* (2006), *It's Christmas Time* (2007), *Morning Sunrise* (2014), and *Girl in the Yard* (2022). In the coming months she is set to release three new remixes from *Girl in the Yard*. Her repertoire teems with Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Brazilian-inspired rhythmic and harmonic patterns, garlands of melody, and plenty of space for spontaneity, and a fondness for hit song forms and reimagined choirs emerges frequently in her compositions.

As a leader, Joy has appeared at music festivals and events across Canada and the US, including Montreal International Jazz Festival, the Victoria, Edmonton, and Halifax jazz festivals, Miami's Ground Up Fest, Mundial, and Folk Alliance.

At her core, Joy connects to music as participatory. When she is not creating or performing, she works with educators to creatively engage students and meet curriculum goals through alternate and inclusive pathways. She also helps arts educators and community organizations plan and execute new steelpan programs.

Follow information on Joy's most recent release *Girl in the Yard* and other upcoming events on social media at @JoyLappsMusic and visit her website [www.joylapps.com](http://www.joylapps.com).

*Jon Cowherd made his Royal Conservatory debut on March 5, 2016 and Joy Lapps on January 22, 2023. Larnell Lewis made his Conservatory debut on October 29, 2016 and tonight marks his eighth appearance in Koerner Hall.*