

KEITH JARRETT TRIO TRIBUTE

BY THE GABE EVENS TRIO

THE CAFE LOUISVILLE MAY 26, 2024

Keith Jarrett is one of the greatest of all jazz pianists. Born in Allentown, PA in 1945 with family roots in Slovenia and Germany, he was a child prodigy with perfect pitch, was on a TV talent program hosted by Paul Whiteman at five and performed works by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Saint-Saens as well as two of his own at age seven. He took classical lessons with prominent teachers through high school and was invited to study classical composition in Paris, but had caught the jazz bug and instead went to Boston's Berklee College of Music to study jazz and play in local clubs.

A year later he moved to New York and briefly played in the Jazz Messengers with Art Blakey before drummer Jack DeJohnette recruited him for the Charles Lloyd Quartet, with whom Jarrett played for several years (including on the hit album *Forest Flower*). When the Charles Lloyd Quartet broke up in 1968, trumpeter Miles Davis invited him to join his group, and Keith played electric piano and organ alongside Chick Corea during Miles' electric period, including on Miles' *Bitches Brew*, *Fillmore* and *Live-Evil* albums. He left Davis' band in 1971.

In the early 1970s, Jarrett's American Quartet, including bassist Charlie Haden, drummer Paul Motian and saxophonist Dewey Redman, recorded over a dozen albums. Jarrett also began his decades-long association with ECM Records, which included the final American Quartet recordings, a series of European Quartet recordings with Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek, and a number of improvised solo concerts, most notably *The Koln Concert* (1975), to this day the best selling piano recording of any genre in history. During this time and into the '90s he also recorded a number of classical works by Bach, Handel and Shostakovich as well as his own compositions.

But perhaps the peak of his career were his 25 years with the Standards trio recording and performing jazz standards and original works with bassist Gary Peacock and drummer Jack DeJohnette, starting with the album *Standards, Volume 1* in 1983.

Jarrett suffered two strokes in 2018 that have left him unable to play with his left hand.

(Source: Wikipedia)

THE TUNES

Tonight's pianist and leader Gabe Evens calls Jarrett his #1 influence, citing in turn Jarrett's own diverse influences - "blues, folk (including European folk music), gospel, classical, and Charlie Parker." He's listened most of all to the Standards Trio recordings, but has chosen mostly lesser known tunes from Jarrett's earlier periods, especially the American and European Quartets, for tonight's show.

The Rich and the Poor	<i>Treasure Island</i> (The American Quartet)	1974
So Tender	<i>Standards, Vol. 2</i> (The Standards Trio)	1983
Bop-Be	<i>Bop-Be</i> (The American Quartet)	1978
My Song	<i>My Song</i> (The European Quartet)	1977
In the Still of the Night (Porter)	Never recorded by Jarrett, but as he might have	
In Your Quiet Place	From an album with vibraphonist Gary Burton	1970
Long As You Know You're Living	<i>Belonging</i> (The European Quartet)	1974
Treasure Island	<i>(Treasure Island)</i> The American Quartet)	1974
The Windup	<i>Belonging</i> (The European Quartet)	1974

Gabe says the composed section of this tune, which also includes a long improvisational section, is one of the more difficult pieces he's ever learned.

As time permits, the guys will also play a few more from the Standards Trio.

THE PLAYERS

Gabe Evens is the Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano in UofL's Jazz Program. He has performed throughout the United States and in Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, and France. He has released seven CDs of original music and written commissions for Sheena Easton, Kate McGarry and Nneena Frelon. He can be heard around the region with Jamey Aebersold's quartet and other groups.

Chris Fitzgerald has been a member of the Louisville jazz community as both a teacher at UofL and a performer since 1985. In addition to being a long time member of the Harry Pickens Trio and Liberation Prophecy, he has performed and recorded with Dave Liebman, Lee Konitz, Donny McCaslin, Jean-Michel Pilc, and Norah Jones.

Mike Hyman began playing drums at five. He spent 20 years playing and recording around the world with saxophone legend Joe Henderson and also performed and recorded with Gary Burton and Stan Getz. He returned to his hometown of Louisville about 20 years ago and now gigs actively in the region and teaches privately.

Thanks for coming out tonight, folks. And thanks to the Cafe and to the great artists. See you here at the Cafe on June 30 for Dave Clark and the Jazz Ministers.