VIVO PERFORMING ARTS

PRINTABLE/SCROLLABLE PROGRAM

SAT NOV 21 8PM
BERKLEE PERFORMANCE CENTER

COLTRANE 100:
Both Directions at Once

Joe Lovano tenor saxophone
Melisssa Aldana tenor saxophone
Leo Genovese piano
Linda May Han Oh bass
Jeff "Tain" Watts drums

Selections will be announced from the stage.

There will be no intermission in this evening's program, which will run approximately 90 minutes.

2026/27 Season Sponsors
Crescendo Donor Advised Fund and The Thonis Family

Vivo Performing Arts is supported in part by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Grammy-winning saxophonist, composer and producer **JOE LOVANO** is fearless in finding new modes of artistic expression. With a Grammy win for his *52nd Street Themes* and 14 other nominations, he has won *DownBeat* magazine's Critics and Readers Polls countless times as Tenor Saxophonist, Musician of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year and Triple Crowns from *DownBeat*. He has also received numerous awards from *JazzTimes* and the Jazz Journalists Association for Tenor Saxophone, Album of the Year and Musician of the Year.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 29, 1952, he attended Berklee College of Music in Boston where years later he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate. Since 2001 he has held the Gary Burton Chair in Jazz Performance and is a founding faculty member since 2009 of the Global Jazz Institute at Berklee directed by Danilo Pérez. He is a guest lecturer at New York University's Jazz Program, Juilliard, and Manhattan School of Music, as well as clinician at universities around the globe.

From 1991 through 2016, Lovano released an unprecedented 25 records as a leader for the historic Blue Note Records. *Joe Lovano Quartet: Classic! Live at Newport* featuring Hank Jones was recorded in 2005 and released in 2016 to critical acclaim. In 2019, Lovano released his debut album as a bandleader on ECM Records, *Trio Tapestry*, with Marilyn Crispell and Carmen Castaldi. Over the next few years, Lovano saw the release of three additional ECM Records albums: *ROMA*, a collaboration with Enrico Rava; *Arctic Riff*, a special guest appearance with the Marcin Wasilewski Trio; and the sophomore release from Lovano's Trio Tapestry, *Garden of Expression*. In 2021, Lovano released *Other Worlds*, his third album with Sound Prints, a quintet he co-leads with trumpeter Dave Douglas. The next year brought a collaboration with guitarist Jakob Bro, *Once Around the Room: A Tribute to Paul Motian*. Most recently, Lovano released his third Trio Tapestry recording entitled, *Our Daily Bread*.

In addition, composer Mark Anthony Turnage wrote a Concerto for Saxophone and Chamber Orchestra for Joe called "A Man Descending" which has been performed globally; and Maestro Michael Abene orchestrated an album of all-Lovano originals called *Symphonica* for the WDR Symphonic Orchestra and Big Band, which was released on Blue Note and received a Grammy nomination.

Joe has performed and recorded with a long list of jazz greats including Woody Herman, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Mel Lewis, Bob Brookmeyer, Paul Motian, Bill

Frisell, Tony Bennett, Abbey Lincoln, Charlie Haden, John Scofield, Gunther Schuller, Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner, Ed Blackwell, Herbie Hancock, Dave Holland, Hank Jones, Dave Liebman, Michael Brecker, Dave Douglas, Judi Silvano, Ravi Coltrane, Chucho Valdés, Ornette Coleman, Diana Krall, and many others. Joe has created an extensive body of work for his own ensembles including strings, woodwinds, his horn-rich Nonet, the Classic Quartet, Trio Tapestry, and more.

Joe Lovano continues to explore new horizons within the world of music as a soloist, bandleader and composer.

MELISSA ALDANA stands among the defining voices in contemporary jazz. A two-time Grammy-nominated tenor saxophonist, composer, bandleader, and Blue Note recording artist, the Chilean-born, New York-based artist has earned international recognition for her commanding sound, emotional depth, and singular artistic vision.

Aldana made history in 2013 as the first woman instrumentalist and the first South American musician to win the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. The landmark achievement brought her to international attention and marked the beginning of a career that has placed her among the most distinctive and consequential jazz artists of her generation.

Across eight albums as a leader, Aldana has developed an unmistakable compositional and improvisational language, deeply grounded in the jazz tradition while entirely her own. Her performances on “Elsewhere,” from the acclaimed *Visions,* and “Falling,” from her Blue Note debut *12 Stars,* each earned Grammy nominations for Best Improvised Jazz Solo. Her subsequent Blue Note releases have further established her as both a formidable instrumentalist and a major contemporary composer.

Her honors include three major *DownBeat* Critics Poll distinctions: Rising Star-Tenor Saxophone (2015), Rising Star-Composer (2021), and Rising Star-Jazz Artist (2022). Her latest Blue Note album, *Filin,* marks a striking evolution in her artistry. Inspired by the poetic Cuban *filin* tradition and featuring Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Peter Washington, Kush Abadey, and Cécile McLorin Salvant, the intimate project places Aldana’s radiant tenor sound and extraordinary melodic sensibility at its center. Her creative partnership with Rubalcaba continues with the forthcoming duo release *La Sentencia,* further illuminating the remarkable musical dialogue between the two artists.

In 2026, Aldana was selected to perform in UNESCO's International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert in Chicago, joining an extraordinary international assembly of artists including Herbie Hancock, Christian McBride, Dianne Reeves, Marcus Miller, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Terence Blanchard. Her NPR Music Tiny Desk Concert with Gonzalo Rubalcaba premiered September 29, bringing her music to one of the world's most influential performance platforms. She was also awarded a Chamber Music America New Jazz Works grant, funded by the Doris Duke Foundation, supporting the creation and presentation of a major new composition.

Aldana took part in major projects honoring two defining figures of the tenor saxophone: *Saxophone Colossus: Celebrating Sonny Rollins at Jazz at Lincoln Center* and the international *Coltrane 100: Both Directions at Once* project with Joe Lovano. Aldana has headlined New York's legendary Village Vanguard and performed and collaborated with many of jazz's most influential musicians.

On stage, Aldana's unmistakable tenor sound moves between extraordinary intimacy and power, bringing together virtuosity, spontaneity, and an emotional immediacy that can completely command a room. With an uncompromising artistic vision, an ever-expanding body of work, and extraordinary creative momentum, Melissa Aldana continues to shape the direction of contemporary jazz on the international stage.

LEO GENOVESE (piano) was born in Argentina in 1979. He moved to the United States in 2001. He has been traveling the world playing music for the last twenty-five years. He has nine albums as a leader and dozens as a sideman. He believes in music as a force of change. He practices the saxophone in hotel rooms. He doesn't support MP3 culture. He cooks pretty spicy food, like his music.

Grammy Award-winning **LINDA MAY HAN OH** is a bassist / composer who has performed with artists such as Pat Metheny, Kenny Barron, Terri Lyne Carrington and Vijay Iyer. Originally born in Malaysia and raised in Boorloo (Perth), Western Australia, she has received many awards including the 2023 Herb Albert Award and an Honorary Doctorate from Manhattan School of Music in 2024. Linda has released six albums as a band-leader and her band has been featured on NPR's Tiny Desk.

JEFF "TAIN" WATTS is an American jazz drummer and composer from Pittsburgh who has worked across genres including Grammy wins with the Metropolitan Opera, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis Quartet, and Mingus Big Band. Has performed with many greats including Michael Brecker, Alice Coltrane, Kenny Garrett, McCoy Tyner, Ravi Coltrane, and George Benson. Watts has appeared as both a musician on the *Tonight Show* and as an actor, Rhythm Jones in Spike Lee's *Mo Better Blues.*