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NOVEMBER 3

SATURDAY

2:00PM

THE THIRD QUARTET

**JOHN ABERCROMBIE WITH MARK FELDMAN,
SCOTT COLLEY AND JOEY BARON**

FLORENCE GOULD THEATRE, LEGION OF HONOR

"Abercrombie continues to carve out a trend-free niche all his own."

—JAZZTIMES

When it comes to modern jazz guitarists, John Abercrombie's name is always singled out among connoisseurs and scholars. Coming of musical age in the mid-'60s, this Berklee-schooled fretman was developing his post-bop-influenced sound just as jazz and rock were starting to commingle.

The New York native got his start in bands led by organist Johnny "Hammond" Smith and drummers Chico Hamilton and Billy Cobham, playing in the latter's Spectrum band. For his first release as a leader on the ECM label in 1974, Abercrombie led a charged trio with keyboardist Jan Hammer and drummer Jack DeJohnette. Now with nearly 50 contributions to the ECM label under his own name—plus his long-running collaboration in the jazz "supergroup" Gateway with DeJohnette and bassist Dave Holland—Abercrombie is considered one of the patriarchs of the ethereal, entrancing ECM sound.

Since 2002, Abercrombie has led a quartet that explores the unique format of electric and acoustic guitar, violin, double bass, and drums. "I've always wanted to play with a violin," the guitarist recently told *DownBeat*, "but I didn't want to play Django Reinhardt-Stephane Grappelli music because I can't do that. The idea was to create a modern-guitar violin sound."

That sound can be heard to captivating effect on *The Third Quartet* (2007), Abercrombie's latest ECM CD, which included two of the virtuoso musicians appearing with Abercrombie today, violinist Mark Feldman and drummer Joey Baron. (Acclaimed bassist Scott Colley performs this afternoon, while Marc Johnson played in the recording session.) All About Jazz calls the release "an album of extraordinary transcendence that defies glib categorization; such is the supreme appeal of his music." As Abercrombie himself noted of this music: "One of the interesting things about it is that when we do improvise freely, it doesn't sound like free-jazz. It sounds more like chamber music" (as quoted in *DownBeat*).

JOHN ABERCROMBIE

John Abercrombie, guitar
Mark Feldman, violin
Scott Colley, bass
Joey Baron, drums