



NOVEMBER 4

SUNDAY

2:00PM

ART OF THE TRIO
TORD GUSTAVSEN TRIO

FLORENCE GOULD THEATRE, LEGION OF HONOR

“Original music that is soulful, meditative, and eccentric.”

—DOWNBEAT

Call it three to the power of three: pianist Tord Gustavsen’s trio with bassist Harald Johnsen and drummer Jarle Vespestad began releasing a deeply appreciated album trilogy in ’03, when its leader was 33.

The debut album was called *Changing Places*, and it signaled the arrival of a longtime sideman and his peer group of equals. Reflective and searching, Gustavsen’s baker’s dozen originals represented a new era in so-called Nordic jazz, which was sonically open in a disciplined yet free-flowing manner. It was the “ECM sound” for a new generation. *Stereophile Magazine* called the disc “an instant classic...the least grandstanding great jazz album since Miles Davis’ *Kind of Blue*.” The Gustavsen Trio’s sophomore effort, *The Ground*, followed two years later, and this year’s *Being There* rounds out the acclaimed trilogy.

A student of social studies and musicology at the University of Oslo and of jazz at the Conservatory of Music in Trondheim, Gustavsen had gigged extensively in Scandinavia before his trio signed with ECM (the label of such storied pianists as Keith Jarrett and Paul Bley). Johnsen and Vespestad have been equally in demand throughout the northern European jazz scene, playing in both traditional and avant-garde settings.

Yet all three tend to shine the brightest when playing in a trio setting with one another, constructing what has been dubbed their “Nordic-Caribbean-gospel-bluesy” sound.

In a review of a 2005 trio performance in Birmingham (UK), *The Times, London*, wrote, “As evenings of quiet intensity go, they don’t come much more quiet or intense than a set by the Norwegian pianist Tord Gustavsen....(H)e placed beautifully crafted, delicate melodies over the subtle drum rhythms of Jarle Vespestad and the bass of Harald Johnsen....(A)t the end, one feels cleansed, refreshed and renewed.”

TORD GUSTAVSEN

Tord Gustavsen, piano
Harald Johnsen, bass
Jarle Vespestad, drums



NOVEMBER 4

SUNDAY

7:00PM

LE JAZZ HOT: THE MUSIC OF DJANGO REINHARDT
DJANGO REINHARDT FESTIVAL BAND
FEATURING DORADO SCHMITT
WITH PAQUITO D’RIVERA

HERBST THEATRE

The swinging sounds of pre-war Paris come alive in this superb pairing of jazz maestros Dorado Schmitt and Paquito D’Rivera—both paying tribute to another legendary figure, guitarist Django Reinhardt.

“Gypsy jazz,” the infectious, toe-tapping fusion of folk melodies and the popular French musette sounds, sprang from the fingers of Reinhardt, a Manouche gypsy whose name has become synonymous with this infectious, toe-tapping music ever since. Guitar and violin maestro Schmitt carries on the Reinhardt legacy as an instrumentalist, composer, and fellow Manouche.

As a child in France, Schmitt would listen to Reinhardt’s music, patiently trying to puzzle out the master’s blazing guitar work. “Because the music of Django is very energetic. You have to have a lot of physical strength,” Schmitt told *Fiddler Magazine*. Like Reinhardt, whose hand was partially paralyzed in a caravan fire, Schmitt suffered a huge setback to his musical career when an automobile accident left him in a coma. Drawing on the same ingenuity and tenacity displayed by his idol, he relearned the instrument, patiently regaining his virtuosic touch. Now Schmitt and his band headline the annual Django Reinhardt Festival at Birdland in New York, the first stateside festival to celebrate the guitar legend’s legacy.

NEA Jazz Master and Kennedy Center “Living Jazz Legend” award-winner Paquito D’Rivera last appeared in the 2006 SFJAZZ Spring Season. A founding member of two pioneering Cuban groups, the Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna and Irakere, D’Rivera left his native country for the United States in 1980. Bandleaders like Dizzy Gillespie and McCoy Tyner snapped him up before D’Rivera branched out on his own in a career that has seen him win eight Grammy awards—and counting. His latest album, *Funk Tango*, on which D’Rivera plays with “extroverted vigor” (*The New York Times*) has been nominated as “Best Latin Jazz Album” for this year’s Latin Grammys.

DJANGO REINHARDT FESTIVAL BAND

Dorado Schmitt, guitar
Paquito D’Rivera, clarinet & sax
Samson Schmitt, guitar
Ludovic Beier, accordion
Brian Torff, bass
Florin Niculescu, violin



Also: Shorter, discount-priced
Family Matinee Concert, 3PM.
See pg. 31 for more information.

Note: No D’Rivera in Matinee