



October 25

Saturday

8PM

Soviet Roots

## Sophie Milman Eldar Trio

Herbst Theatre

Two thrilling young talents, both from the former U.S.S.R, highlight the global reach of jazz. Sophie Milman has traveled a long, winding road, and arrives burning with energy, a fresh new voice on the international jazz scene. Born into a Jewish family in Russia's western Urals, Milman spent much of her adolescence in Haifa, Israel where her family fled after the fall of the Soviet Union. Her love of African-American music, particularly gospel and jazz, became a sustaining obsession when her family relocated from Israel to Toronto in 1999. With the release of her impressive 2004 eponymous debut album, Milman quickly became one of Canada's most visible jazz vocalists. She scored a Juno, Canada's Grammy, with her second album *Make Someone Happy*, and Milman has been making fans around the world ever since.

Discovered at the age of 9, Eldar Djangirov is a flamboyantly accomplished pianist from Kyrgyzstan who impressed veteran stars such as Benny Carter, Billy Taylor and Marian McPartland before reaching his teens. Since the release of his 2004 debut on Sony Classical, the pianist has been traveling at hyperspeed, carried along by a combination of awe-inspiring technique and improvisational flair. Growing at leaps and bounds, he has released a string of technically dazzling albums, most recently 2007's Grammy-nominated *re-imagined*. At 21, Eldar is both a dauntingly accomplished player and a self-possessed student of the music, eager to soak up whatever experiences come his way.

### SOPHIE MILMAN

Sophie Milman vocals  
Camerall Wallis saxophone,  
woodwinds  
Paul Shrofel piano, electric piano  
Mark Mclean drums  
Kieran Overs bass

### ELDAR

Eldar piano  
Justin Brown drums  
Armando Gola bass

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October 26

Sunday

2PM

Solo Piano

## Marilyn Crispell

Florence Gould Theatre, Legion of Honor  
*(Ticket includes admittance to the museum galleries)*

**"Hearing Marilyn Crispell play solo piano is like monitoring an active volcano."** —*The New York Times*

One of the few women to have headlined at New York's famed Village Vanguard, Marilyn Crispell is a contemporary piano genius of many moods. As a decade-long member of Anthony Braxton's incendiary quartet, she became known for coruscating, percussive solos, full of dense, ringing chords and lightning glissandos. At the same time that Braxton's band was recording prolifically, Crispell was making her own albums for a succession of indie labels like Leo, FMP and Music & Arts. While her projects often documented her high-energy improvisational flights, they also captured her exploring pieces by Bill Evans, Duke Ellington and John Coltrane that displayed her gift for honing in on a melody with searing intensity.

In recent years, however, Crispell's recordings for ECM have become increasingly introspective. Starting with 1997's stunning *Nothing Ever Was, Anyway*, an album devoted to the ethereal compositions of Annette Peacock, she collaborated with drum legend Paul Motian on a series of contemplative, melodically rich trio sessions. It's as if her explosive energy has been channeled into sustained lyricism. No less passionate or brave, her music now plumbs the depths of inner space. Her latest ECM release, *Vignettes*, is a ravishing solo album marked by her deep musical intuition and uncanny sense of narrative flow.

MARILYN CRISPELL  
Marilyn Crispell piano

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