

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Media Contact:**

TJ Gorton

tjgorton@sfjazz.org

415.283.0309

**EXCLUSIVE SFJAZZ 'FRIDAYS AT FIVE'
FOUR-PART BROADCAST TO BENEFIT WAYNE SHORTER**

**Four Historic Wayne Shorter Celebration Concerts From January 2019
Featuring Herbie Hancock, Joshua Redman, Kamasi Washington, Branford
Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Terrace Martin, Ambrose Akinmusire, Danilo
Pérez, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade to Air on SFJAZZ “Fridays at Five”
Online Series**

(SAN FRANCISCO, CA, May 18, 2020) -- SFJAZZ announced a historic Wayne Shorter Celebration concert series with Herbie Hancock, Joshua Redman, Kamasi Washington, Branford Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Terrace Martin, Ambrose Akinmusire, Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade will be broadcasted for the first time ever on “Fridays at Five.” For these four-night broadcasts, all contributions will go directly to the Wayne Shorter fund to support his ongoing medical needs. All concerts also feature members of Wayne Shorter’s quartet including pianist Danilo Pérez, bassist John Patitucci, and drummer Brian Blade.

“FRIDAYS AT FIVE” is SFJAZZ’s new weekly online membership program launched in the face of the COVID-19 crisis to support SFJAZZ’s ongoing operations and artists in anticipation of reopening. The program is supported by a \$5 monthly/\$60 yearly membership. Direct support of artists is provided via a “tip jar” that is available prior, during and after the broadcast that is split 50/50 between artist and SFJAZZ. For these four concerts 100% of the “tip jar” proceeds will go to Wayne Shorter for needed medical expenses.

BROADCAST DATES

Friday, May 22 | 5PM PT w/ Kamasi Washington and Terrace Martin

Friday, June 26 | 5PM PT w/ Herbie Hancock, Terence Blanchard, Terrace Martin

Friday, July 31 | 5PM PT w/ Branford Marsalis and Terence Blanchard

Friday, August 28 | 5PM PT w/ Joshua Redman and Ambrose Akinmusire

ABOUT WAYNE SHORTER CELEBRATION CONCERTS

Legendary saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter had been scheduled to perform with his quartet over four nights in Miner Auditorium in January of 2019,

but unfortunately an illness that precluded travel prevented Wayne from appearing that week.

Masterminded by piano legend and Wayne's best friend Herbie Hancock as a tribute and benefit for Wayne's medical expenses, an all-star roster of jazz greats and musical "family" that included Herbie, Terence Blanchard, Kamasi Washington, Terrace Martin, Branford Marsalis, Joshua Redman, and Ambrose Akinmusire assembled over those four nights to perform classic compositions by the 11-time GRAMMY winner, 1998 NEA Jazz Master, and 2018 Kennedy Center Honoree. Different lineups of musicians performed each night, all anchored by Wayne's longtime quartet members: pianist Danilo Pérez, bassist John Patitucci, and drummer Brian Blade.

Each of these concerts will be broadcast for the first time ever during this exclusive Fridays At Five four-part series at SFJAZZ.org.

Wayne's latest album, Emanon, was released by Blue Note in 2018 and won the GRAMMY Award for Best Jazz Instrumental Album. He is currently collaborating with Esperanza Spalding on an opera set to premiere in the 2021-22 Season.

WAYNE SHORTER CELEBRATION PART ONE MAY 22, 2020

Featuring Kamasi Washington, Terrace Martin, Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade

The first performance we present was from the third night of our celebration of Wayne Shorter, shining a spotlight on the younger generation of jazz greats who were influenced by Wayne, featuring tenor saxophonist Kamasi Washington and saxophonist/keyboardist Terrace Martin, two of the leading figures on the explosive Los Angeles scene loosely grouped as the West Coast Get Down collective.

A young veteran of work with Gerald Wilson, George Duke, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Flying Lotus, and Chaka Khan, Washington made a hugely impactful statement with his aptly named 2015 3-CD Brainfeeder Records debut *The Epic*, which earned Best of Year accolades from the hip-hop, pop and jazz press, Album of the Year in the DownBeat Critics Poll, and a worldwide audience as one of the most notable crossover jazz artists in decades. His follow-up, *Heaven and Earth*, was released in 2018.

Along with Washington, Martin is one of the prime movers behind hip-hop superstar Kendrick Lamar's multiple GRAMMY-winning 2015 album *To Pimp a Butterfly*. Described by Okayplayer as "the new age Quincy Jones," Martin has worked extensively as producer and performer and released six full-length albums. Most recently, Martin has been part of Herbie Hancock's working band, producing his upcoming album.

WAYNE SHORTER CELEBRATION PART TWO

JUNE 26, 2020

Featuring Herbie Hancock, Terence Blanchard, Terrace Martin, Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade

This concert was recorded during the first night of the tribute series, with organizer and jazz legend Herbie Hancock on piano and keyboards, trumpet great Terence Blanchard, and saxophonist/keyboardist Terrace Martin.

A trailblazing artist whose inimitable touch and telepathic musical intuition has been at the heart of every major musical advance since the early 1960s, Hancock has recorded and performed with a who's-who of jazz icons and led a string of essential sessions over his nearly six-decade career, contributing innumerable classics to the standards songbook. He turned the jazz world upside down as part of Miles Davis' epochal 1960s quintet that included Wayne Shorter, and freely embraced the electronic revolution, ushering in the birth of the jazz/rock hybrid called fusion and the subsequent development of hip-hop. Hancock was named an NEA Jazz Master in 2004 and a Kennedy Center Honoree in 2013.

A masterful bandleader, celebrated film composer, and influential educator, GRAMMY-winning New Orleans native Terence Blanchard is a major creative force in modern jazz. An alumnus of drummer Art Blakey's famed Jazz Messengers that has also included Wayne Shorter among its illustrious members, Blanchard has led a succession of diverse ensembles and composed over 40 movie scores including soundtracks for the majority of director Spike Lee's work. As a former SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director, Blanchard premiered a revised version of his groundbreaking large-scale work *Champion: An Opera in Jazz* during the 2015-16 Season.

WAYNE SHORTER CELEBRATION PART THREE

JULY 31, 2020

Featuring Branford Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade

Two modern jazz giants perform with Wayne's band on this night. Each, like Wayne Shorter, are former members of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, and represent the first generation of masters to be influenced by Wayne's legacy.

Saxophonist and composer Branford Marsalis is the eldest musical sibling in jazz's most famous contemporary clan – a three-time GRAMMY winner, performer, educator, composer, label owner, and bandleader with nearly 30 albums to his name. An artist whose work as a soloist and collaborator runs the gamut from classical settings with the New York Philharmonic, to hip-hop with his *Buckshot LaFonque* project, and rock music with Sting and the Grateful Dead, Marsalis is best known as the leader of his superlative quartet. His acclaimed

2013 live solo recital, *In My Solitude*, was recorded at Grace Cathedral as part of the 30th San Francisco Jazz Festival.

WAYNE SHORTER CELEBRATION PART FOUR

AUGUST 28, 2020 — date still to be confirmed

Featuring Joshua Redman, Ambrose Akinmusire, Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade

This final night of the Wayne Shorter Celebration features two generations of exploratory musicians, each a Bay Area native and alumnus of the remarkable Berkeley High School jazz program.

Saxophonist Joshua Redman has been stirring audiences around the world with his passionate and thoughtful playing since 1993, when his self-titled debut album made him a star. A former SFJAZZ Artistic Director and founding member of the SFJAZZ Collective, Redman has first performed at SFJAZZ as a high school student, and his notable appearances have included a solo performance at Grace Cathedral as part of the Sacred Space series, and most recently as a part of *Still Dreaming*, a group including Brian Blade that is devoted to the music of Redman's father, saxophonist Dewey Redman, and the Ornette Coleman alumni quartet *Old and New Dreams*.

Ambrose Akinmusire has a direct connection to this week's artists, having studied at the Manhattan School of Music and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz at USC with Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, and Terence Blanchard. He won both the prestigious Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition and the star-making Thelonious Monk International Trumpet Competition, has released a string of superlative albums, and has contributed to recordings by Esperanza Spalding, Roy Hargrove, Jack DeJohnette, and Brad Mehldau.

ABOUT DANILO PÉREZ, JOHN PATITUCCI, AND BRIAN BLADE

Three of jazz's greatest instrumentalists first came together to form Wayne Shorter's current quartet in 2000 — the first permanent group to bear Wayne's name in his career. Their inaugural recording together, 2002's *Footprints Live*, was nominated for a GRAMMY, and each subsequent recording has been a GRAMMY winner, culminating in 2018's *Emanon*, which won for Best Jazz Instrumental Album.

Panamanian-born pianist Danilo Perez gained recognition for his work with Dizzy Gillespie and his output as a leader, including the stellar Thelonious Monk tribute *Panamonk*. He is the founder of both the Berklee Global Jazz Institute and the Panama Jazz Festival.

John Patitucci became known as a master musician through his extensive work with Chick Corea, and has released 15 albums as a leader including 2019's *Soul*

of the Bass. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Bass Player Magazine in 2019.

Brian Blade has released five increasingly accomplished sessions for Blue Note with his GRAMMY-winning Fellowship Band. He has had long-term associations with Joshua Redman, Joni Mitchell, Kenny Garrett, Daniel Lanois, Bill Frisell, and Chick Corea's all-star trio with Christian McBride.

The trio has also recorded and performed as Children of the Light, in reference to Wayne's influence on them as musicians, releasing their self-titled album in 2015 on Mack Avenue Records.

ABOUT SFJAZZ 'FRIDAYS AT FIVE' ONLINE CONCERT SERIES

The coronavirus separates us, threatening the fabric of community – but music connects, which is why we've launched Fridays at Five. It's what we need right now: a new series of weekly pre-recorded concerts that aspire to connect you – to music, to musicians, to the warm and unique feeling of experiencing live music at the SFJAZZ Center.

The coronavirus, ironically, has served as a call to action: our hall may be dark right now, but the music is alive, and we intend it to remain so. Fridays at Five is our starting point, the first chapter in a book that's about to be written. We are responding to the virus in a very "jazz" way – building on decades of hard work at SFJAZZ, while improvising our way to a digital future.

For \$5 a month (\$60 annually), you can become a Digital Member and tune in each Friday at 5 PM (PT) for the latest concert.

For More Information Visit:

<https://www.sfjazz.org/fridaysatfive/>

<https://www.sfjazz.org/watch/>

ABOUT SFJAZZ

Founded in 1983, SFJAZZ presents the greatest names in jazz, Latin and global music and nurtures the art of improvisation through its year-round concert, commissioning and education programs. The West Coast's biggest jazz presenter serves over 200,000 fans and students every year and has several award-winning resident jazz ensembles - the world renowned SFJAZZ Collective and the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars. SFJAZZ Center opened in 2013 in the vibrant performing arts district of San Francisco. The luminous SFJAZZ Center was designed by San Francisco architect Mark Cavagnero and the LEED-Gold certified center offers the superb acoustics of a great concert hall and the relaxed intimacy of a jazz club.

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