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Pop, Rock and Jazz in NYC This Week

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Eric Clapton in 2015, the year he celebrated his 70th birthday. Chad Batka for The New York Times

Pop

ERIC CLAPTON at Madison Square Garden (March 19-20, 7:30 p.m.). Now 71, the blues-guitar virtuoso Eric Clapton has been hinting at retirement for a while. Yet he continues to be lured to the stage and, after a string of concerts celebrating his 70th birthday in 2015, he will embark on a run of four shows each in New York and Los Angeles. Expect a set list that draws on his solo career as well as his remarkable work with Cream and the Yardbirds; additionally, plan to hear covers honoring blues masters like Robert Johnson and Willie Dixon. Mr. Clapton will be joined by the guitarists Cory Clark Jr. and Jimmie Vaughan.

CONCERT FOR IMMIGRATION RIGHTS at Le Poisson Rouge (March 22, 8 p.m.). In light of President Trump's attempts to restrict travel into the United States, the New York Immigration Coalition is hosting a show to raise money for its initiatives, which include advocating pro-immigration policies. The lineup reflects the diversity of the nation's citizens: Among the six acts scheduled to perform are the Korean-American folk singer Elena Moon Park, the arty electro-pop auteur Glasser and the Afrobeat-channeling collective Underground System.

212-505-3474, lpr.com

LADY RIZO at Joe's Pub (March 23-25, 9:30 p.m.). The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter and cabaret star Lady Rizo has been something of a mainstay at Joe's Pub in recent years: Indeed, she was once an artist in residence at the venue. So it makes sense that she would unveil a new show, titled "Red, White and Indigo," at one of her preferred performance spaces. Expect this piece to be her most sociopolitical one yet: The performance will explore what she calls her "love-hate relationship with America," which she will expand upon with hilarious and sardonic storytelling — and using her undeniable set of pipes.

212-967-7555, publictheater.org

JENS LEKMAN at Rough Trade NYC (March 20, 9 p.m.). One of his generation's wriest and most vivid storytellers, the Swedish songwriter Jens Lekman returns to perform material from his new album, "Life Will See You Now," which pairs bright, Barry Manilow-style pop arrangements with Mr. Lekman's whimsical ruminations on life and love. The album might be his most inspired yet: The songs were largely born of a 2015 project titled "Postcards," where Mr. Lekman wrote and released a song every week for a year.

roughtradenyc.com

SUNN O))) at Knockdown Center (March 17, 8 p.m.). With its members dressed in hooded cloaks and shrouded in smoke from fog machines, Sunn O))) puts on concerts that can feel like bizarre cult rituals. And to fans of heavy metal's many subgenres, they are. Since the late '90s, the group's founding members, Stephen O'Malley and Greg Anderson, have spurred a rise in experimental metal in America thanks to their own record label, Southern Lord, which has also released excellent albums by experimental-noise bands like Pelican and Boris. For this concert, brace yourself for overwhelming guitar drones, which Sunn O))) conjures with instruments tuned so low, they just might reach the Earth's core.

347-915-5615, knockdown.center

WILCO at the Beacon Theater (March 18-19 and 21-22, 7:30 p.m.). Two decades into its career, the Grammy-winning alt-rock band Wilco has settled into a comfortable groove; it has been releasing albums, such as “Schmilco” in 2016, with a tossed-off breeziness that suggests the frontman Jeff Tweedy and his group will never tire of the rigors of rock ‘n’ roll. The same vibe defines Wilco’s live shows, too: Each night features a changing set list of around three dozen songs, which are drawn from the band’s solid catalog of 10 studio albums, including the 2002 breakthrough “Yankee Hotel Foxtrot.” 866-858-0008, beacontheatre.com

YO LA TENGO at the Town Hall (March 23, 8 p.m.). For over three decades, Yo La Tengo has proved itself to be one of indie rock’s most reliable and revered bands with more than a dozen studio albums that veer between hushed piano balladry to freakouts in feedback-drenched noise. The group — which features the husband-and-wife duo of the singer and guitarist Ira Kaplan and the singer and drummer Georgia Hubley — has also ventured into occasional film scoring as well as albums, like the 1990 LP “Fakebook,” consisting largely of covers of modern pop standards. For this concert, the group will perform a new improvised piece inspired by its gorgeous 2000 release “And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside-Out.” Titled “And Then Yo La Tengo Turned Itself Inside Out,” the program will feature collaborators like the harpist Zeena Parkins, the drummers Chad Taylor and Amy Garapic, a horn section, and more. 800-982-2787, thetownhall.org

KEVIN O’DONNELL

Jazz

GNAOUA ET JAZZ at Pioneer Works (March 19, 6 p.m.). In the Islamic Gnawa musical tradition of West Africa, orbital and trancelike sounds spring from voices, metal percussion instruments and a stringed bass known as the gimbri. Songs of just a few lines tend to repeat and deepen for long stretches of time. The Gnaoua World Music Festival, now in its 20th year, always brings a crowd of thousands to Essaouira, Morocco; this month, a series of satellite events are taking place in Paris and New York. This performance at Pioneer Works will feature appearances by American musicians, including the drummer Will Calhoun and the bassist Jamaaladeen Tacuma, alongside the Gnawa master practitioners Hamid El Kasri and Abdeslam Alikkane. 718-596-3001, pioneerworks.org

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HEADS OF STATE at Smoke (March 17-19; 7, 9 and 10:30 p.m.). The saxophonist Gary Bartz, the pianist Larry Willis and the drummer Al Foster all hit the spotlight in the 1970s, when jazz was forming a range of high-intensity partnerships with other genres. Mr. Bartz and Mr. Foster played in some of Miles Davis's most remarkable electric ensembles; Mr. Willis toured and recorded with Blood, Sweat & Tears, as well as

with Hugh Masekela. In the years since, all three of them have tended toward more traditional, acoustic jazz, where they are also deeply at home. Together with the bassist Buster Williams, they released a fine album in 2015, "Heads of State." The group appears here under that name, but with David Williams on bass.

212-864-6662, smokejazz.com

FREDDIE HENDRIX QUARTET at Smalls (March 17-18, 10:30 p.m. and midnight). Mr. Hendrix is a jostling and physical trumpeter who can fit a lot of feeling into a rather tidy space. He's in demand as a sideman, but it's worth seeking out opportunities to hear him lead his own group. Mr. Hendrix, 40, released a strong debut album last year, "Jersey Cat," featuring mostly original compositions in a straight-ahead vein. Here he leads a band featuring three younger talents of note: Davis Whitfield on piano, Alexander Claffy on bass and Mark Whitfield Jr. on drums.

646-476-4346, smallslive.com

NATHANIEL MACKEY AND HENRY GRIMES at McNally Jackson (March 18, 7 p.m.). The National Book Award winner Nathaniel Mackey doesn't just draw much of his inspiration from improvised music; his writing has jazz's sense of ardent pursuit. "Late Arcade," his most recent novel, charts the road life of an experimental sextet. To celebrate its release, Mr. Mackey appears here in a joint performance and reading alongside the esteemed avant-garde bassist Henry Grimes.

212-274-1160, mcnallyjackson.com

TOMEKA REID QUARTET at Roulette (March 20, 8 p.m.). The cellist Tomeka Reid is an experimental improviser who treats melody and rhythm as solid, noble substances — but refuses to fortify them with boundaries. Her playing is shuddery and rough, often evoking multiple feelings at once. Based in Chicago, Ms. Reid is artist in residence this year at Roulette, where she performs intermittently in different arrangements. For this concert, she appears with the personnel from her remarkable 2015 album, “Tomeka Reid Quartet.” The band features Mary Halvorson on guitar, Jason Roebke on bass and Tomas Fujiwara on drums.

917-267-0363, roulette.org

THE TRISTANO PROJECT at Birdland (March 21-25, 8:30 and 11 p.m.). Few musicians in jazz have generated as much mystified interest as Lennie Tristano, the pianist, composer and instructor who in the 1940s and '50s helped create the sound known as cool jazz, but rarely emerged from behind the scenes. Here, five of today's strongest improvisers celebrate Tristano's legacy: the pianist Helen Sung, the alto saxophonists Greg Osby and Jaleel Shaw, the bassist Ben Allison and the drummer Matt Wilson.

212-581-3080, birdlandjazz.com

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