The New York Times

Pop, Rock and Jazz in NYC This Week

MARCH 30, 2017















Madison McFerrin, above, has performed with Aretha Franklin and De La Soul. Allison Berg

Our guide to pop and rock shows and the best of live jazz.

Pop

BARDO POND at Knockdown Center (April 1, 10 p.m.). Noise rock has an inherently limited audience - few music fans find pleasure in the sonic assault of guitar feedback — but the Philadelphia-based quintet Bardo Pond has remained steadfast in its pursuit of sprawling, guitar-powered psychedelia for nearly three decades. That creative mission has earned the group fans including luminaries like Lou Reed, Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth, and the Jesus and Mary Chain. Bardo Pond is performing to promote its new album, "Under the Pines," a 41-minute opus of loping, distorted guitars; clattering drums; and the singer and flutist Isobel Sollenberger's ghostly, reverb-soaked vocal melodies (and, yes, they are quite melodic). With M Ax Noi Mach and Eric Arn.

MADISON McFERRIN at Joe's Pub (April 1, 9:30 p.m.). The soul and R&B singer Madison McFerrin is the daughter of the jazz vocalist Bobby McFerrin, so it's no surprise that she inherited her father's talent. Since establishing herself with the funk-soul group Cosmodrome, which she formed in 2011 while studying at Berklee College of Music, she has shared the stage with titanic voices like Aretha Franklin and hip-hop heavyweights like De La Soul. (She's by herself for this performance.) On her debut EP, "Finding Foundations, Vol. 1," Ms. McFerrin shows wonderful vocal dexterity, deftly swerving from sharp, clearly enunciated staccato bursts to fluttery, free-form melismata.

212-967-7555, publictheater.org/joes-pub-at-the-public

STEVIE NICKS AND PRETENDERS at Prudential Center (April 2, 7 p.m.) and Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum (April 6, 7 p.m.). After the Fleetwood Mac singer Stevie Nicks and Pretenders, Chrissie Hynde's group, performed at Madison Square Garden last November, the two acts are returning to the tristate area for a victory lap at the end of their joint American tour. Over the last few months, Ms. Nicks has been delivering solid sets encompassing her most notable tunes from Fleetwood Mac as well as deep cuts from her solo career, which she has been introducing with personal anecdotes. One highlight: a charming tale about her affection for silk chiffon.

800-745-3000, <u>prucenter.com</u> 800-745-3000, <u>nassaucoliseum.com</u>

'A NONESUCH CELEBRATION' at BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (April 1, 7:30 p.m.). Under the leadership of the record producer Bob Hurwitz, beginning in the 1970s, Nonesuch Records established itself as a tastemaking outlet for eclectic contemporary classical music. And while composers like John Adams and Philip Glass still call the label home to this day, Mr. Hurwitz and his staff have also overseen critically hailed and Grammy-winning recordings by rock acts like Wilco and the Black Keys, the art-pop auteur Björk, and the Brazilian singer-songwriter Caetano Veloso. This all-star concert celebrates Mr. Hurwitz's stewardship with an impressive lineup that includes the Magnetic Fields' chief songwriter, Stephin Merritt; the singer-songwriter K. D. Lang; the actor and singer Mandy Patinkin; and many more. Mr. Adams, Mr. Glass, Steve Reich and others will debut pieces dedicated to their mentor.

718-636-4100, bam.org

BEBE REXHA at Warsaw (March 31, 7 p.m.). The singer-songwriter Bebe Rexha has served as a guest vocalist on radio smashes by G-Eazy, David Guetta and Martin Garrix; she's also worked as a behind-the-scenes writer of songs like Rihanna and Eminem's 2013 collaboration "The Monster." But Ms. Rexha is equally compelling as a solo artist. On her new EP, "All Your Fault: Pt. 1," she blends beats that are influenced by dubstep and hip-hop with chilly R&B melodies and infectious vocal hooks, best heard on her breakthrough solo single "I Got You." For her first headlining tour, she will perform her hit collaborations as well as her solo material. Expect it to feel like one of the wildest karaoke parties ever. As she told Billboard, "It's kind of a dance party or just a singalong party or something."

212-777-6800, warsawconcerts.com

THE SONS & HEIRS: A TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHS AND

MORRISSEY' at the Bowery Ballroom (April 1, 9 p.m.). Morrissey has not shied in recent years from expressing his distaste about reuniting with his band, the Smiths, for a tour. Accordingly, this tribute act may serve as the next best thing. Fronted by the singer Ronnissey and featuring the guitarist Ravi Marr (named after the Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr), the Sons & Heirs will perform classics from Morrissey's solo catalog and that of his band. Another tribute act will kick-start the evening: Masters & Servants, who deliver covers of songs by Depeche Mode.

212-260-4700, boweryballroom.com

KEVIN O'DONNELL



The pianist Matt Mitchell and the alto saxophonist Tim Berne will perform a duo set on Tuesday. Caterina Di Perri

Jazz

TOSHIKO AKIYOSHI AND BARRY HARRIS at Flushing Town Hall (March 31, 8 p.m.). These two piano luminaries were born three days apart — in 1929. Ms. Akiyoshi and Mr. Harris, both N.E.A. Jazz Masters, are known for their personal approaches to the influence of the pioneering bebop pianist Bud Powell. Ms. Akiyoshi, who also uses instruments and concepts from Japanese folk music, has a knack for tuneful phrasing and braided, two-handed constructions. Mr. Harris's résumé includes stints with the likes of Miles Davis, Dexter Gordon and Cannonball Adderley. At this concert each pianist will play a set with the house rhythm section, featuring the drummer Leroy Williams and the bassist Ray Drummond.

DONNY McCASLIN at Carnegie Hall (April 1, 9 p.m.). Mr. McCaslin has been highly regarded in jazz circles for years, but he found broader recognition last year after backing David Bowie on "Blackstar," the rocker's final album. In October, Mr. McCaslin released "Beyond Now," a collection of swirling, electrified tunes featuring the same quartet he used on "Blackstar." On "Beyond Now," Mr. McCaslin's muscular, hyper-controlled playing melds with the lush electronics of the keyboardist Jason Lindner. Mr. McCaslin performs here with Mr. Lindner, the bassist Jonathan Maron and the drummer Zach Danziger.

212-247-7800, carnegiehall.org

MATT MITCHELL AND TIM BERNE at Roulette (April 4, 8 p.m.). Quietly and studiously, Mr. Mitchell has established himself as one of New York's most riveting and freethinking pianists. His command can feel almost absolute; his harmonies tend to be weighty and cluttered. But the effect on your ear is rolling and catalytic, sometimes even ecstatic. He works often with Tim Berne, the esteemed alto saxophonist. On "Forage," a new solo piano album, he reconfigures a handful of Mr. Berne's devilishly abstract compositions. At this concert, Mr. Mitchell will play some of those tunes. Then Mr. Berne will join him for a duo set. 917-267-0368, roulette.org

ELIO VILLAFRANCA at Aaron Davis Hall (March 31, 7:30 p.m.). Mr. Villafranca, a pianist, makes his affinity for tradition clear. The Latin jazz compositions he performs with his Jass Syncopators draw overtly on the influences of Dizzy Gillespie and Duke Ellington, as well as a handful of mid-20th-century Cuban bandleaders. Here Mr. Villafranca presents something slightly different: "Cuba — Senegal: Letters to Mother Africa II," a program reaching farther back into the history of the black diaspora. These pieces explore the abiding connection between Cuban folklore and the West African nation where much of it originated. His expert band this evening includes the saxophonist Wayne Escoffery, the trumpeter and percussionist Etienne Charles, the bassist Dezron Douglas, the drummer Dion Parson, the percussionist Abdou Mboup, and the vocalist Venissa Santi. 212-650-6900, citycollegecenterforthearts.org

WOMEN OF JAZZ at TriBeCa Performing Arts Center (April 6, 8 p.m.). The latest installment of the TriBeCa Performing Arts Center's Highlights in Jazz series features a double bill: the neo-traditional vocalist and banjoist Cynthia Sayer's Joyride Band, and the straight-ahead vocalist René Marie. Ms. Sayer was a founding member of Woody Allen's Dixieland jazz band; when playing with her own group, she sings New Orleans standards with a blend of theatricality and nonchalance. Ms. Marie found jazz stardom late in her career, and her ambitions — as a composer and a performer — seem to multiply with each passing year. A sensualist and an instigator, she's at her best when building intrigue at a low simmer. 212-220-1460, tribecapac.org

NATE WOOLEY at Ibeam Brooklyn (April 3, 9:30 p.m.). Mr. Wooley is a fleet and adaptable trumpeter, but left to his own devices, he likes to eliminate almost any sense of movement or calculation. In his music for solo trumpet and electronics, sound becomes a multipartite substance, hard to visualize but easy to get lost inside. At this show, he will perform without accompaniment, perhaps continuing the series of solo works he has been recording in a continuing collection titled "Syllables."

646-456-6532, ibeambrooklyn.com