

CHRISTIAN McBRIDE

Carolyn and Bill Powers Creative Chair for Jazz

Celebrating 20 years in the music industry, Philadelphia native Christian McBride is widely recognized as one of the most original American musicians to emerge from the jazz scene. A Grammy Award-winning virtuoso of the acoustic and electric bass, he is acclaimed as an accomplished composer and arranger whose collaborations as a bassist read like a "who's who" of quintessential artists of our time. McBride has been featured on more than 250 recordings, and composed nearly 40 musical works along with dozens of arrangements.

McBride began his tenure as the Carolyn and Bill Powers Creative Chair for Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association in 2006. Working with the organization year-round, McBride oversees jazz programming at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl, building upon the Philharmonic's presence in the musical community as a leading presenter of jazz.

Since McBride's inaugural 2006 season as Creative Chair for Jazz, the Hollywood Bowl has been home to stellar performances by jazz greats Herbie Hancock, George Benson, Al Jarreau, James Brown, Al Green, Isaac Hayes, Nancy Wilson, B.B. King, Chris Botti, Wynton Marsalis, Etta James, Jamie Cullum, George Benson and more. The Jazz series at Walt Disney Concert Hall has featured Wynton Marsalis, Pat Metheny, Brad Mehldau, McCoy Tyner, Charles Mingus' Epitaph Orchestra, Bobby McFerrin, Wayne Shorter, Dave Brubeck and others, as well as the premiere of McBride's own "The Movement Revisited," a musical tribute dedicated to the civil rights movement.

During the 2006 season at the Hollywood Bowl, McBride fulfilled a lifelong dream – he performed with the "Godfather of Soul" James Brown, and led the big band backing Brown for a special performance of his 1969 jazz album *Soul on Top*. McBride said of performing with one of his musical idols, "Doesn't get any better than that."

"As Creative Chair for Jazz for the LA Phil, I'm able to fulfill many artistic visions I would not have been able to pursue elsewhere as well as build upon the LA Phil's commitment to presenting the finest musicians in two of the world's most iconic venues – Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl." says McBride. "I'm very excited about furthering this tradition of music excellence, and presenting exciting programs to future audiences."

Christian McBride's talent as a player is only half of what makes him such a respected, in-demand and incredible busy individual. The portrait is completed by a mere mid-thirty-something man whose capacity and willingness to contribute to the music community seems endless.

In keeping with his feverish pace, 2008 was a banner year for McBride. He was signed with Mack Avenue Records and assembled a new quintet, "Christian McBride and Inside Straight" for his next studio recording. There will also be another studio recording quickly following the "Inside Straight" release, *Conversations With Christian*, a progressive series of 20 duets featuring Angelique Kidjo, Chick Corea, Eddie Palmeiri, George Duke, Roy Hargrove and Regina Carter, among many others. As a spin-off from the *Conversations...* CD, McBride's first radio show, "The Lowdown: Conversations with Christian," is set to be broadcast on Sirius/XM radio. McBride also completed back-to-back artistic directorships for the Detroit and Monterey Jazz festivals. On top of all this, he joined Chick Corea and John McLaughlin's "Five Peace Band" for both European and U.S. tours.

Throughout his remarkable career, McBride has toured or recorded with artists as varied as Freddie Hubbard, Joe Henderson, Sting, McCoy Tyner, Don Henley, George Benson, Queen Latifah, Chris Botti, Dave Brubeck, Natalie Cole, George Duke, Bruce Hornsby, Benny Golson, Johnny Griffin, Herbie Hancock, Roy Hargrove, Isaac Hayes, Bobby Hutcherson, Al Jarreau, Chaka Khan, Diana Krall, Abbey Lincoln, Willie Nelson, Pat Metheny, Joshua Redman, David Sanborn, Carly Simon and many more. His solo recordings include *Live at Tonic* (Rope-a-Dope), *Vertical Vision* (Warner Brothers), *The Philadelphia Experiment* (Rope-a-Dope), *Sci-Fi* (Verve), *A Family Affair* (Verve), *Number Two Express* (Verve) and *Gettin' to It* (Verve).

McBride continues to fulfill his career-long dedication to making jazz accessible to young people as both the co-director of The Jazz Museum in Harlem and Artistic Director of the Jazz Aspen Snowmass Summer Program. He also plays an integral role in several of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association's education and community programs, including neighborhood concerts, master classes, and Toyota Symphonies for Youth performances.

There have been very few artists who truly embody the genuine, heart-felt passion for music in all areas as has Christian McBride. By boldly continuing to leave his mark in areas of musical performance, composition, education and advocacy, he is destined to be a force in music for decades to come.