

Jazz Icons

Jon
Faddis



Feb 1
at 4pm
Trinity
Church

JON FADDIS, trumpet
ANDREW LATONA, guitar
KIYOSHI KITAGAWA, bass
DION PARSON, drums

 Trinity
Church

A Parish in the
City of New York

Photo: ©Lauren Deutsch

JON FADDIS

trumpet



Jon Faddis is a complete and consummate musician – conductor, composer, and educator. Marked by both intense integrity and humor, Faddis earned accolades from his close friend and mentor John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie, who declared of Faddis, “He’s the best ever, including me!” As a trumpeter, Faddis possesses a virtually unparalleled range and full command of his instrument, making the practically impossible seem effortless.

Born in 1953, Faddis began playing at age seven, inspired by an appearance by Louis Armstrong on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Bill Catalano (an alumnus of the Stan Kenton band) hipped Faddis to the music of Dizzy Gillespie, and when he met Gillespie at the Monterey Jazz Festival and then sat in with him at the Jazz Workshop in San Francisco, it proved the pivotal beginning of a unique friendship that spanned almost three decades. Two days before Faddis’s 18th birthday, he joined Lionel Hampton’s band as a featured soloist, moving from Oakland, California, to New York. Shortly after arriving in Manhattan, Faddis was invited to sit in with the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra at the Village Vanguard, and he soon became lead trumpeter for the band, touring the world. He subsequently formed his own quartet and began directing orchestras, including the Grammy-winning United Nation Orchestra, the Dizzy Gillespie 70th Birthday Big Band, the Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble (2004-2010), the Carnegie Hall Centennial Big Band, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band (1992-2002), and the Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra of New York (2003-present). Faddis has also served as guest conductor and featured guest with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Faddis’s distinctive trumpet appears on hundreds of records and

ANDREW LATONA

guitar



Andrew Latona captivates audiences with his spirited performance and soulful stylings. Whether in a famous club, classroom, concert hall, or private party, Latona shares his passion for music and people. He has played at notable New York City venues including Birdland, Blue Note, Smalls Jazz Club, Mezzrow, Smoke Jazz Club, and Dizzy’s Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center; the famous Washington, DC, venues Blues Alley Jazz and Bohemian Cavern; Jazz at Lincoln Center Shanghai, where he has been featured twice: once with his trio in a three-week

residency and most recently as a featured member of Jon Faddis’s NextGen Quartet; The Jazz Forum in Tarrytown, New York; and the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival. Latona has also worked with, Paul Carr, Jazzmeia Horn, Julius

numerous soundtracks for film and television. His original compositions include the jazz opera *Lulu Noire* (1997, a “Top 10” pick by *USA Today*); other Faddis compositions can be heard on his Grammy-nominated *Remembrances* (Chesky, 1998), *Hornucopia* (Epic, 1991), *Into the Faddisphere* (Epic, 1989), and *TERANGA* (Koch, 2006).

Faddis is known as one of the most innovative and inspiring jazz trumpeters of our time. He has an unfailing commitment to the education of young musicians and frequently conducts clinics and master classes to prepare the next generation. In Chicago, Faddis served as the Jazz Institute of Chicago’s first mentor for the Jazz Links program and also created the Louis Armstrong Legacy Program. He is a full-time faculty member at the Conservatory of Music, Purchase College-SUNY, where he began in 1999 as artist-in-residence, becoming shortly after professor and director of Jazz Performance. Faddis is also on the faculty of Manhattan School of Music, which he attended for about a semester as a student when he was 18 and which, decades later, awarded him an honorary doctorate. He is also the recipient of numerous other accolades and awards.

Whatever the context — classroom or concert hall — and whatever the style, Jon Faddis epitomizes the best in jazz.

Rodriguez Trio, and many more.

In addition to performing, Latona teaches jazz at The Calhoun School in New York and Jazz Academy of Music in Maryland, as well as master classes at the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival and private lessons.

Latona grew up in the Silver Spring area outside Washington, DC, steeped in gospel, jazz, and go-go music. He received his bachelor of fine arts at SUNY Purchase, where he studied with the late Vic Juris. He currently resides in Brooklyn with his brother, Christopher Latona (jazz drummer and pianist), and they co-lead their own group, The Latona Brothers, paying homage to the experiences that have shaped their musical journeys.

KIYOSHI KITAGAWA

bass



Bassist and composer Kiyoshi Kitagawa is a central figure in the international jazz community. Born in Osaka, Japan, in 1958, he began studying guitar at age 14 before switching to acoustic bass at 19. Performing extensively in the Kansai region, Kitagawa quickly earned a reputation as one of Japan’s most in-demand bassists. In 1988, he relocated to New York City, where he soon met drummer Winard Harper at a Blue Note jam session and joined the Harper Brothers.

In 1989, Kitagawa appeared with the group at the Village Vanguard, resulting in the acclaimed recording *Remembrance: Live at the Village Vanguard*. That same year, he began working with vocalist Andy Bey. By the early 1990s, Kitagawa had firmly established himself on the New York jazz scene, touring and recording with artists such as Kenny Garrett, Brian Blade, and the Jimmy Heath Quartet, with whom he worked for more than a decade. In 1993, on the recommendation of legendary drummer Ben Riley, he joined

the Kenny Barron Trio, a collaboration that continues to this day.

Kitagawa’s extensive résumé includes performances and recordings with Tommy Flanagan, Mulgrew Miller, Cedar Walton, Gary Bartz, Eddie Henderson, Steve Nelson, Lewis Nash, Jeff “Tain” Watts, and the Maria Schneider Orchestra, among many others. His discography spans dozens of notable recordings, including albums with Kenny Barron, Kenny Garrett, Andy Bey, Terell Stafford, Makoto Ozone, and Jon Faddis.

As a leader, Kitagawa has released several acclaimed albums, including *Ancestry*, *Prayer*, and *I’m Still Here*, as well as solo bass recordings that explore the full expressive range of the instrument. He currently resides in Brooklyn and remains active as a performer, composer, and bandleader.

DION PARSON

guitar



Dion Parson is an educator, composer, and one of New York’s finest Grammy Award-winning drummers. Born in 1967 on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Parson builds on a musical foundation reflecting a wide-ranging palette of influences, including classical, reggae, calypso, jazz, African, and pop traditions. He began his musical training on trombone before discovering a deeper passion for drums at age 15. A grant from the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts allowed him to study at Interlochen Arts Academy, and he was later

selected to represent the USVI in the McDonald’s All-American High School Band.

Parson earned a bachelor’s degree in music education from Rutgers University in 1990, studying with Keith Copeland and William Moersch, and completed a master’s in jazz performance in 2012. He also studied extensively with his mentor and master drummer Michael Carvin. After relocating to New York City, Parson quickly established himself as a first-call drummer, performing with an extraordinary range of artists including Milt Jackson, Monty Alexander, Jon Faddis, Geri Allen, Lee

Konitz, Dianne Reeves, Wyckiffe Gordon, Cyrus Chestnut, Terell Stafford, Marcus Printup, Ron Blake, and Wynton Marsalis. He has toured internationally throughout Asia, Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, and the Middle East, and has recorded for major labels including Blue Note, Verve, Concord, Columbia, Sony, Enja, Koch, and Gramavision.

In 1998, Parson co-founded 21st Century Band with saxophonist Ron Blake, blending jazz with the rhythmic traditions of the U.S. Virgin Islands and helping to define Caribbean jazz through acclaimed recordings and performances at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Deeply committed to education and community engagement, Parson is the founder and president of United Jazz Foundation (UJF), a nonprofit dedicated to mentoring and educating young musicians, particularly in the U.S. Virgin Islands. He currently serves as chair of the Communication and Performing Arts Department and director of music at the University of the Virgin Islands.

Trinity Church is grateful to **JAZZ HOUSE KiDS** for their leadership in the jazz community, and it's our honor to collaborate with the JAZZ HOUSE, now in its 22nd year, to offer students free instruction from professional musicians.

Together, we are thrilled to present **Jazz Icons**, a cornerstone of our shared mission to raise the profile of the uniquely American art form.

Curated by Artistic Director Christian McBride and President and founder Melissa Walker.



To learn more about our summer program at Trinity, **Jazz in July**, visit jazzhousekids.org/programs/nyc/summer/ and for more information about JHK, visit jazzhousekids.org.

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