

JAZZ & BLUES

MARCH 2020



F L O R I D A

FEATURE: JAZZ ARTIST

SPANISH HARLEM ORCHESTRA



BLUES ARTISTS

JAMES HARMAN • SCOTT HOLT
ROBBIN KAPSALIS & VINTAGE 18 • LITTLE FREDDIE KING
PAM TAYLOR • BRAD VICKERS & HIS VESTAPOLITANS

JAZZ ARTISTS

AARON DIEHL • JAZZMEIA HORN • GRACE KELLY
YOKO MIWA • TERELL STAFFORD • ERNIE WATTS

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF ROBERT DOGAN

OSCAR HERNANDEZ – 21st

MARCH 28
SOUTH MIAMI DADE
CULTURAL ARTS
CENTER
CUTLER BAY

MARCH 29
PARKER PLAYHOUSE
FORT LAUDERDALE

He's a Latin Jazz master and four-time Grammy winner. Oscar Hernandez is a modern Mambo King who cut his teeth in New York's '70s and '80s salsa scene.

He has performed with the giants of his genre: Machito, Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Ray Barreto and Ruben Blades, to name just a few. The veteran pianist, composer, arranger and bandleader has also worked with Broadway musicals. He produced the score for Paul Simon's *The Capeman* in 1998 and, more

recently, he was responsible for the arrangements and orchestration of *On Your Feet*, the Gloria and Emilio Estefan story.

But Hernandez is best known for creating and leading what is arguably the most innovative Latin jazz and salsa band of these times, the three-time Grammy-winning Spanish Harlem Orchestra. The 13-member ensemble was born with a new century. In the year 2000, record producer Aaron Levinson approached Hernandez about assembling and recording a new band that would honor New York's "salsa dura" or hardcore tradition of the 1960s and 1970s, yet infuse it with modern jazz elements.

The result was *Un Gran Día en el Barrio* (A Great Day in the Neighborhood), Spanish Harlem's 2002 debut album, which was nominated for a Grammy and won a Latin Billboard Award.

Just two years later, Spanish Harlem's second release, *Across 110th Street*, won the band its first Grammy. The album, featuring guest vocalist and Panamanian actor and salsa legend Ruben Blades, has become a cult favorite. The band picked up two more Grammys: 2007 for *United We Swing*, with singer-songwriter Paul Simon on one of its tracks, and 2019 for *Anniversary*, a nod to the band's 15 years in the music business.

Now 17 and going strong, Spanish Harlem Orchestra is known for its unique blend of fiery street salsa and high quality musicianship. Five of its six recordings are Grammy-nominated. Behind the band's success is Hernandez's vision and musical background. He was first turned onto the Latin beat growing up in a Puerto Rican family in the South Bronx, the youngest of 11 siblings. Latin rhythms provided the soundtrack of his surroundings.

"It was the music of the social fabric, of what was happening culturally in the City of New York," Hernandez says. "Don't forget that in the '70s, when I grew up, the cultural revolution of Latinos was happening in NYC and a big part of that cultural revolution was music."

Hernandez joined the revolution as a young teenager. He was 14 when he started playing piano – a gift from a family friend. At first, he played the piano by ear, but later learned to



T CENTURY MAMBO KING

read music at the local boys' club and took some formal lessons.

By age 18, Hernandez was a full-time musician playing at local clubs with some of the most revered salsa musicians of the day. He later earned a bachelor's degree in music from City University of New York. But what he learned on the inner-city club circuit has remained invaluable to this day.

"The education that I got as a young musician in the City of New York, playing with the most incredible musicians of this music – you couldn't pay for that in the best university, it did not exist," Hernandez says. "I got to play with some great musicians at an early age and that made me the musician who I am today."

Who Hernandez is today has much to do with Spanish Harlem Orchestra's staying power. He

is adamant about the importance of preserving the history and legacy of big-band salsa, a sound that was birthed in New York's Latino communities, like Spanish or East Harlem – and adding the highest quality jazz arrangements and orchestration. "A lot has to do with our approach and concept of the music, keeping the past alive, but also adding the present and the future," he says.

Fans and newbies can expect sizzling performances – past, present and future – when Spanish Harlem Orchestra takes the South Florida stage at the end of March. Everyone can understand the universal power of this music, Hernandez says. "I guarantee they are going to walk out shaking their head like they've seen a great show." More at spanishharlemorchestra.com.



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Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

Pam Taylor

The Flyin' V's is the latest project created by the award-winning songstress and guitarist Pam Taylor, who has previously traveled the world solo, with nothing but the guitar on her back. While she is known for her explosive and exciting live performances, her innovative songwriting and masterful releases have garnered many awards. Her debut record *Hot Mess* hit No. 1 on the Roots Music Report, No. 3 on Sirius XM BB Kings Bluesville, and No. 25 on the Living Blues Charts. After being mentored on guitar by legendary blueswoman Debbie Davies, Taylor formed the roots duo Stolen Hearts and released the album *Dirty Southern Soul* in 2015. Then Taylor's 2017 record *Steal Your Heart* earned her a coveted spot on Blues Rock Review's Top 20 List for that year. With over a decade of experience playing major festivals, touring internationally, and her social media presence, Taylor is setting the music scene on fire with her refreshing interpretations of modern blues and roots music, touring as a super duo, power trio and quartet. She is also a Staff Writer for *Virtuosity Worldwide Magazine*. She's opened for the likes of Tommy Castro and Shooter Jennings, and served as band director and guitarist for the all-women house band for the Women in Blues Showcase at the IBC. Her cover of The Animals classic "House of the Rising Sun" is featured in the new award-winning independent short film *Fate Alchemy*. Look for new music from Taylor in 2020. More at pamtaylormusic.com.



MARCH 4
ENGLEWOODS
ON DEARBORN
ENGLEWOOD

MARCH 6
LITTLE BAR
GOODLAND

MARCH 7
JDUB'S BREWING
SARASOTA

MARCH 13
BONITA
BLUES FEST
BONITA SPRINGS

MARCH 15
HIGH DIVE
GAINESVILLE

MARCH 16
SEVILLE QUARTER
PENSACOLA

MARCH 20-21
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—Blues Magazine, 10/1/19

"THEY ARE VERY, VERY GOOD. THAT'S WHY I KEEP HAVING THEM BACK!"
—Blues Magazine, 10/1/19

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MARCH 10	ENGLEWOOD	ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN
MARCH 11	THE VILLAGES	ROHAN CENTER
MARCH 12	SARASOTA	BLUE ROOSTER
MARCH 13	JENSEN BEACH	TAKO TIKI
MARCH 14	FT PIERCE	PIERCED CIDERWORKS
MARCH 15	BONITA SPRINGS	CENTER BAR
MARCH 17	DUNN BLUES	FOUR & FIFTH BIERHAUS
MARCH 18	BRADENTON	BRADENTON WOMENS CLUB
MARCH 19	FORT MYERS	THE BARREL ROOM
MARCH 21	SARASOTA	THE BLUE ROOSTER
MARCH 22	GOODLAND	THE LITTLE BAR
MARCH 24	ENGLEWOOD	ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN
MARCH 25	JUPITER	DOUBLE ROADS TAVERN
MARCH 27	TALLAHASSEE	BRADFORDVILLE BLUES CLUB

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SHARI PUERTO

MARCH 28 BACKYARD BLUESFEST
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APRIL 11 BACKYARD BLUESFEST
TERRY HANCK
GYPSY ELISE & THE ROYAL BLUES
TOMMY LEE COOK & THE HEATHENS W/PANACHE

APRIL 17
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Jam to Follow



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Guitar Workshop with
Tas Cru
Brad Vickers & His
Vestapolitans
Tas Cru & His Band
of Tortured Souls
Dustin Arbuckle &
the Damnations
Bill Wharton the
Sauce Boss
Joel DaSilva Band
Gabe Stillman Band
Eliza Neals &
the Narcotics

Jam to Follow

SUNDAY, MARCH 22:

Harmonica Workshop
with Harper
Deb Ryder Band
Harper & Midwest Kind
James Armstrong Band

Jam to Follow



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Aaron Diehl

MARCH 11
UF UPSTAGE
PHILIPS CENTER
GAINESVILLE

Classically-trained pianist and composer Aaron Diehl has made an indelible mark on the jazz world over the last 15 years.

While showing a rare affinity for early jazz and mid-20th century third-stream music, his latest evolution comes as he begins to tackle modern classical works, having performed George Gershwin's piano and orchestra works with the NY Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, LA Philharmonic, and Minnesota Orchestra. Diehl has collaborated with living masters ranging from jazz greats Wynton Marsalis and Benny Golson to 20th century classical titan Philip Glass. He has established himself as one of the preeminent interpreters of the Great American Songbook in his working trio and as musical director and arranger for the remarkable vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant. The *New York Times* jazz critics have extolled Diehl's "melodic precision, harmonic erudition, and elegant restraint." A graduate of Juilliard, Diehl was named the 2011 Cole Porter Fellow by American Pianists Association, in 2014 became the youngest ever Monterey Jazz Festival Commission Artist and has released two critically-acclaimed albums on the Mack Avenue Records label. He was the Music Director for Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2014-2015 New Orleans Songbook series and in 2017 participated in Jazz in July's The Art of Tatum, honoring one of his primary piano idols, Art Tatum. More at aarondiehl.com.

FROM A PHOTO BY MARIA JARZYNA



NATE NAJAR

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CHUCK REDD VIBRAPHONE
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MAY 3
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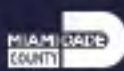


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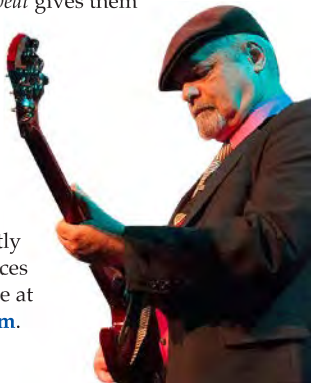
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Brad Vickers

Guitarist/songwriter Brad Vickers learned on the job – playing, recording and touring with America’s blues and roots masters including Pinetop Perkins, Jimmy Rogers, Hubert Sumlin, Bo Diddley, Chuck Berry, Odetta, Sleepy LaBeef and Rosco Gordon. Vickers cut his teeth backing these elder statesmen, and had the good fortune to play on Perkins’ Grammy-nominated discs, *Born in the Delta* (Telarc) and

Ladies’ Man (MC Records). Now Vickers’ own group, The Vestapolitans, offers a good-time, crowd-pleasing mix of blues and great American roots ‘n’ roll. Touring with their new CD *Twice As Nice*, they will be playing at some favorite Florida venues this month, along with a stop at the 2020 Blues Bash at the Ranch Festival on March 21. This recording session was *Twice As Nice* because, along with his great core band, Vickers called on some dear and terrifically talented friends. And this fresh batch of songs, while comprised mostly of originals, also features new interpretations of some blues classics. As always, Vickers celebrates the music that he loves, and the styles that have influenced him: blues, folk, jump, and “great American roots ‘n’ roll.” Past performances include the Bucks County Blues Picnic, Pennsylvania Blues Festival, the Easton PA Garlic Festival, and headlining the 2017 Thouars, France Blues Festival. All six Vestapolitans CDs have met with terrific reviews (*Downbeat* gives them four and a half stars), made many “Best Of” lists, and received broad radio play both nationally and internationally. Most importantly though, audiences love them! More at bradvickers.com.



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THE WARRIOR
ON THE RIVER
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– *SebastianDaily.com*



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- March 12 Therapy
- March 13 Seed (rock)
- March 15 Chris O'Leary Band
and The Nighthawks
- March 20 Johnny & the Blaze
- March 21 Pure Zeppelin Experience
- March 22 Blues Beatles
with opener Eliza Neals
- March 29 Rusty Wright Band

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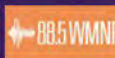
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MARCH 14
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PINECREST

Grace Kelly

An unequivocal musical prodigy, singer-saxophonist-songwriter-composer and band leader Grace Kelly has rocked the jazz world with sold-out concerts, 13 acclaimed albums and a resumé that includes performing at the Hollywood Bowl and as part of the house band for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* – all before reaching her mid-twenties. Kelly's early career featured performances at Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration at age 16 and at 14 as a soloist with the Boston Pops playing an original composition arranged for the legendary orchestra. She has since then played over 900 shows as bandleader in 35 countries. Touted for her scorching saxophone stylings and purring vocals, Kelly has performed and recorded with renowned artists such as Lin Manuel-Miranda, Dave Brubeck, Harry Connick Jr. and Wynton Marsalis. Winner of "Song of the Year" for her single "Feels Like Home" in the 2018 John Lennon Songwriting Contest, Kelly has also won multiple ASCAP Composer Awards, Boston Music Awards, Downbeat Music Awards and International Songwriting Awards. She has also appeared as a featured performer in films and television. Featured by *Vanity Fair* as a millennial shaking up the jazz world, Kelly's state-of-the-art brand of electro jazz-pop and inventive digital content are pushing her to the forefront of the fusion scene. Kelly is currently captivating audiences with songs from her latest album *GO TIME: Live in LA*: her 13th CD and the third video album in the *GO TIME* series. The new release continues Kelly's innovative video album concept for fans while highlighting her charismatic stage presence. More at gracekellymusic.com.



FROM A PHOTO BY PASHA REEB

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Rohan Reid



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BLUES FEST
BONITA SPRINGS

MARCH 16
JAM GUEST
FUNKY BISCUIT
BOCA RATON

Robbin Kapsalis and Vintage #18

Hard-driving blues rhythms and soul grooves fuel the blistering performance of Washington, D.C.-based soul/blues band Robbin Kapsalis and Vintage#18. Performing together since 2013, the band (Kapsalis/ vocals, Bill Holter/ guitar, Mark Chandler/ bass, Alex Kuldell/ drums) sharpened their sound and performance

chops in clubs throughout D.C., Maryland and Virginia. In 2016, they represented the Central Virginia Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge, and immediately afterward began working on their debut release *Grit*. The self-produced album reflects the band's love of classic 1960s soul and blues, featuring a mix of originals as well as two interesting covers (ZZ Top's "Just Got Back From Baby's" and Bob Dylan's "Million Miles"). *Grit* debuted at No. 5 on the Roots Music Report's Soul Blues Albums Chart and held the No. 1 spot for six consecutive weeks, and also Hit the Top 20 on RMR's Blues Albums Chart. The band received their first industry nod in early 2017 - a Blues Blast Music Award Nomination for New Artist Album Debut - and continues to open for such national acts as Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, Albert Cummings, Selwyn Birchwood, Roomful of Blues, Duke Robillard and Vanessa Collier. By taking cues from past groups from Motown and Stax, they made sure the sound, the look, and the stage presence are always on point. The Nighthawks' Mark Wenner says, "Robbin is a whirlwind of soulful excitement backed by one of the tightest trios in the trade." More at vintage18.net.



March 13 - 14th, 2020 14th Annual

Friday March 13

Damon Fowler & Friends

with special guest

Jonathan Long

Honey Island

Swamp Band

Tennessee Redemption

featuring

Brandon Santini

& Jeff Jensen

Pam Taylor & The Flying Vs

David Julia Band

Bonita Blues
FESTIVAL

Saturday March 14

Little Freddie King

James Harman

JP Soars'

Gypsy Blue Revue

featuring Jason Ricci

and Anne Harris

Tas Cru & His Band

of Tortured Souls

Robbin Kapsalis

and Vintage #18

McKinley James

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Sunday Blues & Bloodys

Hurricane Ruth & Scott Holt

Reverend Raven & the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys

featuring Westside Andy

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MARCH 13
HEIDI'S
COCOA BEACH

Ernie Watts

You've probably heard Ernie Watts. This versatile, prolific and distinctive saxophone player has performed with artists from Cannonball Adderley to Frank Zappa, produced over 500 recordings, and received two Grammys. In 2014, he received the coveted Frankfurt Music Prize -- one of only six jazz musicians who've received this honor. Watts was Guest of Honor at the 2015 Telluride Jazz Festival, and at Jazz at the Kennedy Center in 2016. By age 16 Watts was a featured soloist with the Delaware Symphony, but learning jazz by ear. His discipline and natural talent won him a Downbeat Scholarship in saxophone to Boston's Berklee College of Music. And when Buddy Rich's Big Band suddenly needed an alto saxophonist when they came through Boston on tour, Watts got the gig. He stayed for two years, three albums, and a tour of the globe before moving on to work in other big bands, and a recording session with Thelonious Monk for *Monk's Blues*. Soon the Watts signature sound made its way into TV and film studios, most of the early West Coast Motown sessions, and into pop music by Aretha Franklin, Glenn Frey and Steely Dan. Never losing his love of acoustic jazz, he also had his own jazz group, and played live every week. Watts toured Japan and Brazil in Pat Metheny's Special Quartet, then joined bandmate Charlie Haden's group, the storied Quartet West.

Since in 2004, Watts has released nine albums with his quartets on his own Flying Dolphin Records, the latest of which is 2018's *Home Light*. More at erniewatts.com.



SPANISH HARLEM ORCHESTRA

"They make you get up and dance, tap into the good-natured, communal spirit characteristic of salsa at its timeless best."

- LOS ANGELES TIMES



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Internationally acclaimed pianist/composer Yoko Miwa is one of the most powerful and compelling performers on the scene today.

Her trio's 2019 CD, *Keep Talkin'*, received four stars from *DownBeat* and enjoyed seven weeks on Jazz Week's Top 10.

A favorite of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Miwa also appears regularly at New York's famed Blue Note Jazz Club and has performed and/or recorded with a wide range of jazz greats.

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MARCH 2020

- | | |
|----------|--|
| SAT 3/14 | Twisted Tail – Philadelphia PA |
| WED 3/18 | Englewood's – Englewood FL |
| THU 3/19 | Dunedin Brewery – Dunedin FL |
| FRI 3/20 | Blue Rooster – Sarasota FL |
| SAT 3/21 | BLUES BASH at the RANCH
– Brooksville FL |
| SUN 3/22 | Aviva Concert – Sarasota FL |
| WED 3/25 | Awendaw Green – Awendaw SC |
| THU 3/26 | Irregardless Café – Raleigh NC |
| SAT 3/28 | Cary Street Café – Richmond VA |
| SUN 3/29 | JV's – Falls Church VA |

www.BradVickers.com



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MARCH 14
BONITA BLUES
BLUES FEST
BONITA SPRINGS

James Harman

As a young boy, James Harman was singing in his local church choir and taking piano lessons at age four. Harmonicas owned by his father were stored in the piano bench, and Harman played them after his lessons ended. In 1962, he relocated to Panama City, Florida, and after spending a couple of years playing in an assortment of R&B bands, Harman recorded the first of nine early singles. He worked as a blues harmonica player and singer in Chicago, New York City and elsewhere before moving to southern California in the 1970s. There, his Icehouse Blues Band played alongside names like John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters and B. B. King. In 1977 he formed the James Harman Band. Over the years the band's lineup has included Phil Alvin and Bill Bateman, who left in 1978 to form the Blasters; Gene Taylor, who departed in 1981 to join the Blasters before moving on to the Fabulous Thunderbirds; and Kid Ramos. A number of songs by this Alabama Music Hall of Fame inductee have been used in films and on television, including "Kiss of Fire" from the movie *The Accused*. 2015's *Bonetime*, his first studio album in over 12 years, garnered five Blues Music Awards nominations. Of the time lapse, Harmon says, "I just stayed so busy, touring 29 countries, that I didn't really have time to address a new release." The latest CD by ZZTop's first-call harp man, *Fineprint*, was released in 2018. Find him on [Facebook](#).



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Soon after earning her degree from New York's famed New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, Dallas-born Jazz-

meia Horn began performing alongside such musicians as Billy Harper, Ellis and Delfeayo Marsalis, and Vincent Herring. Horn's talents quickly brought her to the stages of top jazz festivals and legendary jazz clubs including The Apollo, The Blue Note, and The Jazz Standard. Her accolades include Downbeat Student Music Award Recipient 2008 and 2009, and Best Vocal Jazz Soloist Winner 2010; The 2013 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Program at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.; The Rising Star Award at the 2012 Sarah Vaughan International Vocal Jazz Competition; Finalist for 2014 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Vocal Competition; and 2015 16th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium's Young Lioness Award. In 2015 she won the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition, one of the most coveted awards a jazz musician can hope to attain. Currently, Horn is a teaching artist in The NJPAC Wells Fargo Jazz for Teens Program and Jazz In The Schools Program in Newark, New Jersey. She appears in various clubs on the jazz scene nationally and internationally leading her dynamic group The Artistry of Jazz Horn which

includes a pianist, bassist, drummer, saxophonist, poet, dancer... and herself as vocalist. Her second and most recent album, 2019's *Love & Liberation*, contained four covers and eight originals, and received Grammy and NAACP Image Award nominations, among other accolades. More at concord.com.

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Scott Holt

MARCH 15
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BONITA SPRINGS

After beginning his musical journey at 19 years old, Scott Holt's career was fast-tracked by his friend and mentor Buddy Guy just one year later. Holt was at Guy's side for a decade, including performing on the Grammy-winning *Slippin' In* and two appearances on Austin City Limits. His seven solo records have established Holt not only as a six-string virtuoso but also as a penetrating and soulful storyteller. The spirituality of music is an important aspect of who Scott is as an artist. "Music is a unique language that transcends borders and barriers," he explains. "It transcends cultures and customs and allows us to communicate with each other at the level of our hearts instead of our minds. My goal, as an artist, is not only to entertain but also to enlighten and inspire." Holt recently worked with Foghat, co-writing and recording the band's latest release *Under the Influence*, as well as singing on two tracks. While working on the project with drummer/founding member Roger Earl and guitarist Bryan Bassett, the three formed another band. Earl & the Agitators released a self-titled EP in 2017 and the album *Shaken & Stirred* in 2018. Holt has recorded and/or performed with B.B. King, Albert Collins, Junior Wells, John Lee Hooker, Eric Clapton, Carlos Santana, Eric Johnson, David Bowie, Joe Louis Walker and Larry Coryell, among others. His TV appearances include *The Tonight Show*, *Austin City Limits*, *Good Morning America* and many others. More at scottholt.com.



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MARCH 27
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Yoko Miwa

The latest CD from internationally acclaimed pianist/composer Yoko Miwa and her trio, 2019's *Keep Talkin'*, showcases Miwa's fine playing and artful compositions, and the trio's uncanny telepathy and infectious energy. *DownBeat* gave the recording four stars, calling it "a beautifully constructed album," while *JazzTimes* praised Miwa's "jaw-dropping degree of technique." The album spent seven weeks in the top 10 on Jazz Week's charts, much like its predecessor, 2017's *Pathways*, which peaked at No. 6. For the past decade Miwa's trio has played regularly at major jazz clubs in their home city of Boston, as well as venues around the world. A favorite of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Miwa appears regularly at New York's famed Blue Note Jazz Club and has performed and/or recorded with a wide range of jazz greats including Slide Hampton, Arturo Sandoval, Jon Faddis, and Esperanza Spalding. Miwa studied at the Koyo Conservatory in Kobe. From there she won first prize in a scholarship competition to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston (where she is currently an Assistant Professor, teaching at all levels). Soon Miwa began playing with a host of talented students and teachers, and formed a strong bond with vocal great Kevin Mahogany, who chose the pianist to serve as accompanist in his classes and on his gigs. Over the last two decades, Miwa and her cohorts have worked constantly. Eight highly acclaimed CDs later, Miwa was named 2019 Boston Music Awards Jazz Artist of the Year. This will be her Florida debut concert. More at yokomiwa.com.



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