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JAZZ MASTERS PIANIST KENNY BARRON AND BASSIST DAVE HOLLAND RETURN TO SYMPHONY CENTER JAZZ SERIES

Guitarists Julian Lage and Chris Eldridge Open Double Bill of Duos

December 5 at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO--The 2014/15 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series offers a double bill of musical duos as it welcomes jazz masters Kenny Barron and Dave Holland and acclaimed, genre-crossing guitarists Julian Lage and Chris Eldridge for a double bill on Friday, December 5 at 8 p.m. The evening highlights new material from Barron and Holland’s 2014 recording project *The Art of Conversation*, which covers a mix of old standards and new compositions, and Lage and Eldridge’s recent album *Avalon*, which features a range of all-American instrumentals from musical genres including Bluegrass, traditional spirituals, jazz, and classic country music. Holland has been a regular on the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series since 2003 performing in solo appearances and those with his Overtone Quartet, Herbie Hancock and others. Barron returns to Symphony Center for the first time since his 2003 debut with the Classical Jazz Quartet. Lage and Eldridge make their SCP jazz series debut in this performance.

Barron and Holland, who began their musical collaborations in the mid-1980s, have performed as a jazz duo across Europe and the U.S since 2012. Their December 5 appearance includes selections from their new release, which features four original songs by bassist/composer Holland, as well as covers of classic jazz tunes by Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington. Barron, who was tapped by trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie to be his pianist in his quartet during the heyday of jazz’s bebop era in the 1960s, is known for his lyrical piano style. The influential jazz pianist is also known for a series of critically-acclaimed collaborations with legendary saxophonist Stan Getz. British double bassist Dave Holland has been a jazz innovator for more than four decades. From his early work with iconic trumpeter Miles Davis to his groundbreaking sessions with his own quintet and big band, as well as musical explorations with jazz legends including Herbie Hancock, Betty Carter Bill Frisell, Chick Corea and others, Holland is one of today’s most inventive jazz musicians.
Guitarists Chris Eldridge and Julian Lage offer a set from the acoustic duo’s first full-length album of original compositions, *Avalon*, as well their debut EP album *Close To Picture*, which illustrates the breadth of the American Songbook. Eldridge has been on the acoustic music scene for several decades as part of his two-time Grammy-nominated band the Punch Brothers, while Lage is following up his Grammy-nominated solo debut CD *Sounding Point*, with a second album: *Gladwell*.

The Symphony Center Presents Jazz Series is sponsored by Exelon

**Program and Ticket Details**

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Jazz series concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000**; online at [cso.org](http://cso.org), or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

**Discounted student** tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

**Symphony Center Presents Jazz Series**

Friday, December 5 at 8 p.m.

Kenny Barron, Piano
Dave Holland, Bass

Julian Lage, Guitar
Chris Eldridge, Guitar

Tickets: $28-89

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**About Kenny Barron**

Honored by The National Endowment for the Arts as a 2010 Jazz Master and a member of the American Jazz Hall of Fame, pianist Kenny Barron has an unmatched ability to mesmerize audiences with his elegant playing, sensitive melodies and infectious rhythms. *The Los Angeles Times* named him "one of the top jazz pianists in the world" and *Jazz Weekly* calls him "The most lyrical piano player of our time."

Barron was born in 1943 in Philadelphia. While still a teenager, he started playing professionally with Mel Melvin’s orchestra. This local band also featured Barron’s brother Bill, the late tenor saxophonist. In the 1960’s Barron was tapped by the legendary trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie to join his band and went on in the 1970’s to successful stints with other jazz luminaries including Stanley Turrentine, Milt Jackson and Yusef Lateef.

Barron went on to collaborate and tour with the great tenor saxophonist Stan Getz and co-founded the quartet Sphere in the 1980’s, along with Buster Williams, Ben Riley and Charlie Rouse. The quartet focused on the music of Thelonious Monk and original compositions inspired by him and released a number of critically-acclaimed recordings including *Four for All* and *Bird Songs*. 
In 2008, Barron released *The Traveler* featuring original compositions performed by vocalists Grady Tate, Anne Hampton Calloway and Gretchen Parlato. After a successful musical meeting of the minds with bassist Dave Holland, the two jazz masters decided to collaborate on a duet project, *The Art of Conversation*, released in 2014 on Impulse/Universal records.

**About Dave Holland**

Born in Wolverhampton, England in 1946, double bassist and composer Dave Holland shifted seamlessly between jazz traditions from the beginning. While still in his native country, he collaborated with forward-thinking peers like saxophonists Jon Surman and Evan Parker and pianists Chris McGregor and John Taylor while also playing with more traditional jazz artists such as saxophonists Tubby Hayes and Ronnie Scott. It was while playing at Scott’s storied Soho jazz club in 1968 that Holland was spotted by Miles Davis. The legendary trumpeter immediately hired the young bassist for his groundbreaking electric ensemble that would go on to release the cutting edge recording *Bitches Brew*.

After leaving Davis’ group, Holland embarked on his solo career with his first release, *Conference of the Birds* in 1973, marking the beginning of several key relationships: with ECM and fellow jazz innovators Anthony Braxton, Barry Altschul and Sam Rivers, who joined him on the album. The 1970s also marked his explorations with the avant-garde quartet Circle which included Chick Corea, Braxton and Altschul. In 2013, Holland celebrated 40 years since his landmark ECM release by launching a new electric band Prism, featuring Kevin Eubanks, pianist Craig Taborn and drummer Eric Harland.

Holland is also recognized for his critically-acclaimed quintet and big-band, both of which were founded in the 1990s. The big band’s recordings on Holland’s own record label, Dare 2, *What Goes Around* (2002) and *Overtime* (2005) received Grammy Awards for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album.

A prolific sideman both in and outside of the jazz world, Holland has collaborated with rock and folk musicians including Bonnie Raitt, John Hartford, and bluegrass legend Vassar Clements. In recent years, he has also returned to several duo projects with flamenco legend Pepi Habichuela and pianist Kenny Barron, with whom he released the acclaimed 2014 recording *The Art of Conversation*.

**About Julian Lage**

*Julian Lage* is an American guitarist, composer & arranger living in New York City. Often categorized as a jazz musician, his music is rooted in both traditional and acoustic forms. He was the subject of an Academy Award-nominated documentary *Jules at Eight*. Among others, Lage has collaborated with artists including Jim Hall, Mark O’Connor, Nels Cline, Chris Eldridge, Scott Colley and Antonio Sanchez.

In addition to recording with his own quintet, Lage has also recorded with Gary Burton, David Grisman, Eric Harland, Anthony Wilson, Martin Taylor, Joshua Bell and Yoko Ono. Lage’s album *Sounding Point* was nominated for a Best Contemporary Jazz album Grammy in 2010. His most recent duo album *Free Flying* with jazz pianist Fred Hersch received a coveted five-star review in *Down Beat* magazine. Lage’s latest project is the critically-acclaimed duo recording, *Avalon*, with fellow guitarist Chris Eldridge.

**About Chris Eldridge**

As a member of Punch Brothers since the band’s inception, guitarist *Chris Eldridge* has been at the vanguard of acoustic music for much of the past decade. Although initially drawn to the electric guitar, by his mid-teens Eldridge had developed a deep love for acoustic music, thanks in part to his father, a banjo player and founding member of the seminal bluegrass group The Seldom Scene.
Eldridge later gained in-depth exposure to a variety of different musical styles while studying at Oberlin Conservatory, where he earned a degree in music performance in 2004. During his time at Oberlin, Eldridge studied with legendary guitarist Tony Rice. After graduating he joined the Seldom Scene with whom he received a Grammy nomination in 2007. In 2005, he founded the critically-acclaimed bluegrass band The Infamous Stringdusters. At the 2007 International Bluegrass Music Association awards, Eldridge and his Stringdusters bandmates won Emerging Artist of the Year, Song of the Year, and Album of the Year for their debut album, *Fork in the Road*. Meanwhile, in 2005 he had caught the attention of mandolinist Chris Thile, who enlisted him, along with banjoist Noam Pikelny, violinist Gabe Witcher, and bassist Greg Garrison to start working on an ambitious side project. Soon after they decided to focus all of their collective energies into the band, and Punch Brothers was born. Punch Brothers has since released three critically-acclaimed albums, received two Grammy nominations and toured around the world. Eldridge has also worked with a diverse cast of musical luminaries including Paul Simon, Renée Fleming, John Paul Jones, Julian Lage, Marcus Mumford, Justin Timberlake, T-Bone Burnett, Jon Brion, Fiona Apple, Elvis Costello, Jerry Douglas, Sara Watkins, Del McCoury and others.

**About The Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://www.csosoundsandstories.org)

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Its music director since 2010 is Riccardo Muti, one of the preeminent conductors of our day. Pierre Boulez is the CSO’s Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus; Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO’s Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant. Mason Bates and Anna Clyne are the CSO’s Mead Composers-in-Residence.

From the baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast classical repertoire. The renowned musicians of the CSO annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally; since 1892, the CSO has made 57 international tours, performing in 28 countries on five continents.

Listeners around the globe enjoy weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT network and online at cso.org/Radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned a total of 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for the first recording Muti released with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Verdi’s *Messa da Requiem*.

The parent organization for the CSO is the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. It includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble. Through its Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, pop, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers a variety of community and education programs that engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, the CSO promotes the concept of Citizen Musicianship: using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by tens of thousands of volunteers; patrons; and corporate, foundation, government, and individual donors. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.