



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Jazz House Kids Presents *Inside the Jazz Note*™

***A Month-long Series of Intimate Conversations with Jazz Greats
at the Montclair Public Library***

***Series Finale: A Special Evening with Celebrated Guitarist Pat Metheny
The Ideas, Innovation of a Modern Jazz Icon at SOPAC***

April 8, 2008 – During the month of May, area residents and music lovers will have a unique opportunity to participate in intimate conversations and musical explorations with four internationally celebrated neighbors. Jazz House Kids, the Montclair, NJ- based jazz arts enrichment organization, launches its *Inside the Jazz Note*™ series at the Montclair Public Library on Thursday evenings at 7PM. Jazz guitarist and composer Pat Metheny closes the series on Tuesday, June 10th with a high school master class and live open discussion at the South Orange Performing Arts Center. “Exposing young people to great music is one of the most important things in the world,” said Metheny whose career in jazz includes 17 Grammy Awards.

“The *Inside the Jazz Note* series is a rare opportunity to examine the world of jazz through the eyes of the artists,” said Melissa Walker, Executive Director of Jazz House Kids and a Montclair resident. “Have you ever wondered what a great musician was listening to as a child? How their musical tastes and technique developed? Or have you daydreamed what it was like to play around the world with jazz, pop and rock music icons?”

Montclair Jazz Giants to Share Their Musical Memories and Influences

On four consecutive Thursday evenings in May from 7:00 – 9:00 pm a local jazz luminary will share his remembrances and influences in an intimate interview format followed by a Q & A session. The *Inside the Jazz Note* series will be held at the main branch of the Montclair Public Library, 50 South Fullerton Street and admission is free.

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SPEAKERS SCHEDULE:

- Thursday 5/1 **Norman Simmons** **Classic jazz pianist, composer and arranger**
7:00 – 9:00 pm With a career spanning six decades, Simmons has performed with many of the greatest jazz singers and pioneers of the music including Charlie Parker, Dexter Gordon, Carmen McRae and Joe Williams.
- 5/8 **Christian McBride** **Super bassist**
Genre buster and Grammy virtuoso of the bass, widely recognized as one of the most important musicians of his generation to emerge on the jazz scene with over 250 recordings and collaborations as a bassist that reads like a “who’s who” of quintessential artists.
- 5/15 **Billy Hart** **Innovative Jazz drummer and educator**
At home with Herbie Hancock, Stan Getz, or Pharoah Sanders, Hart has been a keystone in jazz history. One of the most in-demand drummers alive.
- 5/22 **Oliver Lake** **Saxophonist, artist and poet**
The definition of a Renaissance man- few artists embrace such a diverse array of musical styles and disciplines. Member of the famed Art Ensemble of Chicago.
- Tuesday 6/10 **Pat Metheny** **17-time Grammy winning, jazz guitarist & composer**
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Series Finale Features Master Class & Open Dialogue with Pat Metheny

The *Inside the Jazz Note* series culminates in two special events on Tuesday, June 10 featuring jazz guitarist and composer Pat Metheny. The first event is a master class open to high school jazz musicians. Later that evening, Metheny will be joined on stage with jazz bassist Christian McBride to discuss the ideas, innovations and insights that propelled him to the top of the jazz world. “When I was growing up around Kansas City, I was so lucky to be mentored by many of the best older musicians in town,” said Metheny. “I always felt like I learned how to play on the bandstand by being exposed to the goodwill of the players who took the time to talk to me and share their wisdom.” Both events will be held at the SOPAC, One Sopac Way, South Orange.

Participation in the high school master class is free, with a \$15 registration fee per school confirmed through a high school music teacher. Contact JHK at www.jazzhousekids.com or call 973-744-2273. Tickets for the *Inside the Jazz Note* discussion with Pat Metheny and Christian McBride can be reserved by contacting SOPAC at 973.275.1114 or www.sopacnow.org. Admission will range from \$25 - \$65. VIP tickets will be invited post-program artist reception. All proceeds will benefit JHK’s music education programs.

About Jazz House Kids

JHK is a jazz arts enrichment organization that delivers innovative programs to schools examining the musical, historical, geographical, social and cultural influences that form the foundation of jazz. Utilizing an interactive multi-media approach, JHK’s programming helps boost achievement across the curriculum and an appreciation for American’s original art form – jazz.