

MARC COPLAND – JOHN ABERCROMBIE – DREW GRESS – JOEY BARON



"We keep on saying it...what a magnificent touch, what mysterious beauty in his harmonic choices, what fresh surprises from this subtle lord of the modern piano."
--Jazzman/France (2012)

Perhaps the most prolific pianist of the millenium, Copland has recorded over 22 cds as a leader during this last decade.

In 2004 he began working exclusively with Pirouet records, making the acclaimed "New York Trio Series," which solidified his position as an innovator on his instrument. Volume III of the series, "Night Whispers," was hailed by Down Beat as "the strongest top to bottom and most poetic album I've heard in a while," and in a later issue was



"Anybody who's got ears can hear the beautiful integrity of his improvisations, and how incredibly well he plays the electric guitar. Right now, he's playing better than he ever has." --John Scofield

John Abercrombie's maiden New York City appearance in 1970 with Dreams, a jazz-rock group led by Michael and Randy Brecker, created a sensation. Since then, in a career spanning more than 40 years and nearly 50 albums, John has established himself as one the masters of jazz guitar-- a restless experimenter, working firmly in the jazz tradition while pushing the boundaries of meter and harmony.

One of the most influential acoustic and electric guitarists, his



"Relentlessly creative.. ---NY Times "A gifted bassist--reminiscent of LaFaro yet altogether personal...his own music and bands are as remarkable as those of the heavyweights he plays with. "---All About Jazz

Bassist/composer Drew Gress performs extensively with artists on the cutting edge of contemporary improvised music. He may not be the busiest bassist ever ("I don't think so, man. What about Ron Carter?", the bassist comments wryly), but he's probably playing somewhere tonight.

His project *7 Black Butterflies* (Premonition Records), featured 9 of Drew's original compositions and was released in MAY 2005. This was the follow up to 2001's



"Combining technical acuity with a deep sense of groove, Joey Baron drums with playful exuberance."
--allaboutjazz.com

Born June 26, 1955 in in Richmond, Virginia, drummer Joey Baron, largely self-taught, has over the years developed a unique approach to making music with the drum set. He's well known for his work with Bill Frisell (a 10-year stint), John Abercrombie (9 years and counting), Ron Carter, Jim Hall, Lee Konitz, , Steve Kuhn, and John Zorn.

An active leader, Joey's *Down Home* (part of the Songline/Tone Field series on Intuition) features all southern R&B flavored originals

<p>listed as one of the best cds of the decade. More followed: another solo CD, "Alone;" a duet CD with longtime partner Gary Peacock; the all-star quintet Contact's "Five on One;" and a reunion with partner Greg Osby in quartet with Doug Weiss and Victor Lewis, "Crosstalk." Each release was hailed by the press. Copland continues to enthrall audiences in solo, duo, trio, quartet, and quintet.</p> <p>His recordings since 2000 with several European labels brought him to a wider audience, including the breakout trio disc "Haunted Heart" and a solo excursion, "Time Within Time," that included not only musical compositions but also poetry by the pianist.</p> <p>His career as a leader began in the 80s, in trio with Gary Peacock and Billy Hart (At Night/Sunnyside, Paradiso/Soul Note) In the nineties, his reputation spread owing to three legendary recordings with the Savoy label, which put him on the road in an All-Star quintet (Randy Brecker, Bob Berg, and Dennis Chambers), and later in a quartet with Abercrombie, Drew Gress, and drummer Hart.</p>	<p>recordings for ECM have helped define that label's progressive chamber-jazz reputation. While jazz-based, his style also displays a more-than-passing familiarity with forms that range from folk and rock to Eastern and Western art musics.</p> <p>Abercrombie began his career touring with organist Johnny Hammond. He then met the Brecker Brothers, who invited him to join and record with their breakthrough group, Dreams.</p> <p>In 1971 he moved to New York, joining Copland in drummer Chico Hamilton's band, and soon became one of the most in-demand session musicians. He recorded with Gil Evans, Gato Barbieri, and Billy Cobham, with whom began attracting widespread attention among the general public.</p> <p>Manfred Eicher invited him to record an album for ECM, The result was <i>Timeless</i>, on which he was joined by Jan Hammer and Jack DeJohnette. It received virtually unanimous critical acclaim. Decades of successful recordings for the label followed-- <i>Gateway</i> (DeJohnette and Dave Holland), quartets, trios, organ trios, and duets with guitarist Ralph Towner.</p>	<p><i>Spin and Drift</i>, which received widespread critical acclaim and also featured Drew's pedal-steel guitar playing. He also leads the quartet Jagged Sky; their debut recording, <i>Heyday</i> (Soul Note) was released in 1998 and is now considered somewhat of an underground classic. Previously, he was a founding member of the cooperative quartet Joint Venture, producing three albums in the early 1990s for Enja: <i>Joint Venture</i>, <i>Ways</i>, and <i>Mirrors</i>.</p> <p>Gress has been a member of Marc Copland's trios for over a decade, lending his stunning sense of accompaniment and prodigious soloistic technique to the pianist's recordings and concerts.</p> <p>Drew can be heard within those of Ralph Alessi, Tim Berne, Uri Caine, Bill Carrothers, Gerald Cleaver, Ravi Coltrane, Marc Copland, Fred Hersch, John Hollenbeck, Tony Malaby, and Mat Maneri.</p> <p>He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, and Chamber Music America.</p>	<p>played by an all star band of Ron Carter, Arthur Blythe and Bill Frisell. He also leads his own trio "Barondown", with Ellery Eskelin (tenor) and Steve Swell (trombone), which has recorded three albums - <i>Crackshot</i> (Avant), <i>Raised Pleasure Dot</i> (New World) and <i>Tongue in Groove</i> (JMT). He has led the "Down Home Group" and "Killer Joey." He collaborates with percussionist Robyn Schulkowsky (<i>Dinosaur Dances</i> CD). He co-leads the group "Miniature" (with Tim Berne and Hank Roberts) and was a member of "Naked City" (Zorn, Frisell, Fred Frith and Wayne Horvitz).</p> <p>Joey has the uncanny ability to make everybody sound better. The breadth of his "worked with" credits speaks for itself: the Los Angeles Philharmonic, David Bowie, Tony Bennett, Carmen McRae, Laurie Anderson, John Scofield, Al Jarreau, Jim Hall, Eric Vloeimans, Dizzy Gillespie, Art Pepper, Tim Berne, the Lounge Lizards, Chet Baker, Jay McShann, Big Joe Turner, Philip Glass, Pat Martino, Sweets Edison, David Sanborn, Al Jarreau, Randy Brecker, and Marian McPartland.</p>
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