



# Fred Hersch, piano and Julian Lage, guitar

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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The relentlessly probing pianist/composer Fred Hersch opens undiscovered doors while exploring the jazz tradition to its fullest, appearing on more than 100 recordings. Grammy-nominated guitar prodigy and composer/arranger Julian Lage distills guitar traditions from pre-bop swing to bluegrass. This duo takes co-improvisation to new heights.

## FRED HERSCH, PIANO

As a solo pianist, composer, bandleader, and theatrical conceptualist, Fred Hersch is “singular among the trailblazers of their art, a largely unsung innovator of this borderless, individualistic jazz — a jazz for the 21st century” (*The New York Times*). With three dozen recordings as leader/co-leader, awards include a 2003 Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship and being named Jazz Pianist of the Year 2011 by the Jazz Journalists Association. He is the first artist in the history of New York’s legendary Village Vanguard to play weeklong engagements as a solo pianist.

With eight Grammy nominations, he is among the most admired of contemporary jazz musicians, collaborating with an astonishing range of instrumentalists and vocalists throughout jazz (Joe Henderson, Charlie Haden, Art Farmer, Stan Getz, Bill Frisell), classical (Renée Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, Christopher O’Riley) and Broadway (Audra McDonald). Dubbed by *Vanity Fair* as “the most arrestingly innovative pianist in jazz over the last decade,” he has influenced a new generation of pianists. The leader of a celebrated trio whose *Floating* received two 2014 Grammy nominations, he placed as the #3 jazz pianist in the 2015 *Downbeat* Critics Poll. In 2011, Hersch mounted the ambitious production *My Coma Dreams* — a critically-acclaimed full-evening multimedia work available on DVD. His newest release, *Fred Hersch SOLO*, has received rave reviews: *All About Jazz* says, “When it comes to the art of solo piano in jazz, there are currently two classes of performers: Fred Hersch and everybody else.”

## JULIAN LAGE, GUITAR

At age 27, Julian Lage already boasts a résumé that an artist twice his age would be proud to claim. A guitar child prodigy (the subject of the documentary *Jules at Eight*), he has collaborated with such giants as Gary Burton, Jim Hall, David Grisman, Béla Fleck, and Charles Lloyd. He has released three albums as a leader, including the solo outing *World’s Fair* and duos with Wilco guitarist Nels Cline and Punch Brothers guitarist Chris Eldridge.

With his new trio featuring bassist Scott Colley and drummer Kenny Wollesen, Lage is positioned to help move the music forward. He describes the trio’s forthcoming album, *Arclight*, as a “collection of originals and pre-bebop-era songs.” Setting anchor in New York has afforded him the freedom to pursue his music in multiple directions simultaneously. “There’s a camaraderie here and it takes the pressure off of you,” he says. “People here are open-minded, very forward-thinking. So even if you say, ‘Hey, I’m a jazz guitar player, but I like to play country music too,’ they say, ‘Cool, go for it!’ I’ve always felt privileged to be able to do this.”