



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

THE FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER PRESENTS THE JAZZ FAURÉ PROJECT

French Impressionism Meets American Jazz

Music for Exhibitions concert at The Frick Art Museum
on April 14, 2009

Pittsburgh, PA, April 6, 2009—On Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., the Frick Art & Historical Center presents the final concert in its 2008 – 2009 *Music for Exhibitions* concert series. In *French Impressionism Meets American Jazz*, the exciting **Jazz Fauré Project** enlivens audience experience of the exhibition, *Road to Impressionism: Barbizon Landscapes from the Walters Art Museum*, on view at The Frick Art Museum from February 7 through May 24, 2009.

Employing a distinctly American musical form to interpret themes from *The Road to Impressionism: Barbizon Landscapes from the Walters Art Museum*, the Chicago-based Jazz Fauré Project will present a program of songs by French composer Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924), who is regarded as the master of the French art song or *mélodie*. Reflecting the evocative scenes of French life in impressionist paintings, Fauré set the poetry of the time to his own haunting melodies. Fauré’s musical style influenced many of the twentieth-century composers who came after him.

Members of the **Jazz Fauré Project** include **Bobby Schiff** (piano), **Sean Harris** and **Claudia Hommel** (vocals), **Jerry DiMuzio** (saxophone, clarinet and flute), **Tim Davis** (drums), and **Jim Cox** (bass). Together they bring the luscious turn-of-the-century art songs by Gabriel Fauré into the medium of jazz and popular song. Fauré's original vocal line is treated with velvety warmth and snappy joie de vivre by two vocalists, while the arrangements for jazz quartet rest comfortably on Fauré's harmonic progressions. Gorgeous mini-masterpieces, including *Lydia*, *Mai*, *Clair de lune*, *Après un rêve*, and *Mandoline*, enjoy a rendezvous with bossa nova, blues, swing, and Latin rhythms.

Born in Paris, France, and raised in Detroit, vocalist **Claudia Hommel** founded the Jazz Fauré Project in 2005. She has led an active career as a theatrical singer in clubs, recital halls, museums, libraries, and theatres from New York City to California. Hommel is best known for her cabaret concerts of French and American songs celebrating Paris, and her repertoire encompasses French chanson, American standards, nineteenth- and twentieth-century art songs, and theatre music. Her clear and beautiful voice, ranging from lyrical to gutsy, adds to her considerable appeal. A favorite from the Club at Chicago Symphony Center to the Musée de Montmartre, Claudia Hommel has been described as a "bit of Audrey Hepburn, with something of Ginger Rogers, Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier and . . . Air Jordan."

An extraordinary singer with a rich and varied voice and repertoire, **Sean Harris** has a firm commitment to conveying his songs to each member of the audience. His vocal range spans lyric baritone to lyric tenor, countertenor, and soprano falsetto, and his eclectic influences include Mario Lanza, Johnny Mathis, Minnie Riperton, and Ella Fitzgerald. He received his bachelor's degree in music performance from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Sean has performed at the Civic Opera House for the Silent Sound (an annual event celebrating the achievements of people with disabilities) and recitals at the Auditorium Theatre, the Chicago Cultural Center and more.

Composer, arranger, conductor, producer, **Bobby Schiff** is one of Chicago's premiere jazz pianists. His formal training at an early age in classical performance and composition laid the

groundwork for a professional career that began in college. While there, he began a deep exploration of Gabriel Fauré's chamber music, an interest that brings him happily to the Jazz Fauré Project today. On the Chicago and Los Angeles music scenes for over 35 years, Bobby Schiff has led orchestras and bands, performed on piano and keyboards and directed, composed and arranged for and with the best. Mel Tormé, Peggy Lee, Bobby Rydell, and Ruth Pointer are just a few of the premiere entertainers and musicians with whom he has worked.

Bass player **Jim Cox** grew up in Champaign, Illinois, where he began playing cornet, electric bass and double bass. He attended the University of Illinois in Urbana and graduated in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in music performance on the double bass. Soon after graduating, he toured with Pittsburgh great Earl "Fatha" Hines for three years. Between tours, he began settling in Chicago, where he has since worked as a full-time musician. Jim has worked with numerous notable jazz artists, including Judy Roberts, Johnny Frigo, Red Rodney, Randy Brecker, Rosemary Clooney, Michael Feinstein, and Elaine Elias. For the last 15 years, he has worked regularly with famed pianist Marian McPartland. Jim's extensive discography of over 100 CDs includes projects in a wide range of musical styles including jazz, bluegrass, klezmer, folk, cabaret, and pop. He is currently teaching at Lake Forest College.

Jerry DiMuzio, on clarinet, sax and flute, has been active in the Chicago music scene for over 25 years. His accomplishments include touring with Frank Sinatra in the United States, Canada and Europe; performing at the Kennedy Center for the annual Honors Awards every December; and playing on over 1,000 television and radio commercials and in numerous hit Broadway shows. He has toured with Ray Charles, Woody Herman, Frank Sinatra, Jr., and the Glenn Miller Orchestra. Jerry has made several appearances on the Chicago Jazz Festival stage and at jazz festivals in Sweden, Denmark and Italy. He teaches saxophone, clarinet and flute at Roosevelt University in Chicago and combo instruction at New Trier High School.

Drummer **Tim Davis** hails from Kansas City, Missouri, where he was one of the city's most active drummers until moving to Chicago in 1992. He has worked with a who's who of jazz, including the Nat Adderly Quintet, Mose Allison and Herb Ellis. He provides the drums for many Chicago jazz artists including Steve Million, Jim Gailloreto, Dennis Luxion, and Jeremy

Kahn, and is resident drummer for the Chicago Human Rhythm Project. Davis can be heard on a number of CDs, with Curtis Fuller, Bob Lark and the Steve Million Trio, and live from the Green Mill with Mike Jones. An alumnus of the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory of Music, Tim has taught there, at the Charlie Parker Academy for the Performing Arts, and at Concordia University.

Ticket Information and Parking

French Impressionism Meets American Jazz is the third and final concert in the 2008–2009 *Music for Exhibitions* series of concert performances designed to take listeners on a musical journey through The Frick Art Museum's temporary exhibitions.

- Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in The Frick Art Museum auditorium;
- Exhibition galleries are open for viewing beginning at 6:30 p.m.;
- A Meet-the-Artists reception follows the concert;
- Tickets are \$18 for Frick members and students; \$23 for non-members and guests.
- Advance reservations are recommended due to limited seating; call 412-371-0600.

The Frick Art & Historical Center is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Point Breeze. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot, or along adjacent neighborhood streets. For more information, please call 412-371-0600, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday, or visit the Frick's website at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For further information or images, please contact Greg Langel at the Frick Art & Historical Center at 412-371-0600, ext. 524, or by email at GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org

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The Frick Art & Historical Center, a museum, historic site and cultural center with a mission to serve the public through preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the fine and decorative arts and historically significant artifacts for all residents of and visitors to Western Pennsylvania.