

More About The Jeff Denson Trio + Lee Konitz

"...sparklingtantalizing..." – *New York Times*

"Besides making elegant use of Konitz's alto, the groups music is richly textured and often wonderfully evocative, a celebration of cultural diversity and thematic exploration." – *Washington Post*

"...defies easy characterization...effective, evocative..." – *DownBeat*

Jeff Denson (double bass/vocals)

Today, the art of jazz expression and the world of formal education are fully intertwined, both demanding powerful commitment. Pursuing both is immensely challenging. Jeff Denson is meeting that challenge.

Fully immersed in both worlds since the late 1990s, the bassist/composer has balanced a full career as both an acclaimed performing musician and a highly respected educator. Currently leading or co-leading four distinct ensembles, Jeff has toured extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe with both his own groups – including the renowned cooperative trio Minsarah – and as a sideman with some of jazz's finest artists, such as Anthony Davis, Mark Dresser, Joe Lovano, Jane Ira Bloom, Kenny Werner, Dave Douglas and an ongoing relationship with the legendary Lee Konitz since 2007.

Each season, Jeff will select an outstanding featured guest for some special performances with the Trio. For the 2014/2015 season that guest will be the legendary alto saxophonist Lee Konitz. Jeff has performed with Lee since 2007 and has been a member of Lee Konitz New Quartet, the only permanent group that the eminent saxophonist has ever led.

Lee Konitz (alto saxophone/vocals)

The preeminent altoist associated with the "cool" school of jazz, Lee Konitz was one of the few saxophonists of his generation to forge a unique sound largely independent of the influence of Charlie Parker. In the late 1940s, Konitz began his career with the Claude Thornhill band and came into contact with Miles Davis, with whom he worked on the legendary Birth of the Cool sessions. Konitz is perhaps best known through his association with Lennie Tristano, under whose influence much of his sound evolved, and for his work with Stan Kenton and Warne Marsh. His recordings have ranged from cool bop to experimental improvisation and have appeared on such labels as Prestige, Atlantic, Verve, and Polydor.

Dan Zemelman (piano)

Dan began piano at age 5, playing classical music. He developed a passion for jazz in early adulthood and then studied with Richard Davis at the University of

Wisconsin/Madison and received the award as '*Best Jazz Artist*' there in 1996. In 1998 as part of the Kennedy Center's prestigious *Jazz Ambassadors* program, he toured India and Sri Lanka courtesy of the US State Department representing America's jazz tradition through teaching and performances. Dan is an in-demand jazz pianist in the bay area and currently plays regularly with San Francisco musicians Marcus Shelby, Mads Tolling, and Adam Theis, as well as his own quartet headlining at Yoshi's (Oakland) three times. Dan has performed at major jazz festivals including The San Jose Jazz Festival, The San Francisco Jazz Festival, The Fillmore Jazz Festival and more. He is also a rotating faculty member at Jazzcamp West, the Berkeley Jazzschool and Lafayette Jazzcamp. Dan recorded on blues legend John Lee Hooker's last studio album in 2004 and toured with daughter Zakiya Hooker.

Jon Arkin (drums)

His drumming style has been sought out as much for his versatility as for his uniqueness. A believer in the power of listening, grooving, dynamic balance, and attunement, his collaborators attest to his ability to suit the music of the moment. Spanning three decades, his list of recording credits includes dozens of albums and guest appearances in a wide variety of genres, as he maintains an active recording schedule as a studio musician. He has also established himself as a noted educator, teaching unique classes, workshops, clinics and lessons.