

**SONOKLECT '98-'99**

*A Concert Series of Twentieth-Century Music*  
Terry Vosbein, Director

*Peter Erskine*  
&  
*The Lounge Art Ensemble*

Washington and Lee University  
Keller Theatre • 8 p.m. • 26 September 1998

# PROGRAM

Set One



Set Two



**Peter Erskine** began playing the drums at the age of four and has now been at the forefront of world-class jazz ensembles for twenty-six years. His first major professional work was with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, which he joined in 1972. After a three-year stint with Kenton and a two-year stay with Maynard Ferguson, he joined Weather Report in 1978. The excellence of the partnership between Erskine and bassist Jaco Pastorius was an integral part of that group's success. Following his four years in Weather Report (having recorded five albums with them including the Grammy Award winning *8:30*), he began to play with Michael Brecker, Mike Mainieri and Eddie Gomez in the group Steps Ahead. His other touring and recording credits (300 albums) include Steely Dan, Chick Corea, Joe Henderson, Freddie Hubbard, Gary Burton and Pat Metheny, Joni Mitchell, The Boston Pops Orchestra, Ralph Towner, Sadao Watanabe, Hubert Laws, Vanessa Williams, Al DiMeola, Elaine Elias, Miroslav Vitous and Jan Garbarek, Ensemble Modern, as well as *Bass Desires* (with John Scofield, Bill Frisell and Marc Johnson), the John Abercrombie Trio, Pino Daniele, the Kenny Wheeler Quintet and Big Band, the Bob Mintzer Big Band, in addition to his own groups.

Peter has recorded ten solo albums: *Peter Erskine*, *Transition*, *Motion Poet*, *Sweet Soul*, *Big Theatre*, and his ECM recordings *You Never Know*, *Time Being*, *As It Is* and *Juni* as well as *History of the Drum* on Interworld Music, and *From Kenton to Now* on his own label, FUZZY MUSIC. His latest playing ventures include his "piano trio" with Alan Pasqua, and The Lounge Art Ensemble; their new CD *Lava Jazz* was released in November '97.

Besides touring and recording, Peter is now pursuing new avenues in his career by composing for dance, theatre and animation. He has completed musical scores for Shakespeare's *King Richard II* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the latter being honored by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle with the award for the "Best Original Score 1987." His music for The American Conservatory Theatre's production of *Twelfth Night* was awarded by the Bay Area Drama Critics' Circle as the "Best Dramatic Score for 1989." His most recent works for this medium are *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Yield of the Long Bond*, and the dance piece *History of the Drum - Transitions in Rhythm*, written expressly for the Kokuma Dance Company of Birmingham, England. In addition he has scored animation productions for the USA, Malaysia and Japan (including the hit 'anime' video series *Gun Smith Cats*). He is now the composer of music for the Simon & Schuster books-on-audio series *Alien Voices*, starring Leonard Nimoy and John deLancie of *Star Trek* fame.

Erskine is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, and studied percussion with George Gaber at Indiana University. His own pedagogical efforts include three instructional videos, a performance video titled *Peter Erskine Trio/Live at JazzBaltica* (Hal Leonard Corp.) as well as two drum instruction books, the most recent book titled, *The Drum Perspective*, also published by the Hal Leonard Corp. A collection of Peter's compositions has just been published in France for worldwide distribution, titled, *My Book*. Peter conducts clinics, classes and seminars worldwide. He has won Modern Drummer Magazine Readers' Poll in the Mainstream Jazz Drummer category five times, and was awarded an honorary Doctorate Degree from the Berklee College of Music.

Peter is 43 years old and makes his home in Southern California with his wife Mutsuko and their two children.



**The Lounge Art Ensemble**, which consists of Bob Sheppard (saxophones), Dave Carpenter (electric and acoustic bass) and Peter Erskine (drums), is dedicated to playing Modern American Music in the horn trio format. This exploratory yet musically ace band is comprised of three of the finest jazz musicians anywhere and it plays old tunes. Only these evergreens are outfitted with brand spanking new melodies, and invigorating chord changes as well; this idea goes back to bebop when Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, among others, did the same thing.

It fits right in that the Lounge Art Ensemble originated in one of the true jazz lounges in Southern California, Chadney's in Burbank. Chadney's is a comfy, relaxed restaurant-bar that sits right across the street from the NBC Studios and offers no-cover jazz of generally high quality six nights a week. As Sheppard says, "with its red naugahyde booths, Chadney's is the epitome of lounges."

The musicians each regard the others highly. Erskine on Carpenter: "He plays great bass lines and is a wonderful soloist." Carpenter on Sheppard: "He's the most distinctive voice on saxophone on the West Coast." Sheppard on Erskine: "One of the greatest jazz drummers. He makes arrangements on the spot, and has an amazing swing feel."

It takes these kind of simpatico partners to make the horn trio format (which Erskine calls "the most open of all jazz group combinations") work. "Guys have to have that sensitivity to make up other stuff, make up their own parts to create interest," says Shep. These guys can do it.

Their debut recording on Fuzzy Music, *Lava Jazz*, offers another superlative view of the saxophone-bass-drums trio, one of the most exciting and full-of-potential ensembles in modern jazz. Peter Erskine, Bob Sheppard and Dave Carpenter have definitely fulfilled that potential, delivering a series of performances that will enliven the ears of jazz fans . . . These players are worth hearing.

**Bob Sheppard**, a remarkably fluent and impressive modern-minded jazzman, hails from Trenton, New Jersey, and holds an MA from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. He has long called Los Angeles his home and has been consistently employed in the city's TV/film/recording studios for two decades. He has played on the sound tracks of over 75 feature films, from *Goodfellas* to *Forrest Gump*. TV shows include episodes of *Seinfeld*, *Chicago Hope*, and *Saturday Night Live*. Many pop stars, among them Rickie Lee Jones and Steely Dan, have utilized his talents. Despite his success in the studios, his first love is jazz. He's remained active in it, either making albums with such artists as Billy Childs or as a leader ("Tell Tale Signs" on Windham Hill) or performing live. He's played with Freddie Hubbard, Childs and Lyle Mays, and is currently a member of guitarist Mike Stern's quartet and Chick Corea's new band.

**Dave Carpenter** is from Dayton, Ohio, and calls himself primarily a jazz player; well he should, given his supple walking lines and stunning, fleet-fingered solo work, either on upright or electric bass. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, Carpenter had long associations with Buddy Rich, Maynard Ferguson and Woody Herman. In Southern California, Carp has become a top call bassist, working on albums or in live performance with saxophonists David Sanborn and Lanny Morgan, pianists Michel Legrand and Roger Kellaway, clarinetist Eddie Daniels, and band leader Bill Holman, to name just a few. Extremely versatile, Carpenter also works in the pop field, appearing and/or recording with Liza Minnelli, Al Jarreau, Bernie Taupin, Celine Dion, Ringo Starr, Boz Scaggs and Barry Manilow. He's currently touring with Allan Holdsworth, and performed recently with Dave Grusin at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

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## 1998-99 SONOKLECT Season

### 26 September

**Jazz Drummer Peter Erskine & the Lounge Art Ensemble . . .** consisting of saxophonist Bob Sheppard and bassist Dave Carpenter, and dedicated to playing Modern American Music in the horn trio format.

### 14 November

**Flute Virtuoso Robert Dick . . .** more than any other composer/performer today, he has achieved international recognition for his creation of a rich new musical language for his instrument.

### 23 January

**GHOSTS!! . . .** is a musical theater work for solo singer, puppets, masks and synthesizer in two acts, composed and performed by Michael Kallstrom.

### 13 March

**Tromba Due . . .** is a unique artistic collaboration between two of the finest trumpeters actively involved in chamber music today, David Spencer and Ryan Anthony.