

CHAN CENTRE

presents

SUN NOV 19 / 7 PM

Abdullah Ibrahim



Canada

Abdullah Ibrahim

Abdullah Ibrahim, South Africa's most distinguished pianist, was born in Cape Town. The young "Dollar Brand," as he became known early on, was exposed to American jazz, township jive, Cape Malay music, and classical music. Out of this blend of the secular and the religious, the traditional and the modern, he developed his distinctive style and musical vocabulary. In 1963, Duke Ellington heard his band play, which led to a recording session in Paris: Duke Ellington presents the Dollar Brand Trio. Ibrahim's music was inseparable from the anti-apartheid movement in his native country; his 1974 recording, "Mannenberg – 'Is where it's happening'" was an unofficial national anthem for Black South Africans. At 88, he is a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master and among the great statesmen of culture. His groundbreaking ensemble is named Ekaya, the Zulu word for "Homeland."

Cleave Guyton

Cleave Guyton is a professional musician who plays the Saxophones, Flutes and Clarinet. He has been fortunate to have worked with artists such as: Aretha Franklin, Abdullah Ibrahim, Joe Henderson, Stanley Turrentine, Nat Adderley, Abby Lincoln, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Jon Hendricks, The Ray Charles Orchestra, Lionel Hampton, The Count Basie Orchestra, The Cab Calloway Orchestra, Little Jimmy Scott, Spike Lee, Joe Williams, LateNight with Conan O'Brien, Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Ronny Jordan, The Mingus Big Band, Cleo Laine and Chaka Khan. Mr. Guyton also has a master's degree in music from The Aaron Copland School of Music in New York City.

Noah Jackson

Noah Jackson is a GRAMMY-nominated bassist, cellist, composer, and curator from Detroit, Michigan. He has been a member of NEA Jazz Master Abdullah Ibrahim's ensemble Ekaya since 2010 and is a recipient of the *Creative Engagement* and *UMEZ* grants from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the State of New York. A graduate of Michigan State University (B.M.) under the direction of Rodney Whitaker, and Manhattan School of Music (M.M.) with Dr. Larry Ridley, Noah currently resides in Detroit, MI.

Nou Dadoun, pre-show speaker

The Lion in Winter: How Abdullah Ibrahim brought South African Jazz to the World

For many people, Abdullah Ibrahim embodies South African jazz. Mixing the songs of his Capetown childhood, the church music of his family and the popular music of the township with the influences of Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk, he produces a joyous sound which has remained distinctive throughout his career of over 70 years. Along the way, he played with The Jazz Epistles recording one of the first jazz albums in Africa, was discovered by Duke Ellington, wrote one of the anti-apartheid anthems in the struggle for a free South Africa, played for Nelson Mandela's inauguration, and brought his music to every corner of the globe.



In this pre-concert talk, we'll explore his background, his influences both musical and spiritual, and prepare for the magic of a recital by the only African musician to be named an NEA Jazz Master: the inimitable Abdullah Ibrahim.

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23/24 SEASON

"Melodic precision, harmonic erudition and elegant restraint."
- The New York Times



APR 19 Aaron Diehl

APR 7 Oumou Sangaré

APR 15 Rhiannon Giddens



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