

**Brad Mehldau Trio Headlines Jazz at the Logan Performing  
Tracks Off Recent Album *Blues and Ballads***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**

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**PHOTOS**

Please visit <http://bit.ly/2yLfr7H>

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**CHICAGO – On Friday, December 1, 2017, at 7:30 PM, in Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts**, acclaimed pianist **Brad Mehldau** and his Trio make a rare Chicago appearance. Their concert is part of the fifth season of **Jazz at the Logan**, the University of Chicago Presents' jazz series, which also celebrates the fifth anniversary of the Logan Center for the Arts.

A genre-bending artist fêted as much for his compositions as for his lush piano playing, Mehldau has collaborated with the biggest names in jazz and beyond, having worked and recorded with Pat Metheny, Joshua Redman, Wayne Shorter, and countless others. Pianists who came of age during Mehldau's rise—like Ethan Iverson and Gerald Clayton—have credited him as a major influence on their generation.

Mehldau's "state-of-the-art trio" (*The Daily Gazette*) comprises bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jeff Ballard. The group's 2016 release on Nonesuch, *Blues and Ballads*, riffs off tunes by songwriters like Cole Porter, Charlie Parker, Lennon & McCarthy, and Jon Brion. Its sold out Chicago performance revisits these tunes, "subjected to an old jazz method, but brought scintillatingly into the here and now" (*The Guardian*).

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**FRIDAY / DEC 1 / 7:30 PM / LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

***Brad Mehldau Trio***

Brad Mehldau, piano

Jeff Ballard, drums

Larry Grenadier, bass

*Selections to be announced from the stage.*

**CONCERT LOCATION**

Performance Hall, Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60637

## TICKETS

SOLD OUT – Limited tickets may be available at the door.

\$ 38 | \$20 under 35 | \$10 students

Call 773.702.ARTS (773.702.2787) or visit [tickets.uchicago.edu](http://tickets.uchicago.edu)

## BOX OFFICE

UChicago Arts Box Office, Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60<sup>th</sup> Street

Regular hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 12 pm – 6 pm and through concert intermission;

1 – 4 pm on concert Sundays.

Concert information online at [chicagopresents.uchicago.edu](http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu).

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## ABOUT BRAD MEHLDAU

Jazz pianist Brad Mehldau has recorded and performed extensively since the early 1990s. Mehldau's most consistent output over the years has taken place in the trio format. Starting in 1996, his group released a series of five records on Warner Bros. entitled *The Art of the Trio* (recently re-packaged and re-released as a five-disc box set by Nonesuch in late 2011).

During that same period, Mehldau also released a solo piano recording entitled *Elegiac Cycle*, and a record called *Places* that included both solo piano and trio songs. *Elegiac Cycle* and *Places* might be called “concept” albums made up exclusively of original material with central themes that hover over the compositions.

His first record for Nonesuch, *Brad Mehldau Live in Tokyo*, was released in September 2004. After ten rewarding years with Rossy playing in Mehldau's regular trio, drummer Jeff Ballard joined the band in 2005. The label released its first album from the Brad Mehldau Trio—*Day is Done*—on September 27, 2005. An exciting double live trio recording entitled *Brad Mehldau Trio Live* was released on March 25th, 2008 (Nonesuch) to critical acclaim. On March 16, 2010 Nonesuch released a double-disc of original work entitled *Highway Rider*, the highly anticipated follow up to *Largo*. The album was Mehldau's second collaboration with renowned producer Jon Brion and featured performances by Mehldau's trio—drummer Jeff Ballard and bassist Larry Grenadier—as well as percussionist Matt Chamberlain, saxophonist Joshua Redman, and a chamber orchestra led by Dan Coleman. In 2012 Nonesuch released an album of original songs from the Brad Mehldau Trio—*Ode*—the first from the trio since 2008's live Village Vanguard disc and the first studio trio recording since 2005's *Day is Done*. *Ode* went on to garner a Grammy-Nomination. Nonesuch released the Brad Mehldau Trio's *Where Do You Start*, a companion disc to the critically acclaimed *Ode*, in the fall of 2012. Whereas *Ode* featured 11 songs composed by Mehldau, *Where Do You Start* comprises the Trio's interpretations of 10 tunes by other composers, along with one Mehldau original. 2013 saw a number of collaborative tours including a duo tour with mandolin virtuoso Chris Thile, piano duets with Kevin Hays and a new electric project with prodigious drummer Mark Guiliana entitled “Mehliana.” *Mehliana: Taming the Dragon*, the debut release by Mehliana, was released in early 2014. In 2016, Nonesuch Records released the Brad Mehldau Trio's highly-anticipated *Blues and Ballads*—the ensemble's first new release since 2012's *Where Do You Start*—and the celebrated debut album of the Joshua Redman/Brad Mehldau

Duo, *Nearness*, featuring recordings from their 2011 European tour. Both albums have earned Grammy nominations for Mehdau. Mandolinist/singer Chris Thile joins Mehdau for their debut release in 2017: *Chris Thile & Brad Mehdau*.

Mehdau's musical personality forms a dichotomy. He is first and foremost an improviser, and greatly cherishes the surprise and wonder that can occur from a spontaneous musical idea that is expressed directly, in real time. But he also has a deep fascination for the formal architecture of music, and it informs everything he plays. In his most inspired playing, the actual structure of his musical thought serves as an expressive device. As he plays, he listens to how ideas unwind, and the order in which they reveal themselves. Each tune has a strongly felt narrative arch, whether it expresses itself in a beginning, an end, or something left intentionally open-ended. The two sides of Mehdau's personality—the improviser and the formalist—play off each other, and the effect is often something like controlled chaos.

In addition to his trio and solo projects, Mehdau has worked with a number of great jazz musicians, including a rewarding gig with saxophonist Joshua Redman's band for two years, recordings and concerts with Pat Metheny, Charlie Haden and Lee Konitz, and recording as a sideman with the likes of Michael Brecker, Wayne Shorter, John Scofield, and Charles Lloyd. For more than a decade, he has collaborated with several musicians and peers whom he respects greatly, including the guitarists Peter Bernstein and Kurt Rosenwinkel and tenor saxophonist Mark Turner.

Mehdau also has played on a number of recordings outside of the jazz idiom. He composed two new works commissioned by Carnegie Hall for voice and piano, *The Blue Estuaries* and *The Book of Hours: Love Poems to God*, which were performed in the spring of 2005 with the acclaimed classical soprano, Renee Fleming. These songs were recorded with Fleming and released in 2006 on the Love Sublime record. A 2008 Carnegie Hall commission for a cycle of seven love songs for Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter premiered in 2010. *Love Songs*, a double album that paired the newly commissioned song cycle, with a selection of French, American, English, and Swedish songs that Mehdau and von Otter performed together, was released in late 2010 (on the Naïve label) to unanimous praise. In 2013 Mehdau premiered and performed *Variations on a Melancholy Theme*, a large format orchestral piece which was performed with both Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Britten Sinfonia. Commissioned by Carnegie Hall, The Royal Conservatory of Music, The National Concert Hall, and Wigmore Hall with the support of Andre Hoffmann (president of the Fondation Hoffmann) in 2015, Mehdau's *Three Pieces After Bach* were inspired by selections from Johann Sebastian Bach's seminal work, *The Well-Tempered Clavier*.

Mehdau was appointed as curator of an annual four-concert jazz series at London's prestigious Wigmore Hall during its 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons, with Mehdau appearing in at least two of the four annual concerts. In late January 2010 Carnegie Hall announced the 2010-11 season-long residency by Mehdau as holder of the Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair at Carnegie Hall—the first jazz artist to hold this position since it was established in 1995. Previous holders include Louis Andriessen (2009–2010), Elliott Carter (2008–2009), and John Adams (2003–2007).

*Bio shortened for print. You can read the full bio at <http://www.bradmehdau.com/brad/>.*

## ABOUT UCHICAGO PRESENTS AND JAZZ AT THE LOGAN

Now in its 74<sup>th</sup> year of bringing the world's best artists to Chicago, The University of Chicago Presents offers 25 unique performances in six distinct series in the 2017/18 season, from early music to classical, contemporary, and jazz. This season celebrates the richness that music has to offer with unrivaled musical experiences that bring passion and virtuosity to the stage.

Jazz at the Logan is a series dedicated to building and enriching the jazz community. It exemplifies UChicago Presents' mission to increase community access to all types of music. Partnerships with Chicago organizations complement Jazz at the Logan's world-class jazz performances.

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