

Mechanics Hall

Where Community and Culture Meet

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Spring Brown Bag Concerts announced by Mechanics Hall and 90.5 WICN Public Radio *First free noontime concert is on March 8*

February 23, 2022 (Worcester, MA) — Mechanics Hall and 90.5 WICN Public Radio have announced the Spring 2023 schedule for their popular Brown Bag Concert Series. Now in its 37th season, the series includes four Wednesday noontime concerts in March, featuring a selection of artists that showcase a variety of jazz styles. The concerts include guitarist Steven Kirby on March 8; pianist Matt Savage on March 15; the Pamela Hines Trio on March 22; and guitarist Rory Stuart on March 29. All concerts are free to the public.

Produced by [90.5 WICN Public Radio](http://90.5WICN.org) and [Mechanics Hall](http://Mechanicshall.org), the Brown Bag Concert Series is held at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester. Concerts begin at noon and end promptly at 1:00 pm. Doors open at 11:30am. Cabaret-style seating in the Great Hall is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees are invited to bring their own “brown bag” lunch. Limited concessions are available for purchase. Brown Bag Concerts is broadcast live on 90.5 FM WICN Public Radio and streamed at wicn.org. Concerts are subject to change without notice. For more information, visit mechanicshall.org or call 508-752-5608.

The accessible entrance to Mechanics Hall is located on Waldo Street. Elevators are located in the ground-floor Waldo lobby and provide access to the second and third floors. There is no elevator access to the balcony. All concerts take place in the Great Hall on the third level. Those who need assistance can contact the Mechanics Hall Ticket Office, Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm, by calling 508-752-5608.

Brown Bag Concerts is sponsored by The Fred Harris Daniels Foundation and Mass Cultural Council.



Worcester County Mechanics Association

Mechanics Hall • 321 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608 • www.mechanicshall.org • 508.752.5608
Mechanics Hall is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit • Built in 1857 • National Register of Historic Places

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About the Artists:

More information is available on the Mechanics Hall [website](#).

March 8: Steven Kirby

Guitarist, composer, educator Steven Kirby is known for performing exciting, melodic, lyrical, and expressive jazz, as well as being active in other contemporary styles. He has appeared on multiple recordings, including three as a leader: “Point of Balance” and “North Light” with Challenge Records and “Illuminations” with WCS records. “Illuminations” was Downbeat Magazine’s “Editors Pick” and was included on the Grammy Nominations long list in four categories.

Kirby has performed and/or recorded with many of today’s most respected contemporary musicians including Chris Potter, Mike Manieri (Steps Ahead), Joe Lovano, Harvie S, Allan Holdsworth and others. He has toured in the U.S., Canada, Caribbean, Europe, China, and Africa. In addition, Kirby’s music has been played on over 100 radio stations in the US and internationally including features on National Public Radio’s “Here and Now”, “Jazz with Bob Parlocha,” and “Eric in the Evening.”

Kirby’s jazz compositions have won awards in the International Songwriting Competition, the Billboard Song Contest and Downbeat, and he has published articles in Guitar Player Magazine, Jazz Improv Magazine and others. He is currently an Associate Professor (Harmony and Jazz Composition Department) at Berklee College of Music and also teaches as Visiting Professor at Wellesley College. His instructional book, *Jazz Guitar Improvisation Strategies*, was published by Berklee Press and Hal Leonard in 2021. [Learn more about Steven Kirby](#).

March 15: Matt Savage

At the age of 30, Bösendorfer piano artist Matt Savage has already had a remarkable 20+ year professional career as a jazz musician, bandleader, and composer with ensembles of different size. He’s played with some of the biggest names in jazz, including Chick Corea, the Ellington All Stars, Chaka Khan, Wynton Marsalis, Bobby Watson, Clark Terry, Jimmy Heath, Jason Moran, Arturo O’Farrill, John Pizzarelli, Joshua Redman, Terri Lyne Carrington, Jon Faddis, Jerry Bergonzi and Donny McCaslin among others. He’s also opened for rock legends Neil Young and Stephen Stills, and has performed with Steve Earle, Jackson Browne, Shawn Colvin and Al Stewart. Along the way, he’s recorded twelve albums and an extended play record as a leader.

Savage has toured worldwide, including performances at The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Birdland, Blue Note (NYC), Bohemian Caverns, Smalls Jazz Club, The Town Hall, Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola, Scullers, the Jazz Standard, the Pantages Theatre, the Iridium, the Berklee BeanTown Jazz Festival, the



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Monterey Jazz Festival, Heineken Jazzaldia (Spain), the Costa Rica International Jazz Festival, the International VSA Arts Festival, the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, the Ottawa International Jazz Festival, the New Orleans Jazz Festival, the Earshot Jazz Festival, tours of Japan, China, India, Spain, Curacao, Aruba and Singapore.

Media appearances have included "Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz" and "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "The Late Show with David Letterman," the "Today" Show, ABC's "20/20," the Discovery Channel, BBC, and Telemundo TV. [Learn more about Matt Savage.](#)

March 22: Pamela Hines Trio

Pamela Hines is a prolific and consistent presence in American jazz as a pianist and composer. She has received national and international critical acclaim for her edgy instrumental compositions, as well as jazz originals. In 2000 she was a guest on "Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz" on National Public Radio (NPR). Her 2018 release, "Music of Richard Whiting," earned 4.5/5 stars and was a Top 10 of 2018 by Dan McClenaghan, on the website, "All About Jazz." In addition, three of her trio CDs have reached the top 20 on national radio charts and her all-original Christmas CD with vocalists made the national radio list in 2008.

In her 30+ year career, Hines has appeared at Scullers, Les Zygomates, Thelonious Monkfish (renamed Mad Monkfish), Prudential Summer Music Series, Boston Harbor Summer Music Series, New Haven Jazzfest, The Duplex, Mechanics Hall, Ryles and hundreds of clubs and festivals on the east coast, including New York City, Richmond, and Norfolk. Additionally, she has played with many great jazz artists, including Jerry Bergonzi, David Clark, John Lockwood, Elias Bailey, Bob Guilotti, Yoron Israel, Darren Barrett, Greg Abate, and more.

From 2012-2017, Hines was the host/pianist for "Live Jazz New England/Saturday Jazz Matinee" on NPR affiliate 90.5 WICN from 2012-17. She currently hosts the station's "Saturday Jazz Matinee" and also hosts the "Jazz Journey" on WFPR, Franklin, MA. [Learn more about Pamela Hines.](#)

March 29: Rory Stuart

Rory Stuart is a critically acclaimed jazz guitarist and composer based in New York. Since 1982, he has performed as sideman or leader in groups that included artists George Garzone, Jaleel Shaw, Robert Glasper, Becca Stevens, Anthony Cox, Reggie Workman, Francois Moutin, Matt Penman, Brandon Owens, Chris Tordini, John Lockwood, Doug Weiss, Calvin Hill, Chip Jackson, Keith Copeland, John Riley, Dan Weiss, Ari Hoenig, Dafnis Prieto and Obed Calvaire.



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Rory also teaches at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York, where he designed and teaches the Advanced Rhythm Curriculum. [Learn more about Rory Stuart.](#)

About Mechanics Hall

Built in 1857 by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls for its superb acoustics and 19th-century elegance. Regionally, it is widely considered to be Worcester's finest meeting place. Among the world's most renowned orchestras and performers have taken the Hall's stage, from the London Philharmonic to Yo-Yo Ma, Ella Fitzgerald to Linda Rondstat. Among the many luminaries who have spoken at Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Theodore Roosevelt, and Bill Clinton. In addition to serving as a premiere venue and recording site, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences for diverse audiences through a variety of creative initiatives—including free concerts, community events, and collaborative programs with local colleges and non-profit organizations.

A non-profit organization, Mechanics Hall is owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association (est. 1842). It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at mechanicshall.org.

About WICN Public Radio

90.5 WICN Public Radio, Inc. has been a dynamic presence in the cultural life of central Massachusetts for over fifty years. WICN originated in 1969 as Worcester's Inter-Collegiate Network, joining The College of the Holy Cross and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) with other local colleges. WICN was accredited by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in 1987.

As one of the few remaining jazz-focused radio stations in the United States, WICN is committed to the keeping the Worcester community vibrant and economically sustainable through the presentation of authentic, independent music, on the radio and in the concert halls, preserving America's living art forms of jazz and other music for generations to enjoy. Learn more at wicn.org

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