

JazzNights (88)



Mark Sherman

For this last concert of our 16th season we welcome back an old friend, vibraphonist Mark Sherman. By now you probably know that I love vibraphonists. And Mr. Sherman is one of the very best. He's joined by his new quartet, VENTURE, featuring Felix Pastorius on bass, Mike Clark on drums, and saxophonist Chase Baird.

“I first heard Mark Sherman at the Bird's Eye club in Basel, a literal hole-in-the-wall room of some charm in a city of even more charm. I was knocked out!”

A. G. Zaire

Mr. Sherman is the son of a classical soprano who performed with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Boston Symphony. So, it is certainly no surprise that he began by studying classical piano. As so often happens, his classical career was sidetracked by an encounter with Charlie Parker, Lester Young, John Coltrane, et al. The Highschool of Music and Art followed, then Juilliard, to which he has

returned as member of the faculty. He has retained his classical chops, but of course we will hear his major love, jazz. The list of artists he has performed with is long and varied – let’s just mention Mel Torme, Wynton Marsalis, and Lena Horne. He has many CDs under his own leadership and zillions of appearances as a sideman. We’ve heard him before at *JazzNights*, in 2013 with Frank Kimbrough and Billy and Ray Drummond, and in 2014 with Kenny Barron. In 2016 he appeared with Walt Weiskopf, Adam Nussbaum and Essiet Essiet. The Sherman/Barron duo recently released “Interplay” on Chesky Records – very, very highly recommended. You can find samples on YouTube. Those of you who caught those evenings will remember not only the brilliance of his playing, but the energy generated by his always swinging approach to tunes.

“This is a very important recording for me, as I am now one of I think 10 musicians in the world who have a duo recording with the great Kenny Barron. It is a very pristine and intimate setting recorded beautifully by the audiophile recording label Chesky Records. We performed some beautiful and sometimes obscure standards along with 1 original of mine, and 1 original of Kenny’s. It was a true privilege to address the music with this great jazz master!”

Mark Sherman



The new quartet VENTURE brings a deeply rooted postbop/fusion approach to jazz. Their music is relentlessly energetic, hard charging, and brimming with incredible improvisations. Their program of originals and standards will probably include music from their soon-to-be-released new CD.

Mark Sherman will be at Dizzy's in NYC on March 14th. You can join me there, or wait for VENTURE'S new CD to come out ---or---you can come to the Hopewell barn March 25th. There will be no ringing cash registers, no clinking glassware, no cruising waiters – just wonderful music in a nice setting. We hope to see you there!