


Leshar Center Presents

JOEY ALEXANDER

May 6, 2022 at the Leshar Center for the Arts

Leshar Center Presents

HEADLINERS

Brought to you by 

Born in Bali, Indonesia, Joey Alexander has been performing professionally since 2013 when he was invited by Wynton Marsalis to perform at the Jazz at Lincoln Center Gala. Alexander subsequently moved to New York City and released his debut album, *My Favorite Things*, in 2015 on Motéma Music, followed by three more on the label and a fifth on Verve. Alexander's albums have netted three GRAMMY® Award nominations – one for Best Jazz Instrumental Album (*My Favorite Things*), and two for Best Improvised Jazz Solo (“Giant Steps,” from *My Favorite Things*, and “Countdown” from the album of the same name) – with *My Favorite Things* and *Countdown* securing the No. 1 spot on the Billboard jazz charts and *Eclipse* coming at No. 3.

Over the course of his astonishing career, Alexander has performed with Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding at the Obama White House, for President Bill Clinton at the Arthur Ashe Learning Center Gala, at the Grand Ole Opry, the Apollo Theater, Carnegie Hall and at major jazz festivals and nightclubs around the world. He has also been the subject of profiles on *60 Minutes* and *The New York Times*. *Origin* is Alexander's first album for Mack Avenue Records and will be released May 20 digitally and on CD, with a vinyl release scheduled for June 24.


Leshar Center
FOR THE Arts

Diablo Regional Arts
ASSOCIATION 

ABOUT JOEY'S NEW ALBUM, "ORIGIN"

Gratefulness comes up a lot when the astonishingly gifted Alexander talks about his career. When he was writing the straightforward and beautiful song that opens the album, “Remembering,” he was able to reflect on the opportunities and blessings the past 8 years have brought.

“A lot of amazing moments happened during that span,” reflects Alexander, “and this was the first time I had a break to pause and appreciate it all. That’s when I realized the pandemic had actually helped me to be more thankful,” he says. Learn more about his new album, *Origin*, at joeyalexandermusic.net.

“Alexander can still dispense dazzling, impossibly inventive runs when he wants to, but it's not his primary game anymore,” said NPR. “Instead...he brings out the graceful contours and shapes of his original songs – songs that have a thoughtful, old-man wisdom to them.”

JOEY ALEXANDER JAZZ TRIO

Kris Funn (Bass) was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He began playing the trumpet at age four and took up the double bass at age 14, performing his first professional bass gig the same year he began learning the instrument. He won the "unsung hero" title at the Fish Middleton jazz competition at the East Coast Jazz festival, also in his first year of instruction. At age 23, Funn began touring internationally with alto his first year of instruction. At age 23, Funn began touring internationally with alto saxophonist Kenny Garrett. Since then, he has traveled to every major jazz festival in the world touching six continents performing with artists including Christian Scott, Joey Alexander, Sean Jones, and Kamasi Williams, among others. Funn appears on several recordings including the Grammy-nominated albums *Emancipation Proclamation* and *Ancestral Recall* by Scott, and released his own debut album, *Cornerstore*, in 2017. Funn is currently part of the jazz faculty at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins and continues to perform in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. area when not touring internationally.

John Davis (Drummer) was born in Louisiana, now based in New York. He picked up his first pair of drumsticks at the age of six and started performing professionally during his freshman year of high school. Davis attended the University of North Florida, where he received formal drum training and sought the tutelage of Rick Kirkland, the former drummer for Ray Charles. He attended the Manhattan School of Music in New York City where he began studying under jazz education legend John Riley. Davis has toured around the world with major names in jazz, and on recordings with Medeiros Brothers.

Lesher Center Presents
HEADLINERS
 Brought to you by **d r a g o**

NEXT UP!



LAURA BENANTI
 "Glamorously witty"
 Tony Award® Winner

JUNE 25 at 7:30pm



RYAN HAMILTON
 Named one of Rolling Stone's
 "Five Comics to Watch"

JULY 9 at 7:30pm

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

