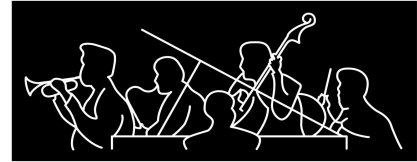


ARTISTS' QUARTER / April 2009 Calendar

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the ARTISTS' QUARTER

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- **Framework CD Release Party (Thurs., Apr. 2, 9:00 pm, \$5 cover).** Chris Olson, a guitarist who conveys exquisite moods, joins forces with the adventurous bass sounds of Chris Bates and the shimmering drum work of Jay Epstein to create a jazz trio sound that is equal parts riveting and hypnotic. They are releasing a self-titled debut CD chock-full of outstanding originals.
- **Greg Skaff (Fri. & Sat., Apr. 3 & 4, 9:00 pm, \$15 cover).** Greg Skaff is a NYC-based jazz guitarist and composer whose skills and reputation place him among the premier practitioners of his craft. After moving to New York in the early 1980s, Skaff's first professional gig was with the legendary Stanley Turrentine. The sax master was so impressed with Skaff's playing that he kept the young guitarist in his employ for the next five years. Following his tenure with Turrentine, Skaff has gone on to make his mark as a bandleader (with three critically-acclaimed CDs) and as a sideman. The list of luminaries who have tapped Skaff for his fretwork includes Bobby Watson, Ruth Brown, Freddie Hubbard, David "Fathead" Newman, Kevin Mahogany, Matt Wilson and many others. With his new CD release *East Harlem Skyline*, Greg Skaff reaches new heights in what the *New Jersey Star-Ledger* calls "a vibrant view of the modern day jazz guitar-organ-drums trio." With Downtown Bill Brown (Hammond B-3 organ) and Kenny Horst (drums).
- **Bryan Nichols / Adam Linz / Phil Hey (Sat., Apr. 11, 9:00 pm, \$10 cover).** A 2004 resident in the Kennedy Center – Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead program, Bryan Nichols is a Twin Cities pianist who comes by way of Chicago and prestigious international festivals. Bryan is joined by ace bassist Adam Linz (Fat Kid Wednesdays) and drummer *extraordinaire* Phil Hey.
- **"Kind of Blue" Weekend – 50th Anniversary of a Classic Recording (Fri. & Sat., Apr. 17 & 18, 9:00 pm, \$10 cover).** **Q:** "I don't know much about jazz, but I'm interested. What's the first album I should buy?" **A:** *Kind of Blue* by Miles Davis. **Discuss:** That's the answer many have been given over the 50 years since *Kind of Blue's* release, and it's a good answer at that. There's just something about this record – many point to the mood evoked by the modal pieces. Maybe it's because it's just so damn Miles-y, right when he was at the top of his game and adorned by the likes of Bill Evans and Cannonball Adderley. Whatever the reason, it is one of the most influential recordings of all time. Perfect for interpretation by top players, given that Miles provided his group with only sketches of scales and melody lines to improvise upon. Steve Kenny (trumpet), Dave Karr (sax), Mikkel Romstad (piano), Tom Lewis (bass) and Kenny Horst (drums).
- **Sam Miltich & Dave Karr / CD Release (Sun., Apr. 19, 7:00 pm, \$10 cover).** It's a whole new Sam & Dave people – introducing the new CD *Darn That Dream* by Hot Club guitar maestro Sam Miltich and saxophone hero Dave Karr. Dave was a guest on the most recent release by Sam's group Clearwater Hot Club, and the two melded so well that they returned to the studio for an intimate duo recording. The young guitar wiz and the cagey veteran face off for some beautiful art.
- **Charles Mingus Birthday Celebration with the Adam Linz Trio (Weds., Apr. 22, 9:00 pm, \$5 cover).** When it comes to celebrating the great ones, bassist Charles Mingus certainly earned his due. Born April 22, 1922, Mingus was a musical explorer and a bassist and composer of the first order. In his 56 years on Earth, he created a gigantic legacy. Adam Linz was born to do this gig.
- **Jim Rotondi Quartet featuring Rick Germanson (Fri. & Sat., Apr. 24 & 25, 9:00 pm, \$17 cover).** "Rotondi has the passion and focus to find a place for the music in the new millennium." *The New Yorker*. Raised in Butte, Montana, Jim took up the trumpet at age 12. He attended the esteemed jazz studies program at North Texas State University. If those first jobs out of college are tough to nab, Jim did quite well – recording and touring internationally with the Ray Charles Orchestra. This post was followed by a six-year tenure with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra and prestigious chairs with the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, the Charles Earland Quintet, Toshiko Akiyoshi and others. Based in NYC, Jim Rotondi has several acclaimed CDs under his own name and is one of jazz's most sought after trumpet players on stage and in the studio. NYC pianist Rick Germanson has performed and/or recorded with greats like Elvin Jones, Wynton Marsalis and Marlena Shaw. "He's blessed by tons of technique, taste and a clarity of right-hand runs, an appreciation for complex rhythms and a love for Latin." *JazzTimes* review of the CD *Heights* (Feb. 2004).