
CONTACT Heather Cho (714) 5560-2122 x4710, HCho@SCFTA.org
Jessie Brunner (714) 556-2122 x4371, JBrunner@SCFTA.org
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Multi-Grammy® Award Winners Chick Corea and Gary Burton Bring An Evening of Duets to Segerstrom Center for the Arts' Jazz Series

March 4, 2011 in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

COSTA MESA, CA – Legendary jazz pianist and composer Chick Corea and vibraphonist extraordinaire Gary Burton are set to combine their virtuosity on stage at Segerstrom Center for the Arts on March 4 at 8 p.m. *An Evening with Chick Corea & Gary Burton Duets* will display one of the greatest collaborations in the history of jazz. For this special one-night-only show, the Grammy-winning duo will explore jazz standards featuring fresh new arrangements by Corea.

Corea and Burton first paired in 1972 with their album *Crystal Silence*, which has been called “one of the seminal recordings of that decade” by *NPR*. *Jazztimes* claims, “There’s a kind of logic and magic that happens when Corea and Burton duo.”

Tickets to see *An Evening with Chick Corea & Gary Burton Duets* start at \$25 and are available online at SCFTA.org, at the Box Office at 600 Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa or by calling (714) 556-2787. For inquiries about group ticket discounts for 15 or more, call the Group Services office at (714) 755-0236. The TTY number is (714) 556-2746.

Seegerstrom Center applauds the following media sponsors for their support of the 2010 – 2011 Jazz Series: *Long Beach Press-Telegram* and KKJZ, “KJAZZ 88.1 FM.”

Considering the staggering volume of **Chick Corea’s** recorded output over the past 40 years, it is no overstatement to call him one of the most prolific composers of the second half of the 20th century. From avant-garde to bebop, from children’s songs to straight-ahead, from hard-hitting fusion to heady forays into classical, Corea has touched an astonishing number of musical bases in his illustrious career while maintaining a standard of excellence that is simply uncanny.

Since heeding the solo calling in 1966 with his critically acclaimed debut, *Tones for Joan’s Bones*, Corea has been at the forefront of jazz, both as a renowned pianist forging new ground with his acoustic jazz bands and as an electric keyboardist experimenting with deepening and expanding the sound of fusion with his pioneering groups such as Return to Forever and the Elektric Band. His career résumé teems with accolades, including more than 50 Grammy nominations and 14 Grammy Awards. In 2005, Corea

was honored with the prestigious Award for the Piano Festival Ruhr in Germany, the first time the honor was granted to a jazz pianist, and in 2006, he became an NEA Jazz Master, the highest honor the U.S. bestows on jazz musicians.

Corea's extensive discography boasts numerous "essential" albums, beginning with his 1968 classic, *Now He Sings, Now He Sobs* (Blue Note), and continuing with several critically acclaimed albums released recently, including his duet with banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck (the Grammy-winning CD, *The Enchantment*) and *The New Crystal Silence*, the brilliant 35-year anniversary recording with Burton.

Born Armando Anthony Corea in Chelsea, Massachusetts in 1941, he began studying piano at age 4. Early on in his development, Horace Silver and Bud Powell were important piano influences while access to the music of Beethoven and Mozart inspired his compositional instincts. Corea's first major professional gig was with Cab Calloway, which came before early stints in Latin bands led by Mongo Santamaria and Willie Bobo. There followed important tenures with trumpeter Blue Mitchell, flutist Herbie Mann and saxophonist Stan Getz. During these formative years, Corea also recorded sessions with Cal Tjader, Stan Getz, Donald Byrd and Dizzy Gillespie.

In the fall of 1968, Corea replaced Herbie Hancock in Miles Davis' band. In September of that year, he played Fender Rhodes electric piano on Miles' important and transitional recording *Filles de Kilimanjaro*, which pointed to a fresh new direction in jazz. Corea also appeared on such groundbreaking Davis recordings as *In a Silent Way*, *Bitches Brew*, *Live-Evil* and *Live at the Fillmore East*. For more information visit ChickCorea.com.

Gary Burton's innovations in jazz, especially his approach to the vibraphone and his mastery of simultaneous four-mallet playing, have been the hallmark of a career that has spanned four decades. His five Grammy Awards and 13 Grammy nominations cross multiple categories and attest to the high regard his music has achieved amongst his peers.

Yet Burton's genius as a jazz pioneer has been sometimes overlooked. It was in Burton's late 1960s group where the electric guitar first came into prominence as a leading instrument in jazz and where rock elements were first infused into a pulsating and virtuoso jazz mix. Before Miles Davis plugged in his guitarists – Burton's 1967 fusion band predated the seminal *Bitches Brew* recording – Burton was eagerly pushing the jazz form toward the more explosive rock genre. Ever since, Burton has enlisted an impressive list of young guitar players as erstwhile collaborators.

The vibraphonist's experiments with Larry Coryell created a trailblazing jazz-rock sound that landed the Gary Burton Group concert performances with such mega-rock headliners as The Electric Flag and Cream (The Fillmore West in 1967). This was the first time a jazz ensemble ever broke the rock barrier. The same group also wowed the rock-hardened audiences at The Fillmore East when they opened for

Moby Grape and the Fugs in 1968. Other guitarists who would later receive their first big break in Burton's group were John Scofield, Jerry Hahn, Mick Goodrick and Pat Metheny who are considered by many as the pre-eminent jazz guitarists of his generation. In retrospect, an extraordinary list of alumni graduated from under Burton's wing and went on to reshape the future of jazz.

Burton's recent recording output has been prolific – a period that found him recording a successful batch of theme-oriented albums for Concord Records, including *Libertango: The Music of Astor Piazzola; For Hamp, Red, Bags & Cal* and *Virtuosi* (all three recordings received Grammy nominations), and two CDs featuring his Next Generation Band of young musicians. *Like Minds*, the vibist's all-star project with Metheny, Corea, Dave Holland and Roy Haynes garnered his fifth Grammy in 2000.

For the better part of his professional career, Burton has used his position to help educate and mentor the next generation of musical talent, teaching at institutions around the world. He taught for 32 years at his alma mater Berklee College of Music in Boston where he also was the executive vice president and chief operating officer. For more information visit GaryBurton.com

Seegerstrom Center for the Arts is unique as both an acclaimed arts institution and as a multi-disciplinary cultural campus. It is committed to supporting artistic excellence on all of its stages, offering unsurpassed experiences, and engaging the entire community in new and exciting ways through the unique power of live performance and a diverse array of inspiring programs.

Previously called the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Seegerstrom Center traces its roots back to the late 1960s when a dedicated group of community leaders decided Orange County should have its own world-class performing arts venue.

As Orange County's largest non-profit arts organization, Seegerstrom Center for the Arts owns and operates the 3,000-seat Seegerstrom Hall and intimate 250-seat Founders Hall, which opened in 1986, and the 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Seegerstrom Concert Hall, which opened in 2006 and also houses the 500-seat Samuelli Theater, the Lawrence and Kristina Dodge Education Center's studio performance space and Boeing Education Lab. A spacious arts plaza anchors Seegerstrom Center for the Arts and is home to numerous free performances throughout the year as part of Seegerstrom Center for the Arts' ongoing Free for All series.

The Center presents a broad range of programming each season for audiences of all ages from throughout Orange County and beyond, including international ballet and dance, national tours of top Broadway shows, intimate performances of jazz and cabaret, contemporary artists, classical music performed by renowned chamber orchestras and ensembles, family-friendly programming, free performances open to the public from outdoor movie screenings to dancing on the plaza and many other special events. It offers many education programs designed to inspire young people through the arts. These programs reach hundreds of thousands of students of all ages with vital arts-in-education programs, enhancing their studies and enriching their lives well into the future.

In addition to the presenting and producing institution Seegerstrom Center for the Arts, the 14-acre campus

also embraces the facilities of two independent acclaimed organizations: Tony® Award-winning **South Coast Repertory** and a site designated as the future home of the **Orange County Museum of Art**.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is also proud to serve as the artistic home to three of the region's major performing arts organizations: **Pacific Symphony**, the **Philharmonic Society of Orange County** and the **Pacific Chorale**, who contribute greatly to the artistic life of the region with annual seasons at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.



An Evening with Chick Corea & Gary Burton Duets

**Segerstrom Center for the Arts – Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall
Friday, March 4, 2011 at 8 p.m.**

615 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA
Segerstrom Center for the Arts

Tickets: Start at \$25

In person - The Box Office
600 Town Center Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily

Online - SCFTA.org

Phone - (714) 556-2787
Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily

TTY number - (714) 556-2746

Group Sales - (714) 755-0236

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