

Mon & Tue  
**APR 15 & 16**  
7:30 pm

**Pavilion**

# Ivan Renta & Edsel Gomez

*Just Friends Jazz Series*



Sponsored by

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We are pleased to partner with the  
Lied Center of Kansas to present the  
*Just Friends Jazz Series.*

There will be no intermission during this performance.

**Ivan Renta**, composer/arranger/educator/saxophonist, was born and raised in Puerto Rico and has become one of the premier saxophonists in the jazz, Latin jazz and Latin music industry. His ability to adapt to any musical situation has landed him on stage at many of the world's most prestigious venues and music festivals. His credentials include performances and over 200 recordings with artists such as Tito Puente, Wynton Marsalis, Eddie Palmieri, Willie Colon, Ron Carter, Bobby Valentín, Marc Anthony, Jennifer Lopez, Jimmy Heath, Ray Baretto, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, as well as Chucho and Bebo Valdes, to name a few. Renta has also performed with such diverse musical acts as Al Jarreau, Om Odell, Stevie Van Zandt and Hall & Oates. He has collaborated on five Grammy Award-winning recordings and is an active music educator and clinician.

**Edsel Gomez** is one of the top Latin jazz pianists in the world today. Born in Puerto Rico, he began piano studies at age five and played with salsa bands since his pre-teen years. He grew up in a musical environment that allowed him to master Afro-Caribbean rhythms in depth, working since childhood with an incredible array of Latin musicians. Gomez lived in Brazil from 1986 to 1996, where he studied Brazilian music extensively and worked with several Brazilian icons. His personal approach to fusing jazz with Latin, African and Brazilian music gives him a unique personality and musical voice. Since relocating to New York in 1997, he has been featured in several Grammy-nominated and Grammy-winning recordings. Gomez has collaborated with Dee Dee Bridgewater as pianist/arranger/musical director/composer, traveling around the world with her for over 14 years. He has also collaborated, recorded and toured with Jack DeJohnette, Don Byron, Brian Lynch and Eddie Palmieri, among several others.