Mon & Tue
NOV 16 & 17
7:30 pm

Pavilion

Mathis Picard, solo piano

Just Friends Jazz Series



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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.
Song selections will be announced from the stage.

Mathis Picard is an internationally renowned pianist, composer and producer. Based in New York City and originally from France and Madagascar, Mathis finds his voice by merging his many musical and cultural backgrounds. Named a "rising star" by *The Scotsmen* paper at the age of 10, Mathis is now one of the most prominent rising voices on the piano of his generation today. He is an ASCAP Next Generation of Songwriters Recipient, a member of the Montreux Jazz Foundation, a Juilliard School alum under the mentorship of Kenny Barron and has performed all over the globe. London reviewers describe Mathis as a "knockout, as dynamic a personality as he is virtuosic on the keys" (whatsonstage.com), while he was deemed "one to watch" by *Jazzwise Magazine*.

A bandleader in his own right, Mathis runs The Sound Orchestra, a large-scale ensemble which has performed on both coasts of the U.S., from NuBlu and Dizzy's Club in New York City to Black Cat in San Francisco. Their debut genre-bending EP *World Unity* came out in 2020 on Outside In Music Records, which put him on the map as "a fascinating name to follow in any context" (*All About Jazz*). As a solo artist, he released his first solo piano album, *Live at the Museum* in 2022, for which he was praised as having a "brilliant classical technique and a vivid imagination" (*DownBeat*).

In 2022, Mathis toured the U.S. as a solo artist, playing a dozen shows across the U.S., which led to the release of *Live At Blue Llama,* a three-track live EP of original music recorded at the club during the tour. During this same time, he released his first fugue "Mysticism Of Money: Fugue in D minor" as a music video with NPR Live Sessions and WRTI 90.1 for International Jazz Day. His latest studio album, *Heat Of The Moment,* was given a five-star "glorious" review from the *The Times,* praising Mathis as a pianist and composer. His latest work, *Preludes & Fugues: Book 1* for piano solo, premiered at Joe's Pub in New York City and L'Ecuje in Paris, which was recorded and broadcasted live by Radio France. In 2025, he was named as musical director and arranger for the revival of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

When not leading his own projects, Mathis has shared the musical stage with artists such as Ron Carter, Lillias White, Cyrille Aimee, Cecile McLorin Salvant, Lee Ritenour, Kindness, Wynton Marsalis, Veronica Swift, Etienne Charles, Christian McBride, Braxton Cook, André De Shields, Dee Dee Bridgewater and more.