

Diehn Concert Series

2013—2014 season

Sept. 9, 2013

Andrew Pelletier, horn

Sept. 23, 2013

**Stefon Harris and the Blackout Band,
composer, vibraphonist, marimbist**

Oct. 29, 2013

Boston Camerata, early music

Feb. 17, 2014

**Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet with Andrey Kasparov,
woodwind quintet with piano**

March 24, 2014

Lambert Orkis

(In conjunction with the Annual
Harold Protsman Classical Period Piano Competition)

April 14, 2014

Nicki Parrott, with the John Toomey Trio

(In conjunction with a five day residency, April 10 – 14)



**Nicki Parrott
with John Toomey and Russ Helm**

**Nicki Parrott, bass
John Toomey, piano
Russ Helm, drums**

**Monday, April 14, 2014
8:00 p.m.**

**Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall,
F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts**

An endowment established at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation,
made possible by a generous gift from F. Ludwig Diehn, funds this program.



Nicki Parrott will announce the program from the stage.

Joining Nicki Parrott for tonight's performance:

John Toomey, piano

Russ Helm, drums

Born in Newcastle, Australia, **Nicki Parrott** started her musical training with the piano at the age of 4, and soon after took up the flute as well. She continued to play flute and piano throughout her school years, but switched to double bass at the age of 15 because her sister, Lisa, who plays alto sax, wanted a bassist for her group. After completing high school, Parrott moved to Sydney to study jazz at the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music. Shortly after, she began to play with well-known Australian musicians such as Mike Nock, Dale Barlow, Paul Grabowsky, Bernie McGann, and Ten Part Invention. She also toured Australia with Russian musicians Daniel Kramer and Alexander Fischer and American trumpeters Bobby Shew and Chuck Findley.

Parrott studied with various bassists in Australia, and when bassists such as Ray Brown and John Clayton were visiting in town, she took a lesson with them. She is also the recipient of two awards: a scholarship to Pan Pacific Music Camps at the age of 16, and first place in the 1992 Jazz Action Society's Annual Song Competition for her composition "Come and Get It," which is the opening track of Nicki and Lisa Parrott's debut CD. She was also nominated for the annual Australian Young Achievers Award by the Arts Council of Australia which granted her the funds to study with Rufus Reid in New York.

Nicki Parrott came to New York in May 1994. Since June 2000, she has played on Monday nights at the Iridium Jazz Club with the legendary guitarist and inventor, Les Paul. The Parrott sisters headlined at the prestigious Tribute to Mary Lou Williams festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in May 2002, which was broadcast on National Public Radio. Nicki Parrott is also the resident bassist with the Kitchen House Blend, which premieres and performs new music by New York composers. Since coming to New York, she has performed with such notable musicians as Randy

Brecker, Clark Terry, Jose Feliciano, Rebecca Parris, Bucky Pizzarelli, John Pizzarelli, Dick Hyman, Patti LaBelle and the New York Pops Orchestra, Harry Allen, Michel Legrand, Marlena Shaw, Mike Stern, David Krakauer, Ken Peplowski, Ann Hampton Callaway, Scott Hamilton, Larry Carlton and Victor Wooten. Parrott has also performed in several Broadway shows such as "Avenue Q," "Imaginary Friends," "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," "Summer of '42" and "Jekyll and Hyde."

Parrott has performed at many major festivals around the globe including the Newport Jazz Festival, Jazz in July at the 92nd Street Y, Litchfield Jazz Festival, Detroit Jazz Festival, and the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. She has also performed at the Berlin Jazz Festival, the Cully Lavaux and the Ascona and Berne jazz festivals in Switzerland, the Edinburgh and Grimsby jazz festivals in the UK, the Krakow Music Festival in Poland, the Ottawa Jazz Festival in Canada, Fujitsu Jazz Festival in Japan and various festivals throughout Australia.

John Toomey is currently a University Professor of music at Old Dominion University. A recipient of both the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award and the Teletechnet Professor of the Year Award, Toomey teaches myriad jazz studies and music technology classes. He is also chair of the music department, and music director for the Attucks Jazz Series. Prior to joining the faculty at Old Dominion University, he was music director and keyboardist for jazz trumpet legend Maynard Ferguson, with whom he recorded two CDs. Toomey is still an active performer, touring the world with such artists as Mark Murphy and Rene Marie, and he has performed in Africa, Portugal, France, Japan, Switzerland and the Dominican Republic. He has also composed several soundtracks for features and documentaries for the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and NBC. Professor Toomey holds a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music.

Russ Helm is from southwest Virginia and began playing drums at an early age. He earned a degree in music performance from Virginia Commonwealth University as part of the jazz program headed by Doug Richards. He has also studied with or participated in programs headed by Gunther Schuller, Steve Johns, Victor Lewis and Justin DiCioccio. Over the course of his musical career, Helm has played with many talented musicians including Kenny Washington, Ken Peplowski, and John D'earth. He currently resides in Richmond, Va.



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