

# Noteworthy Performances



**Jean-Michel Pilc**  
Smalls Mon 1/1 • 55 Bar Tue 1/9

Born in 1960 in Paris, self-taught pianist Jean-Michel Pilc has played with some of the best American and European jazz musicians. A desire to expand his musical experience brought him to New York City in 1995, where he formed a trio with bassist François Moutin and drummer Ari Hoening. Soon, they were performing in New York's most elite jazz venues. Pilc debuted a new trio lineup with *Live at Iridium, New York* (Dreyfus).



**Sachal Vasandani**  
IAJE: Thu 1/11 • Jazz Gallery: Thu 1/18 • Zinc Bar: Tue 1/23 & Wed 1/24

Born in Chicago, Vasandani grew up listening to everything from Western and Indian classical music to Michael Jackson and the Beatles. After being named Collegiate Jazz Vocalist of the Year by *Downbeat* Magazine in 1999, Vasandani moved to New York and began his career as a singer. In September 2004, he was a semi-finalist in the Thelonious Monk Institute Competition. Vasandani will be releasing a new record on the Mack Avenue label in Spring 2007.

**Delfeayo Marsalis**  
Blue Note: Tue 1/2 - Sun 1/7

A native of New Orleans, Marsalis attended Berklee College of Music majoring in both performance and audio production. He has since produced over 75 major-label recordings. As a trombonist, Marsalis has toured internationally with legendary jazz artists Art Blakey, Abdullah Ibrahim, Elvin Jones, Slide Hampton and Max Roach, as well as with his own modern jazz ensemble. His third solo CD, *Minions Dominion*, was released last September.



**Jeff "Tain" Watts**  
Cecils: Fri & Sat 1/12 & 1/13

A true jazz innovator since the 80s, Jeff "Tain" Watts never fails to deliver the percussive magic that has always been his trademark. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Watts met and ultimately played with both Wynton and Branford Marsalis while study at the Berklee School of Music. Watts joined saxophonist Kenny Garrett's band in 1995 and returned to New York. He released *Detained at the Blue Note* (Halfnote Records) in 2004.



**Michael Karr**  
Mannhatta: Wednesdays 1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31

Karr began playing professionally at 14, appearing with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony. He continued playing live music nightly while pursuing his music studies during the day at Duquesne U, Carnegie Mellon and Pitt University, where he worked with Nathan Davis. He has been performing regularly and traveling extensively in both the U.S. and Europe for 25 years. Karr has performed with jazz and R&B with artists including Billy Joel, B. B. King, The OJs, The Drifters, and Jimmy Ponder.

**Ben Allison**  
55 Bar: Sat 1/13 • Cornelia Street Café: Fri 1/26

With his groups Peace Pipe, Ben Allison Quartet, Medicine Wheel, the Kush Trio, and the Herbie Nichols Project, Allison has been winning fans and building new audiences with an adventurous yet accessible sound and a flair for the unexpected. Allison's latest release, 2006's *Cowboy Justice* (Palmetto Records), showcases his forward-thinking vision as a producer, composer, arranger, and bassist, and his hands-on approach to his craft.



**Eddie Gomez**  
Iridium: Thu 1/4 - Sun 1/7

Legendary bassist Eddie Gomez has been on the cutting edge of jazz since his debut in the mid 60s. He has performed with jazz giants such as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Bill Evans, Gerry Mulligan, Benny Goodman, and Chick Corea. His unique sound and style can be heard on hundreds of recordings spanning all genres of music. He released *Art of the Heart* with pianist Mark Kramer in 2006.



**Rene Marie**  
Dizzy's: 1/16 - 1/21

Having emerged as a truly unique voice in the jazz genre, Marie has re-invented herself and her approach to singing. Rather than allowing her music merely to imitate the past, she has pushed her to capture the essence of a story. She released *Serene Renegade*, a collection of original compositions performed with her touring quartet and special guest trumpeter Jeremy Pelt, in 2004.



**Eric Alexander**  
Smoke Fri & Sat 1/5 & 1/6

After placing second behind Joshua Redman in the 1991 Thelonious Monk International Saxophone Competition, Alexander threw himself into the whirlwind life of a professional jazz musician. Boasting a warm, finely burnished tone and a robust melodic and harmonic imagination, the tenor saxophonist got his start playing with organ trios on the South Side of Chicago. Alexander brings a seasoned veteran's proficiency and poise to his latest recording, *Nightlife in Tokyo*.

**Lenore Raphael**  
Kitano 1/17 • eighty eights 1/27

Swinging has always been of major importance to Raphael since first listening to her idols Bud Powell and Oscar Peterson. Originally planning a career in music education, Raphael heard Peterson and her life changed direction. She has since performed at clubs all over New York and New Jersey, while continuing to pursue her interest in education. Raphael released *A Beautiful Friendship* (Swingin' Fox Music) with her New York trio in 2004.



**Ramo, Pizzarelli & Bruno** - CD Release Event  
The Triad: Wed 1/10

Three virtuoso jazz string players Michele Ramo, Bucky Pizzarelli and Jerry Bruno, celebrate the great American Songbook with music of the 20's, 30's and 40's. Recorded live in studio, this music, seeped in history, is reminiscent of the great violin/guitar masters Joe Venuti/Eddie Lang and Stephane Grappelli/Django Reinhardt. Concert followed by an all musicians welcome jam and birthday bash for Bucky and Jerry! Guest vocalist, Heidi Hepler.



**Andrea Wolper**  
Enzos: Fri 1/19 • Baha'i Center: Tue 1/30

Wolper's approach to music, the very sound of her voice, is about direct communication. An emerging jazz artist to watch, she blends the best of standard repertoire with original material and music from unexpected sources. Her quartet featuring guitarist Michael Howell, bassist Ken Filiano, and drummer Mike Thompson performs at Enzo's. She joins Art Lillard's Heavenly Big Band at the Baha'i Center. Andrea's most recent recording is 2005's *The Small Hours* (VarisOne Jazz).