



John Beasley's MONK'estra

FRI / OCT 12 / 7:30 PM

John Beasley

CONDUCTOR/ARRANGER/PIANO

Bijon Watson, Rashawn Ross,
James Ford, Brian Swartz

TRUMPETS

Wendell Kelly, Ryan Dragon, Lemar Guillary

TROMBONES

Bob Sheppard, Tom Luer, Tommy Peterson,
Adam Schroeder, Danny Janklow

WOODWINDS

Ben Shepherd

BASS

Peter Erskine

DRUMS

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

*Jazz & Blues at The Broad Stage made possible by a
generous gift from Richard & Lisa Kendall.*

Tonight, you will see and hear John Beasley's critically acclaimed big band MONK'estra which has toured internationally, rousing audiences at clubs in London, New York and San Francisco; at jazz festivals in Berlin, Monterey, Wellington, Detroit and Moscow; and performance stages at Lincoln Center, SFJazz, Walt Disney Hall, Konserthuset Sweden and Konservatorium Frankfurt. John Beasley has built upon Thelonious Sphere Monk's foundational legacy to create one of the most innovative bodies of music celebrating the legendary pianist-composer. Beasley's arrangements are refreshingly 21st-century in sound. They incorporate hip-hop, bossa nova, Afro-Cuban jazz, funk, fusion and free jazz, without ever losing the essence of Monk's genius. In Beasley's intricate writing for the reeds, and dramatic brass parts, Beasley takes us from the swamps of his own native Louisiana to the sleek towers of Monk's adopted hometown, New York City. Monk's songs inhabited a fantastic world of their own, spawning unique forms



and colors, stories and pictures, rewriting the rulebook as they took shape. They deserve nothing less than a similar explosion of invention and novelty when re-conceived for the orchestral idiom.

"I think musicians are still catching up with what Monk was telling us," says Beasley. "I've discovered how pliable his music is, like any great composer – for example, Bach, who sounds great in any tempo. Monk's music is so open to interpretation

because his compositions have such a solid story. I figured out how to elongate his sophisticated melodies and voice things in a non-traditional way. And through it all, those unforgettable melodies just stick with you."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mack Avenue recording artist **JOHN BEASLEY** is an uncommonly versatile, unerringly exciting, pianist who has worked with such music icons as Miles Davis and Freddie Hubbard – while still in his 20s – as well as with Steely Dan, Dianne Reeves, Christian McBride, Carly Simon, Chaka Khan, Herbie Hancock (and even, for one night, with James Brown). Beasley is also an accomplished composer and a distinctive arranger who works regularly within film and television, earning five GRAMMY® nominations and an Emmy® nod along the way. He has worked extensively on soundtracks, primarily those of famed film scorer Thomas Newman, including the James Bond hits *Spectre* and *Skyfall*.

Beasley is also Music Director for the Thelonious Monk Institute's global International Jazz Day concerts, which have been held in St. Petersburg, Havana, Paris, Osaka, Istanbul, and Washington, DC and Sydney (2019). The 2016 event was hosted by President Obama at the White House and was broadcast on ABC-TV, gaining Beasley an Emmy® nomination for Best Musical Direction.