



## PRESS KIT

## RUSSELL KIRK

### Biography

Saxophonist/Composer Russell Kirk is a distinguished musician, an innovative force in the industry who offers a fresh approach that is both evocative and richly balanced. His expressive musical style punctuates his nuanced compositions, and nowhere is it more evident than in his latest release “To Journal Square”.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Russell received his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University, Peabody Institute. Following graduation he travelled with the USO, performing across several continents including Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, with singer/songwriter Jenny Boyle, for troops stationed far from home.

He was awarded a scholarship from the Eubie Blake Foundation, allowing him to pursue his graduate studies at New York University. While earning his master’s degree, Russell was an adjunct faculty member at Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, where he headed a music outreach program for inner city youth in Harlem and the East Village, interned at Saturday Night Live and played with various ensembles and artists such as John Scofield, Chris Potter, and Lenny Pickett. Being in New York in the heart of jazz central provided him with rare opportunities to listen and to meet some of the really progressive musical geniuses who would later have a subtle influence on the direction of the music he was composing.

After graduation from NYU he toured Japan with his long-time mentor Gary Thomas. Russell has performed and recorded with a widely diverse and celebrated list of musicians and orchestras, among them - The Baltimore Symphony, George Clinton’s Parliament Funkadelic, The Soulful Symphony, The Cab Calloway Orchestra, The Eubie Blake Legacy Band, The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Winslow Dynasty, and Rumba Club. In addition he has played with the best in the business - Sam Rivers, Terri Lyne Carrington, Dennis Chambers, Michael Formanek, Mike Clark, Sonya Kitchell, Wayne Krantz, Kenny Werner, Gary Thomas, Ed Howard, Kevin Mahogany, Cuba Gooding Sr., Jill Scott, and Vusi Mahlasela.

He and his band have opened for Herbie Hancock at The Clifford Brown Jazz Festival. Other festival performances have included the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference, The Jazz Educators Network Conference, Milford Jazz Festival, The Federal Hill Jazz & Blues Festival and many others.

Russell is a Buffet Crampon USA Performing Artist and holds annual master classes throughout the United States under their banner. He is a 4-time recipient of the Maryland State Arts Council's Individual Artist Award and has been featured in numerous published articles including an extensive artist profile in Saxophone Journal Magazine. His compositions have led to a residency at the John F. Kennedy Center and a

position at the Carnegie Hall Creative Composition Workshop.

Baltimore Magazine selected him 2012 “Best Arranger” and featured him in the “Best of Baltimore” for his arrangement of Gary Thomas' “Who's In Control?”, performed by The Peabody Jazz Orchestra.

Russell Kirk’s musical expressions stand out as distinctly modern in color and style, they retain the endearing, romantic sentiments of the American songbook. In his playing, as in his composition, he is sincere and provocative – a perfect confluence of old and new influences.

Russell Kirk is currently a recording artist on Greg Osby’s Inner Circle Music.

Listen to his latest release – <https://soundcloud.com/russellkirk/sets/to-journal-square/s-0G155>

Visit - <http://www.russellkirklive.com/>

## News



### **Jazz at the Johns Hopkins Club Presents Saxophonist/Composer Russell Kirk**

Published: 2012-03-14

Baltimore, MD—The Johns Hopkins University in partnership with the Peabody Institute has launched a new jazz series, Jazz at the Johns Hopkins Club, an exciting concert experience for its alumni, associate members, and guests. The spring series features four outstanding concerts including two sets on March 31st celebrating the CD release of Russell Kirk and The Path—a hot band featuring star artists, drummer Terri Lyne Carrington and vocalist Sonya Kitchell. All shows are for general and student admissions.

A Peabody graduate and Baltimore resident, Russell Kirk is a rising force in jazz on the alto saxophone, and was signed to Inner Circle Music (a jazz record label created by the noted saxophonist, Greg Osby) in 2009. Kirk's debut "To Journal Square" will be celebrated on the 31st featuring outstanding artists from The Path. In addition to Carrington (who won the 2012 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album) and Kitchell, Kirk will be joined by Aruan Ortiz, piano; Ed Howard, bass; and Adam Rogers, guitar.

Kirk has performed and recorded with a diverse array of celebrated artists including Sam Rivers, Dennis Chambers, Mike Formanek, Wayne Krantz, Kenny Werner, Vusi Mahlasela, and George Clinton's Parliament Funkadelic. As a composer, he has participated in the John F. Kennedy Center Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Program and Carnegie Hall Dave Douglas Creative Composition Workshop, and is a three-time recipient of the Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award.

Jazz at the Johns Hopkins Club is a sought after remedy for the lack of venues that consistently present high quality jazz in intimate settings in Baltimore. Ron Daniels, President, Johns Hopkins University and Gary Thomas, Director and Chair of Jazz Studies, Peabody Institute have formed a partnership in their quest to enhance the club's offerings as a state-of-the-art platform for excellent jazz, while reaching a broader, younger membership and community to introduce to jazz and the University.

Bands of the best caliber have been selected by Artistic Director, Gary Thomas, including saxophonists Jim Snidero and Russell Kirk, star drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, master guitarist John Scofield, and legendary icon Roy Haynes. The following four dates define the inaugural 2012 Jazz at the Hopkins Club spring season:

**Russell Kirk and The Path**

Russell Kirk, alto sax

Sonya Kitchell, vocals

Adam Rogers, guitar

Aruan Ortiz, piano

Ed Howard, bass

Terri Lyne Carrington, drums

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## Jazz at the Johns Hopkins Club, plus more weekend fare

A sampling of Saturday music in Baltimore

Brew Editors | March 30, 2012 at 9:50 pm | Story Link | 2



Baltimore-based alto sax master Russell Kirk is appearing Saturday as part of the new series sponsored by Hopkins and the Peabody.

**RUSSELL KIRK** – Baltimore jazz fans have a new venue with [Jazz at the Johns Hopkins Club](#), a new series that continues tomorrow (Saturday) with a performance by New York-honed, Baltimore-based alto saxophonist Russell Kirk and his band, The Path.

Kirk, a Peabody Institute grad, has played with musicians including Sam Rivers, Dennis Chambers and George Clinton's **Parliament Funkadelic**. His band includes Grammy winner Terri Lyne Carrington (drums), Sonya Kitchell (vocals), Aruan Ortiz (piano), Ed Howard (base) and Howard Rogers (guitar). The first set is at 8:30 p.m., the second starts at 10 p.m. (The kicks off the release of the group's new CD, "Russell Kirk and The Path.")

As for The Hopkins Club series (with performances at the school's Homewood campus) it's the result of a collaboration between Johns Hopkins University president Ron Daniels and Gary Thomas, Director and Chair of Jazz Studies at the Peabody Institute. There are two other stellar performers booked for the series: The John Scofield Trio (Apr. 21) and **Roy Haynes** Fountain of

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### THE **Daily Drip**

December 19, 2012

#### Casino group agrees to pro hiring of Baltimore resident

Baltimore city reached an agreement today with CBA4 LLC, a group consisting of Caesars Entertainment Co local investors, to promote the hiring of Baltimore City for the anticipated 2,000 construction jobs and 1,700 jobs at the South Baltimore casino. A "local jobs" Memorandum of Understanding – approved today by the Board [...]

December 18, 2012

#### After Connecticut school massacre, a poe



Youth Band (May 26.) (The Jim Snidero Quartet performed on Feb. 25) The tickets aren't cheap – \$35 for adults, \$18 for students – but the performers top-of-the line

## **WORLD LIVE ENTERTAINMENT** **Music News**

### **Jazz at the Johns Hopkins Club Presents Three Spring Concerts**

*Russell Kirk, John Scofield & Roy Haynes to perform*



The Johns Hopkins University has launched a new concert series for its alumni, associate members and guests, in partnership with the Peabody Institute. The spring series of Jazz at the Johns Hopkins Club will next feature two sets on March 31 by Russell Kirk and the Path, celebrating *To Journal Square*, the new release from the alto saxophonist and his group. The show will include drummer Terri Lyne

Carrington and vocalist Sonya Kitchell. All shows are for general and student admissions. Kirk will be also joined by Aruan Ortiz, piano; Ed Howard, bass; and Adam Rogers, guitar. On April 21, guitarist John Scofield and his trio will perform, and drummer Roy Haynes closes out the series on May 26. Details follow: