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## **RISING JAZZ TALENT TORD GUSTAVSEN TRIO MAKES COLUMBUS DEBUT AT WEXNER CENTER**

Norway's **Tord Gustavsen Trio** brings its distinctively rich jazz compositions to the Wexner Center's Performance Space in a cabaret-style show on **Saturday, November 22 at 8 pm**. Gustavsen, a pianist and ECM Records artist, is one the leaders of the vibrant Scandinavian jazz scene. With an individualistic approach that eschews shallow displays of pyrotechnics in favor of deeper sensitivity to melody and tonal dynamics, Gustavsen has been winning accolades across the world for his original works. Joining Gustavsen for this performance are bassist Harald Johnsen and drummer Jarle Vespestad. With this lineup Gustavsen made his debut recording on ECM Records in early 2003 with *Changing Places* already tipped to make many critics' "best of" lists.

Gustavsen's music is influenced by a wide range of influences including Scandinavian folk, Caribbean rhythm, gospel, hard bop, and cool jazz. The group has earned enormous acclaim with *Stereophile* dubbing *Changing Places* "an instant classic," *Where Y'At* calling it "a truly perfect recording," and *Time Out New York* lauding it as "a sophisticated amalgam that doesn't beat you over the head with its groove sense or its smarts."

### **TORD GUSTAVSEN**

Born in Oslo in 1970, Tord Gustavsen started playing the piano at four years of age. Before he could read a note, he started performing locally and writing his own pieces and exploring improvisation. Performing with local jazz bands and gigging throughout the city, he met vocalist Kristin Asbjørnsen, with whom he collaborated in duo and quartet settings and whose influence he claims informs his work to this day.

After formal jazz training, Gustavsen began to earn a reputation as an artist to watch while working with such Scandinavian jazz luminaries such as the Nymark Collective and Indigodalen. With the release of *Changing Places*, he has earned a place among the leading jazz composers in the world.

For more information: <http://www.tordg.no/>

**CALENDAR INFORMATION: Tord Gustavsen Trio**

**Description:** Norwegian jazz pianist Tord Gustavsen and his trio perform at the Wexner Center.

**Date and time:** Saturday, November 22 / 8 pm

**Location:** Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 N. High St.

**Tickets:** \$14 for general public, \$12 for OSU students and Wexner Center members.

**Ticket outlet:** Wexner Center Ticket Office (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

**Public information:** 614 292-3535 and [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org).

***Digital images for press are available upon request; call Erik Pepple at 614 688-3261.***

**EVENT SUPPORT**

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2003-04 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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