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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS

Lionel Loueke Trio

FRI, APR 24 | 8 PM
PERFORMANCE SPACE

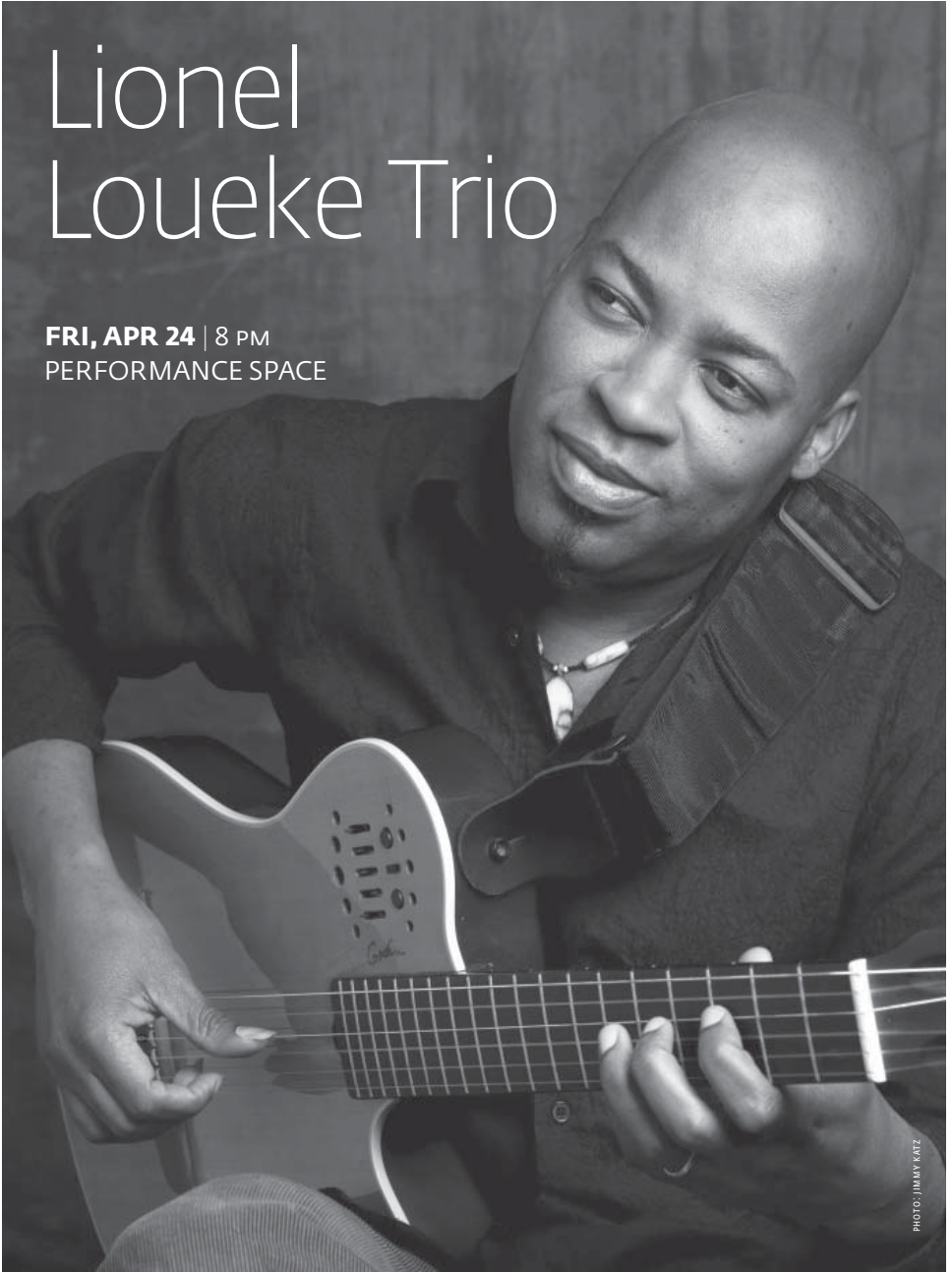


PHOTO: JIMMY KATZ

PROGRAM

Lionel Loueke Trio

Lionel Loueke.....guitar and vocals

Massimo Biolcatibass

Ferenc Nemethdrums

Selections will be announced from the stage.

Lionel Loueke Trio is managed by
Unlimited Myles, Inc
6 Imaginary Place
Aberdeen, New Jersey 07747

Taking photographs, filming, or operating recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited.

Patrons are requested to turn off signal watches, pagers, and cellular phones during performance

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BIOGRAPHY

Lionel Loueke was born in Benin, a small country in West Africa, where he was born to parents that he describes as “intellectual,” adding that “music was part of everyday life, but not in the family.” His older brother played guitar and was part of a band that played Afropop music in the style of Fela Kuti and King Sunny Ade.

When Loueke was 17 years old, his brother let him pick up his guitar, and he quickly realized that he had a great facility for the instrument. Besides the Afropop music that he heard his brother performing, Loueke also began to be enamored with the traditional African music of Benin, as well as of Nigeria, Congo, Zaire, Mali, and Senegal. An encounter with jazz, however, would set Loueke on a different course. A friend of his brother’s came to visit from Paris, bringing with him a CD of guitarist George Benson. “I listened to that and it was unreal for me. I had to transcribe every single line trying to play like him. Then I tried to check out what happened before him, Wes Montgomery, Joe Pass.”

Loueke continued to pursue music and left Benin to attend the National Institute of Art in the Ivory Coast where he first began performing at local clubs. In 1994, Loueke left Africa and moved to Paris to further his study of jazz, enrolling at the American School of Modern Music, a small conservatory run by several alumni of the Berklee College of Music in Boston. After graduation, Loueke was awarded a scholarship to attend Berklee, and he moved to the United States. It was at Berklee that he first met Massimo Biolcati and Ferenc Nemeth, the musicians who would become his core band. Through jam sessions, the trio developed an

immediate rapport, in part fueled by their internationalism. Biolcati is of Italian descent, but grew up in Sweden, and Nemeth was born and raised in Hungary. Both had studied African music extensively and were drawn to Loueke who was just beginning to fuse a jazz technique with his African roots.

After graduating from Berklee, Loueke was accepted to the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in Los Angeles along with Biolcati and Nemeth. The Monk Institute is a selective program that allows students to study and perform with some of the finest jazz musicians in the world, including three legends that would nurture Loueke’s burgeoning talent and become his greatest mentors: Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, and Terence Blanchard. Before graduating from the Monk Institute, Loueke began touring in Blanchard’s sextet, a highly creative band that recorded two albums for Blue Note (*Bounce* and *Flow*) and allowed Loueke to begin expressing his own voice as a soloist and composer. Since leaving Blanchard’s band he has worked with Hancock and become a prominent member of the pianist’s current quartet, touring extensively and recording on Hancock’s Grammy-winning album, *River: The Joni Letters* (Verve). Loueke has also recorded two albums under his name for independent labels, *In A Trance* (Space Time) and *Virgin Forest* (ObliqSound), as well as the collective *Gilfema* (ObliqSound) with Biolcati and Nemeth. Loueke’s debut release with his trio for the Blue Note label *Karibu* (which means “welcome” in Swahili) features guest spots by both Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock.

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Sun, May 17 | 7 PM

Performance Space

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Discover the delightful charm of Welsh actor Hugh Hughes in this award-winning Edinburgh Fringe Festival hit. A superb storyteller, he'll surely find instant favor with fans of *Improbable* or *Lone Twin* as he serves up the perfect mix of laugh-out-loud humor, the simplest of props, and genuinely touching passages about life's mysteries.

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