

VIRGINIA SCHENCK – “BATTLE CRY”

KEVIN BALES – Piano www.kevinbales.com

Kevin Bales has amassed a long list of awards and a reputation as one of the finest jazz pianists performing anywhere. In 1994, he won the American Pianist Association's Jazz Piano Competition. He has performed in some of the most acclaimed clubs and festivals in America and around the world: the JVC Jazz Festival in New York, The Bakery in Los Angeles, The Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center jazz series, the Toronto and Edinburgh jazz festivals, and the Moscow Center for the Performing Arts.

His list of recordings is similarly extensive. His work with trumpeter extraordinaire Marcus Printup has become a lifetime association that has included recordings on Blue Note/Capitol records. Ten years touring and recording with vocal iconoclast Rene Marie culminated in the a Grammy Nominated album.

Kevin has been playing with the VA Quartet since 2010.

MARLON PATTON – Drums www.marlonpatton.com

Marlon Patton is a New York -based drummer and music producer/engineer. The first call for so many musicians, not just because of his impeccable time, but because of the incredible musicality of what he delivers. Playing within a huge dynamic range, makes him the perfect match for quiet piano jazz performances to hard- hitting rock gigs. From precision to reckless abandon, he makes it truly his own.

Currently, he is a member of Nelson Patton, Kenosha Kid, Weisshund, ATL Collective, The Trey Wright Trio, and The Mace Hibbard Quintet.

He has toured, performed and/or recorded with Jim White, Larkin Poe, Delta Moon, Lera Lynn, Liv Warfield, Col. Bruce Hampton, Takana Miyamoto, John Patitucci, Lew Soloff, Bobby Shew, Rufus Reid, Marcus Printup, Kevin Bales, Wycliffe Gordon, TOKU and Russel Gunn. He has recorded for labels such as Sony, Universal, RH Music, Yep Roc, Ropeadope plus many more independent releases. His drumming has been in soundtracks on Adult Swim, ABC, and HBO.

Marlon has been playing with the VA Quartet since 2010.

RICK LOLLAR – Guitar www.ricklollar.com

Rick Lollar is an Atlanta-based guitarist, singer and songwriter. As a member of Jimmy Herring and The 5 of 7, he's achieved a dream and come full-circle, going toe-to-toe with one of his chief role models in a spirit of genuine musical partnership. His guitar work is raw and blues-drenched yet stamped with the harmonic and rhythmic invention of jazz. But his gritty, expressive singing voice and his gift as a songwriter and lyricist is just as central to his musical identity, as documented with the Rick Lollar Band (*Soulful Hang*, 2012) as well as his funky blues-rock outfit King Baby (*The Big Galoot*, 2017). His crisp, versatile guitar and songwriting can also be heard on drummer/vocalist Jamison Ross' Grammy-nominated *Jamison Ross* and the follow-up *All for One*. Lollar has also worked with the pop/rock group Larkin Poe (opening for Elvis Costello), Atlanta jam-band legend Col. Bruce Hampton, and fellow guitarist Dan Nettles' eclectic Kenosha Kid out of Athens, GA. His unorthodox rock duo Weisshund, with Marlon Patton on drums and Moog bass pedals, released its second EP *More of Us* in 2017.

RODNEY JORDAN – Bass www.rodnejordanmusic.com

Memphis-native, **Rodney Jordan** grew up playing the bass in church and with his high school orchestra. While living in Atlanta, Jordan became one of the city's most active jazz bassists, performing and recording with some of America's finest jazz musicians, including Marcus Printup, Mulgrew Miller, James Williams, Milt Jackson, George Coleman, and Russell Gunn. Joining the faculty in the School of Music at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL in 2001 he now holds a rank of Associate Professor of Jazz Studies. Jordan teaches jazz bass, jazz combo playing, music education classes, and a jazz styles class.

Jordan joined the Marcus Roberts Trio in 2009. Rodney Jordan is one of the most versatile jazz bassists on the scene today. His tone is rich and soulful when he plays hauntingly beautiful phrases with the bow. Just as readily, he plays fast virtuosic passages with apparent effortless skill. Jordan's knowledge of harmony from his classical bass training combined with the relentless feeling of swing in his playing is a perfect fit for the powerful melodic, blues-based, syncopated improvisational sound of the Marcus Roberts Trio.

Rodney has been playing with the VA Quartet since 2011.

KEBBI WILLIAMS – Saxophone

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Kebbi-Williams-120767941338478/about/>

Kebbi Williams is a world class Saxophone player. Kebbi is the Saxophone player in the upcoming live music film Brass Tacks and played for the Grammy Award winning band Outkast. In recent years Kebbi has been laying tracks for names like John Legend and touring with the Tedeschi Trucks Band. At the 2004 Grammy Awards he also performed with two other legendary Grammy bands – George Clinton & P-Funk, as well as Earth, Wind & Fire. Kebbi was born into a musical family (his uncle, Milan Williams, was an original member of The Commodores and composed their first hit “Machine Gun”; he also went on to write “Brickhouse” and “Easy Like Sunday Morning”).

Williams studied saxophone throughout high school and college, earning an undergraduate degree in Jazz from Howard University. His command of the saxophone started to reach public acclaim when, at age 22, he won an award from Downbeat Magazine for his Musicianship. From there, he went on to earn his Master's Degree in Jazz Studies from Howard University.

Williams has gone on to play a wide range of music including Jazz, Hip-Hop, Soul, and Rock & Roll. He has performed with many of the best contemporary and legendary Musicians of our time, a long list that includes Grammy Award winners: Outkast, Branford Marsalis, Donald Byrd, Roy Hargrove, Cee-lo and Gnarls Barkley, Mos Def, Jeff “Tain” Watts, Bilal, Oteil Burbridge, Me'Shell Ndegeocello, Russell Gunn, Betty Carter, Derek Trucks, and Julie Dexter. Kebbi has always been breaking down barriers and pushing the envelope Musically; turning his Jazz background and training into a coveted item that can crossover into the varied worlds of Hip-Hop, Soul, and Rock & Roll. Kebbi continues to perform around the world with many great Musicians ranging from Tedeschi Trucks Band, Outkast and Mos Def to virtuosos like Me'Shell Ndegeocello. Kebbi just concluded an African Tour with Mos Def, and he also recently performed on the the Jay Leno and David Letterman Shows.