

# The Music Center Presents: Joni 75: A Birthday Celebration

## The Band

**Brian Blade:** While studying at Loyola University in New Orleans, Brian Blade met Jon Cowherd and the two began making music together. The pair formed Brian Blade & The Fellowship Band in 1997 and has released five albums. Blade has performed and toured with Daniel Lanois, Ellis Marsalis, Bob Dylan and many other artists and, since 2000, has been the drummer with The Wayne Shorter Quartet. He has recorded and toured with Joni Mitchell since 1995, performing on her albums *Taming The Tiger*, *Travelogue* and *Shine*.

**Jon Cowherd:** Jon Cowherd is best known for his long-running partnership with drummer/bandleader Brian Blade, with whom he co-founded the GRAMMY-nominated Brian Blade & The Fellowship Band. Together, their acclaimed, influential albums showcase Cowherd's stellar keyboard work and singular compositional skills. In 2017, Cowherd released *Gateway*, a new recording on the exclusive, vinyl only, Newvelle record label. He has played and recorded with Joni Mitchell as part of a collaboration with Brian Blade & The Fellowship Band.

**Christopher Thomas:** GRAMMY-nominated Christopher Thomas was born in 1970 in St. Louis, Missouri. Although he's the only musician in his family, Thomas took to music as if he were a born legacy. His musical venture began with the violin, and then quickly gravitated towards the cello. He began his bass studies under the guidance of Henry Lowe, principal bassist of the St. Louis Symphony. Thomas later attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison where he studied under the tutelage of Richard Davis. He continued his education at the University of New Orleans, studying music fundamentals and jazz improvisation and played weekly shows with his mentor and teacher, Mr. Ellis Marsalis.

**Greg Leisz:** Greg Leisz is a GRAMMY-award winning multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and producer whose resume is impressive. He has been a recording and touring guitarist and pedal steel player for many artists, including Eric Clapton, Joni Mitchell, Willie Nelson, k.d.lang, Kris Kristofferson, Emmy Lou Harris, Bill Frisell, Charles Lloyd and Robert Plant, to name a few. Leisz played on the Joni Mitchell albums including *Turbulent Indigo* (1994), *Taming the Tiger* (1997), and *Shine* (2007), and was a member of her live touring band in 1998.

**Marvin Sewell:** Marvin Sewell is a musician, composer and producer whose distinct sound encompasses a "fantasy fusion" of jazz, blues, funk, alternative and world music. Sewell has performed with such legendary Chicago musicians as Von Freeman, Ramsey Lewis, Billy Branch, Jody Christian, Big Time Sarah, and Barbara La Shore. He had a 15-year collaboration with multiple GRAMMY award-winning recording artist Cassandra Wilson, serving as lead guitarist, arranger, band leader, and musical director. In addition to leading The Marvin Sewell Group, he has toured and played with a host of leading artists including Angelique Kidjo, Herbie Hancock, Charles Earland, Wayne Shorter, Chaka Khan, Brian Blade, Tom Scott, Dee Dee Bridgewater and many more.

## The Music Center Presents: Joni 75: A Birthday Celebration

- CD / E-Album

**VÖ-Datum 8.3.2019**

- LP

**VÖ-Datum tba**