

Wallis Annenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

Paul Crewes
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PRESENTS

DIANE SCHUUR

“I REMEMBER YOU”

WITH LOVE TO FRANK AND STAN

THE MUSIC OF FRANK SINATRA, STAN GETZ AND OTHER GEMS

Musicians

VOCALS & PIANO

Diane Schuur

SAXOPHONE

Ernie Watts

BASS

Bruce Lett

DRUMS

Kendall Kay

Program

Diane Schuur is one of those rare singers, like Sinatra and Judy Garland, both a superb vocalist and alluring entertainer. Through standards from the great American songbook, her singing conjures the emotions that burn in our hearts, wild romance and the thirst for love and happiness. Ms. Schuur embraces this music with artistic integrity and deep respect for the lyrics, giving true meaning to the elegance and swing of both Sinatra and Getz.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017 AT 8PM

Bram Goldsmith Theater

Running Time: 1 hour and 45 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission.

Special thanks to Marilyn Ziering for her gift of the Steinway & Sons piano featured in tonight's performance.

About the Artists

PHOTO BY LANI GARFIELD



DIANE SCHUUR (Vocals and Piano). Long regarded as one of Contemporary Jazz's leading vocalists, Diane Schuur is as eclectic as she is brilliant. Born in Tacoma, Washington, Schuur was blind from birth;

but she was gifted with perfect pitch and initially taught herself piano by ear. She later received formal piano training at The Washington State School for the Blind, which she attended until she was 11 years of age. Nicknamed "Deedles" as a child, she grew up surrounded by the world of Jazz embraced by both of her parents: Her father was an amateur pianist, and her mother kept a formidable collection of Duke Ellington and Dinah Washington albums in her home. Not surprisingly, Dinah Washington is often listed as Schuur's major vocal influence, and she learned the iconic singer's *What a Difference a Day Makes* while she was still a toddler. She also developed her own rich, resonant vocal style at a very young age. With a distinguished recording career that spans three decades, including two Grammy awards (*Timeless* and *Diane Schuur and The Count Basie Orchestra* on GRP Records), as well as three additional GRAMMY® nominations, Schuur's music has explored almost every corner of the 20th Century musical landscape. Her musical collaborations include the aforementioned Count Basie Orchestra, Barry Manilow, B.B. King, Ray Charles, and Jose Feliciano, among countless others. These collaborations have resulted in numerous #1 Billboard Chart recordings, including *Pure Schuur* and *Heart to Heart with B.B. King*; Ms. Schuur has appeared on PBS and many other television specials...as well as a very special visit to the beloved TV show, "Sesame Street." Diane has been invited to perform at The White House on multiple occasions, and was one of the select musical guests invited to perform for Stevie Wonder at the Kennedy Center Honors when he received his prestigious award. She continues to tour and perform extensively at major concert halls and venues around the world. Most recently, Ms. Schuur recorded an homage to two of her very important mentors, Frank Sinatra and Stan Getz. The CD, entitled *I Remember You (With Love To Stan and Frank)* released in June 2014 also commemorates her "official" discovery 35 years ago by Stan Getz at the 1979 Monterey Jazz Festival. The recording features all new arrangements by Alan Broadbent.

PHOTO BY PATRICIA WATTS



ERNE WATTS (Saxophone)

The two-time Grammy Award winner has been featured on over 500 recordings by artists ranging from Cannonball Adderley to Frank Zappa. He started playing saxophone at age 13, and won a scholarship to the Wilmington Music School in Delaware where he studied classical music. Soon after, he won a Downbeat Scholarship to the Berklee College of Music. From Berklee he joined Buddy Rich's Big Band, before moving to Los Angeles. His signature sound was soon heard on countless TV shows and movie scores and with pop stars such as Aretha Franklin and Steely Dan. In 1983, he began performing with Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra and became a charter member in Haden's critically acclaimed Quartet West. With 24 albums as a leader, he has generated an impressive artistic legacy on the world's major stages. A respected educator, Watts also conducts university master classes and performs orchestral programs with symphonies internationally. In addition to his two Grammys, he was awarded the prestigious Frankfurt Music Prize for lifetime achievement in performance and composition.



KENDALL KAY (Drums)

Born in Durban, South Africa, Kendall showed an interest in the drums at an early age. He pursued this interest, eventually playing and recording with many of the region's major artists, including Steve Kekana, Johnny Fourie and Izzio Gross. In 1983 Kendall moved to Texas, and studied at North Texas State University, graduating with a degree in Jazz Studies. Kendall arrived in Los Angeles in 1987 and has been playing and recording here ever since. Credits include work with; Cecilia Coleman, Kenny Burrell, Rickie Lee Jones, Kyle Eastwood, Allan Broadbent, Clare Fischer and Mary Wilson.



BRUCE LETT (Bass)

Lett's playing is "distinguished by a resilient tone and buoyant rhythmic attitude," writes the Los Angeles Times. The bassist has played with Nancy Wilson, Billy Cobham, Gerry Mulligan, the Bill Holman Big Band and has been Jack Sheldon's bassist for 20 years. He is proficient on both electric and acoustic instruments. His major influences include Ray Brown, Paul Chambers and Jaco Pastorius. Lett has established himself as one of the Southern California jazz scene's most in-demand players and also serves on the faculty at California State University, Long Beach, as their jazz bass instructor.



IN HER OWN WORDS

"Stan Getz was a great friend as well as a mentor. He taught me less is more when singing into the microphone. The microphone can be your friend. You don't have to shout out every note and he also instilled the importance of enunciating while singing the words to a song. I had the honor to perform with Frank Sinatra as a replacement for Liza Minnelli who was ill. Everyone was against it except Frank. He gave me a chance to be part of his group. Once I started singing, the audience responded quite positively to his choice. We had many intimate conversations about life and my blindness. He ended up painting a beautiful abstract canvas for me, which hangs in my home. He said to me I have seen so much beauty in my life I wish I could give you my eyes for one day to see this beautiful world we live in. Then he realized I could see it too in my own way. "

— Diane Schuur