

WILTON LIBRARY



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilton Library's Hot & Cool Jazz series features Jay and Michael Leonhart April 4

Wilton, CT – Father and son musicians, Jay and Michael Leonhart, create some heat on a cool spring night when they perform in Wilton Library's Hot & Cool: Jazz at the Brubeck Room series Saturday, April 4, starting at 7:30. The performance is followed by an informal reception. Renowned as a superior bassist, Jay is enjoying a long and successful career combining his talents as a musician, lyricist and singer. Starting in the '70s he began turning his poems into songs, and has since recorded more than six CDs of his own songs as well as numerous other instrumental CDs. He has played and recorded with some of the best jazz performers such as Thad Jones and Mel Lewis, Tony Bennett, and Marian McPartland, and has performed with the likes of James Taylor and Queen Latifah. Between 1975 and 1995, Leonhart was named The Most Valuable Bassist in the Recording Industry three times by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences. According to Christopher Loudon of *JazzTimes*, "Leonhart is the Fred Astaire of jazz, a craftsman so seamlessly smooth that casual observers often fail to grasp the immensity of his talent."

Michael Leonhart joins his father on trumpet and piano. Born into a musical family, Michael has developed into a powerhouse of the music and entertainment world as a trumpet player, producer, multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger and singer-songwriter. He has composed and performed music for movies, television, dance, fashion shows and theater, and has appeared on over 70 albums. As a solo artist he has released six albums on the Sunnyside label and has performed with Steely Dan since 1996 – having been included on two of their albums. He has worked closely with Bobby McFerrin, Bonnie Raitt, Brian Eno, Busta Rhymes, D.J. Spooky, David Byrne, Henry Mancini, James Brown, John Barry, Joshua Redman, Mos Def, Natalie Merchant, Q-Tip, Raekwon (Wutang Clan), Slash (Guns and Roses/ Velvet

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Revolver), Steven Tyler (Aerosmith), Todd Rundgren, Vinicius Cantuaria and Wynton Marsalis, among others. This year, Michael will be touring with Steely Dan while putting the finishing touches on his seventh studio record "Seahorse and the Storyteller," to be released late 2009.

Wilton Library's *Hot & Cool: Jazz at the Brubeck Room* series is made possible by a generous grant from the William and Karen Tell Foundation, with special thanks to Ed and Catherine Romer, and Chris and Tish Brubeck. Suggested donation for the concert is \$10 per person. Advance registration is highly recommended due to the popularity of the Hot & Cool series. Pre-registrants must arrive by 7:20 p.m. to be guaranteed a seat. Wait-listed and walk-ins will be seated after 7:20 p.m. if seating is available. For reservations, information and directions, visit www.wiltonlibrary.org/events or call (203) 762-3950. Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center (Connecticut).

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Caption: Bassist Jay Leonhart and his son Michael (trumpet and piano) will be performing at Wilton Library's *Hot & Cool: Jazz at the Brubeck Room* Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. followed by an informal reception. For reservations, information and directions, visit www.wiltonlibrary.org/events or call (203) 762-3950. Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road, Wilton, CT.