

WILTON LIBRARY



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilton Library's Connecticut's Own series gets jazzed up

Wilton, CT – In a departure from its usual Sunday chamber music program, Wilton Library's *Connecticut's Own* concert series gets a little jazzy with the Rex Cadwallader Trio on Sunday, March 1, from 4 – 5 p.m. The trio is comprised of noted jazz pianist, composer, and educator Rex Cadwallader, bassist Mike Asetta and drummer Arti Dixson. They will play an eclectic mix of jazz standards by composers such as George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern. The group also will perform several of Cadwallader's own compositions.

Dr. Rex Cadwallader received an Emmy Award in 1999 for his original score for "The Connecticut River: A Journey Through Time," a Connecticut Public Television Special, an Emmy Award nomination in 1998 for his score for "Connecticut For All Seasons," another CPTV presentation. He has received composition and performance awards from *Downbeat* magazine, compositional study grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has published over sixty compositions for big band, jazz combo and vocal jazz ensemble. His music has been recorded throughout the U.S. and Europe, and his scores for television have been heard nationwide. Dr. Cadwallader has played with such jazz luminaries as Rufus Reid, Bob Mintzer, Eddie Daniels, Ed Shaunessey, Bill Watrous, Don Menza, Clark Terry, Ali Ryerson, Joe Beck, Giacomo Gates, and many others. Rex appears as performer or composer on over twenty-five albums including one of his most recent CDs, "Quicker Than The Eye," with bassist Mike Asetta and drummer Arti Dixson.

Mike Asetta began touring internationally early in his career, from Carnegie Hall to the Seoul Arts Center in Korea. He has performed worldwide for more than two decades with

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orchestras from the Yale Philharmonia, the United States Air Force Band, and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra under the direction of Buddy Morrow. Asetta graduated from the Hartford Conservatory, and has a Master's in Performance from Yale. Currently, he offers private double bass and electric bass lessons, teaches at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, and at the Community School of the Arts of the University of Connecticut. In addition to maintaining a full performance schedule, Asetta repairs and restores acoustic basses in his Connecticut studio.

Percussionist Arti Dixson is a seasoned performer whose list of achievements spans a rich and diverse spectrum of both venues and genres. He has toured the world with performers Ahmad Jamal and Janis Ian, and has appeared with such stellar jazz figures as Larry Coryell, Randy Brecker, Bill Evans, Ali Ryerson, and Marion Meadows to name only a few. Dixson appears regularly with groups along the eastern shoreline, and has performed at Foxwood Casino with Harry Connick, The Nelson Riddle orchestra, Connie Francis and Ray Cousins. He has recorded with a host of singers and musicians from Boston to Philadelphia. Dixson continues to perform and record throughout the region and also accepts students.

The *Connecticut's Own* concert series is free of charge. Advance registration is strongly recommended due to the popularity of the series. Pre-registrants should arrive by 3:50 p.m. to be guaranteed seating. Waitlisted and walk-in registrants will be seated after 3:50 p.m. if space is available. For more information, registration or 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.

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Caption: (l – r) Mike Asetta (bassist), Arti Dixson (drums) and Rex Cadwallader (pianist) comprise the Rex Cadwallader Trio performing at Wilton Library's *Connecticut's Own* Sunday concert series on March 1 at 4 p.m. The concert is free; registration is recommended. To register, 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.