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## NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Wilton Library's Hot & Cool Jazz Concert features Sean Smith Quartet June 4

Wilton, CT – Wilton Library's Brubeck Room comes alive with the sound of jazz when the Sean Smith Quartet takes to the stage on Saturday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m. for a *Hot & Cool: Jazz at the Brubeck Room* concert.

Smith has been an integral part of the international jazz scene for more than 20 years, appearing in many of the major jazz festivals, concert halls, and clubs all over the world with musicians that include Gerry Mulligan, Phil Woods, Benny Carter, Flip Phillips, Bill Charlap, Peggy Lee, Rosemary Clooney, and many others. He also is a prolific composer whose works have been played and recorded by such artists as Phil Woods, Mark Murphy, Bill Charlap, and Gene Bertoncini (Charlap and Bertoncini have performed in previous Hot & Cool concerts at the library), as well as being featured in several films. Sean's compositions are best described as "lyrical, melodic, cinematic and songful." Jazz historian and journalist Ira Gitler has written, "His originals are highly listenable and thought provoking music for both head and heart." Sean Smith earned his Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music and lives in New York City where the Sean Smith Quartet performs regularly. Its new recording, *Trust*, was released in March, 2011. For this performance, bassist/composer Smith will be joined by Joel Frahm on the saxophones, John Hart at the guitar, and Russell Meissner at the drums.

Joel Frahm, born in Racine, WI in 1969, earned his B.A. in Jazz Performance at Manhattan School of Music. He released three highly regarded CDs on Palmetto: *The Navigator*, *Don't Explain* (with Mehdau), and *Sorry No Decaf*. *Don't Explain*, his latest, was the number one jazz release for radio play in the United States for two consecutive weeks in 2004, according to [jazzweek.com](http://jazzweek.com) airplay chart and also reached number one on college radio for one week, according to College Music Journal's airplay chart. Joel was also recently selected in *DownBeat Magazine's* Critics Poll as a Rising Star in the category of tenor saxophone.

(More)

John Hart began on the guitar when he was 12, graduated from the University of Miami in 1983, and moved to New York City the following year. Among his most significant associations were with Terumasa Hino, Larry Goldings, and particularly Jack McDuff, with whom he toured and recorded. In addition, Hart has been a busy music educator and performed with many top jazz artists, including Jimmy Smith, Lou Donaldson, James Moody, Mike Mainieri, the Maria Schneider Orchestra, and Steve Allen, in addition to leading his own groups.

Russell Meissner grew up in Toronto, Canada and began playing pillows at age 3 (apparently after seeing Mel Torme) and moved on to drums around age 11. In 1991, Russ attended William Paterson University in New Jersey where he studied with John Riley and Rufus Ried and graduated with a BA in jazz performance. He moved to New York City in 1996 and since then has performed with diverse artists including John Abercrombie, Bill Charlap, Lori Carson, Norah Jones, Marian McPartland, Joe Wilder, Dick Hyman, John Scofield, Jim Campilongo and many others. Russ has performed in clubs, concert halls, and festivals throughout the US, Canada, Europe, Israel and Japan.

The *Hot & Cool: Jazz at the Brubeck Room* concerts are made possible by the William and Karen Tell Fund, with special thanks to Ed and Catherine Romer, and Chris and Tish Brubeck. The performance is followed by an informal reception; CDs will be available for purchase. Suggested donation for the evening is \$10 per person. Advance registration is highly recommended due to the popularity of the concerts. Pre-registrants should arrive by 7:20 to be guaranteed seating; waitlisted and walk-in registrants will be admitted after 7:20 if space is available. Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center. For information, directions and registration, visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or call 203-762-3950, ext. 213.

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**Caption:** The Seam Smith Quartet performs Saturday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m. for Wilton Library's *Hot & Cool: Jazz at the Brubeck Room* concert. Pictured (l to r): John Ellis (who is not available for this performance therefore Joel Frahm will be filling in at the library on saxophones), John Hart, guitarist, Seam Smith, bassist, and Russell Meissner, drummer. Advance registration is recommended. To register, visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or call 203-762-3950, ext. 213.