



Media Contact:
Brandy Wood
Marketing Manager, WBGO
(973) 624-8883 / bwood@wbgo.org

WBGO'S "THE CHECKOUT" COLLABORATES WITH NYC'S THE JAZZ GALLERY FOR NEW CONVERSATION SERIES

February 10, 2020 – WBGO, the world's premiere jazz public radio station, is excited to partner with New York City's famous The Jazz Gallery, known for its sharp curation of rising jazz talent, for a new series: *The Checkout at The Jazz Gallery*. *The Checkout* is proud to collaborate with the venue for its landmark 25th anniversary season.

The pilot season will feature five pre-concert conversations with *The Checkout*'s host and producer Simon Rentner, speaking candidly with artists onstage about their craft before their performance at The Jazz Gallery. These intimate discussions will be recorded for a potential future release of The Checkout radio program and podcast, and archived online at checkoutjazz.org

The series kicks off on February 15 at 7:30pm, with reedman and composer John Ellis talking about his Jazz Gallery commission "The Ice Siren," an epic narrative song cycle that "conjures a Tim Burtonesque scenario." The jazz opera's libretto is written by the award-winning playwright Andy Bragen and will be performed by vocalists Miles Griffith and Gretchen Parlato, backed by Ellis's 11-piece hybrid jazz chamber ensemble. Ellis's forthcoming release of the music drops on Parade Light Records on March 20.

All discussions are open to the public along with a ticket to the concert.

Full schedule:

Saturday, February 15: The Checkout at The Jazz Gallery: John Ellis "The Ice Siren"

Friday, March 13: The Checkout at The Jazz Gallery: Haris+h Raghavan

Saturday, April 4: The Checkout at The Jazz Gallery: Morris/Webber Big Band

Saturday, May 2: The Checkout at The Jazz Gallery: Linda Oh + Fabian Almazan

Saturday, June 13: The Checkout at The Jazz Gallery: Threadill + Iyer + Prieto

The Checkout from WBGO is an award-winning syndicated radio program and podcast featuring new music, interviews, and live performances from the best in jazz and genre-crossing artists from around the world. The show was named best podcast for the third consecutive year in JazzTimes.

About WBGO

WBGO is the global leader in jazz radio, broadcasting from the jazz capital of the world. Founded in 1979, WBGO is a publicly-supported cultural institution that preserves and elevates America's music: jazz and blues. WBGO reaches a weekly audience of more than 400,000 in the New York/New Jersey metro area via 88.3FM. Through programs such as Jazz Night in America, produced in partnership with NPR and Jazz at Lincoln Center, and WBGO's position as content provider to NPR, its reach extends to millions more across the country. From

its home base of Newark, New Jersey, Public Radio station WBGO has long been an anchor institution in community engagement through its partnerships, concerts, education and news programming.

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