

The Colorado College Music Department presents

Jon Cowherd, Brian Blade & Tony Scherr

Thursday, September 11, 2025

7:00 pm

Celeste Theatre

PROGRAM

* Song selections to be announced from the stage *



Jon Cowherd is the definition of “a musician’s musician.” A stellar pianist and composer, he is equally at ease in the roles of musical director, side man, or studio wizard.

Cowherd left Paducah, KY for New Orleans to study french horn at Loyola University. Arriving in the Big Easy, he was amazed by the way in which jazz is woven into the culture. At Loyola, Cowherd was tasked with playing piano for the saxophone auditions for the school’s big band. While playing, he noticed that he and the drummer seemed to be hooking up on a lot of rhythms. During a break, the drummer wandered over to

Cowherd and said “Hi, my name’s Brian Blade. I feel like we hear music in a similar way.” They became fast friends and would eventually go on to form the Grammy-nominated Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band.

Playing with “the right feel” has opened doors for Cowherd and allows him to be a bit of a chameleon, genre-wise. When not recording and touring with the Fellowship, Cowherd works with a broad array of musicians from the jazz, pop and rock worlds including Joni Mitchell, Norah Jones, Brandi Carlile, k.d. lang, Rosanne Cash, Iggy Pop, Cassandra Wilson, John Scofield, John Patitucci and Lizz Wright. In 2013, ArtistShare and Blue Note records released *Mercy*, Cowherd’s first album as a leader. In 2017, Cowherd released *Gateway* on the exclusive “vinyl only” Newvelle record label. The album consists of seven compositions by Cowherd and one from Brian Blade, and features Steve Cardenas and Tony Scherr. In 2019, Cowherd and Blade also directed the all-star Joni Mitchell tribute *Joni 75*. In 2023, The Jon Cowherd Trio released *Pride & Joy*.



Brian Blade was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. The first music he experienced was the Gospel and songs of praise at the Zion Baptist Church where his father, Brady L. Blade Sr., has been Pastor since 1961. In elementary school, he began playing the violin. Inspired by his older brother, Brady L. Blade Jr., who had been the drummer at Zion Baptist Church, Brian shifted his focus to the drums throughout middle and high school.

Brian moved to New Orleans to attend Loyola University. From 1988 through 1993, Brian was able to study and play with most of the master musicians living in New Orleans, such as John Vidacovich, Ellis Marsalis, Steve Masakowski, Bill Huntington, Mike Peller, John Mahoney, George French, Emile Vinette, Germaine Bazzle, David Lee, Jr., Alvin Red Tyler, Tony Dagradi and Harold Battiste.

In 1997, Brian Blade formed The Fellowship Band with pianist Jon Cowherd. The Fellowship Band has released seven recordings: *Brian Blade Fellowship* (1998), *Perceptual* (2000), *Season of Changes* (2008), *Landmarks* (2014), *Body And Shadow* (2017), *live from the archives* (2022), and *Kings Highway* (2023). While continuing to work with The Fellowship Band, Blade has been a member of the Wayne Shorter quartet since 2000. He has recorded with Daniel Lanois, Joni Mitchell, Kenny Garrett, Ellis Marsalis, Chick Corea, Marianne Faithfull, Norah Jones, Emmylou Harris and Bob Dylan.



Tony Scherr is arguably one of the most in-demand sidemen in New York City. As a bassist, guitarist, or singer Tony has worked with: Bill Frisell Trio, Sexmob, John Lurie's Lounge Lizards, Willie Nelson, Rickie Lee Jones, Ani DiFranco, Jason Collett (Broken Social Scene), Rufus Wainwright, Norah Jones, Madeleine Peyroux, Jesse Harris, Richard Julian, Sasha Dobson, Shawn Colvin, The Abrams Brothers, Kevin Kinney (Drivin N Cryin), and Teddy Thompson to name a few.

He tours, records, and plays around town regularly with a broad range of artists, and has played on many albums, movie and television scores. In the 1990's, Tony built his own 8 track analog studio where he has recorded and played on numerous albums. A Grammy-nominated producer, Tony has produced and engineered a diverse body of work that includes two records of his own music released on Smells Like Records titled *Come Around* (2001) and *Twist in the Wind* (2008).

Born in New Haven, CT, Tony began studying string bass at the age of five. He rebelled by picking up guitar at twelve years old and forming a series of garage bands with his brother Pete on bass. After trying music school, Tony spent a couple of years on the road with the Woody Herman band, landing in New York in the late eighties.



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Colorado College is located within the unceded territory of the Ute Peoples. The earliest documented peoples also include the Apache, Arapaho, Comanche, and Cheyenne. An extended list of tribes with a legacy of occupation in Colorado can be accessed through the Music Department website.

