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Global Arts Live presents
**Rudresh Mahanthappa's
Hero Trio**

featuring
Rudresh Mahanthappa, alto saxophone
François Moutin, bass
Rudy Royston, drums

**February 19, 8pm
Crystal Ballroom at Somerville
Theatre**

Global Arts Live: 617.876.4275 globalartslive.org

Boston, MA — Global Arts Live presents [Rudresh Mahanthappa's Hero Trio](http://globalartslive.org) on Saturday, February 19, 8pm at [Crystal Ballroom at Somerville Theatre](http://globalartslive.org), 55 Davis Sq., Somerville. Tickets are \$32–\$40, cabaret seating. For tickets and information call Global Arts Live at 617.876.4275 or buy online at globalartslive.org.

One of the era's definitive saxophonists, Rudresh Mahanthappa pays tribute to his greatest influences and inspirations such as Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Lee Konitz, Ornette Coleman, Keith Jarrett, Johnny Cash, and Stevie Wonder. Presented with characteristically original arrangements, the Hero Trio includes Rudresh Mahanthappa on alto sax with long-time associates François Moutin on bass and Rudy Royston on drums.

The last time Rudresh Mahanthappa went into the studio with bassist François Moutin and drummer Rudy Royston they recorded one of the decade's most acclaimed albums, 2015's *Bird Calls* (ACT). The quintet session with pianist Matt Mitchell and trumpeter Adam O'Farrill featured the altoist's original compositions inspired by the extraordinarily rich idiom forged by bebop architect Charlie Parker. In many ways the new album *Hero Trio* is a companion piece to *Bird Calls*, but this time Mahanthappa draws directly on the music of his formative influences. Released by the British label Whirlwind on June 19, 2020, *Hero Trio* offers a revelatory window into his wide-open aesthetic with a disparate program that begins and ends with *Bird*.

"I think it is a continuation of sorts," says Mahanthappa, whose responsibilities as a father and the Anthony H. P. Lee '79 Director of Jazz at Princeton University have kept him close to home in Montclair, New Jersey in recent years. "If I'm thinking about music that's inspired me

to pick up the saxophone, Charlie Parker is at the top of my list. Those tunes are some of the first I heard. All of these pieces had a powerful impact on me.”

One of the era’s definitive saxophonists, Mahanthappa has topped numerous jazz critics polls over the past 15 years. His recordings are regularly recognized as among the best of the year, and his cast of collaborators includes artists who have earned similar distinction, including pianist Vijay Iyer, guitarist Rez Abbasi, and saxophonist Steve Lehman.

The trio with Moutin and Royston emerged out of gigs with the *Bird Calls* quintet when sound checks gave them brief opportunities to play in the stripped-down setting. But the bonds between Mahanthappa and his bandmates extend back decades. He and Royston were buddies growing up in Colorado, and they played in a band together in the early 1990s. After being out of touch for many years, they rekindled the relationship when Royston moved to New York City about a decade ago. Since then, Royston has become one of the music’s most sought-after players, a standout talent on a scene overflowing with extravagantly talented drummers. Moutin is similarly in demand. Mahanthappa met the bassist in the fall of 1997 within weeks of moving to New York City, and they’ve collaborated intermittently ever since. The bassist and drummer hadn’t played much together before *Bird Calls*, “but they connected so well and sounded so good,” Mahanthappa says.

Born in Italy in 1971, Mahanthappa grew up in Boulder, Colorado and graduated from Berklee College of Music in Boston in 1991. He went on to earn an MM in jazz composition from Chicago’s DePaul University in 1995. Mahanthappa first gained widespread attention at the turn of the century with pianist Vijay Iyer as they recorded on each other’s albums and in the duo they introduced on 2006’s *Raw Materials* (Savoy Jazz). His creative evolution was also shaped by his encounter with Kadri Gopalnath, who introduced the saxophone into South Indian classical music. Studies with the Carnatic saxophone master led to the acclaimed 2008 Carnatic jazz album *Kinsmen* (Pi). Mahanthappa deepened his relationship with the South Indian tradition via a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship, which resulted in 2011’s dazzling Carnatic fusion album *Samdhi* (ACT Music).

Mahanthappa found another powerful mentor in veteran altoist Bunky Green, an emotionally raw player with whom he recorded on 2010’s *Apex* (Pi). Mahanthappa has also toured and recorded with the trios MSG (with Ronan Guilfoyle on bass and Chander Sardjoe on drums) and the Indo-Pak Coalition (with Rez Abbasi on guitar and Dan Weiss on tabla). In another path that leads back to *Bird*, Mahanthappa toured in 2020 (until it was shut-down due to COVID) with Fly Higher, a group co-led with drummer Terri Lyne Carrington and founded to celebrate Charlie Parker’s centennial.

With *Hero Trio*, Mahanthappa pays Parker the ultimate tribute with a project that summons his indefatigably creative spirit into the 21st century.

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Please note: Masks will be required indoors for all patrons, and staff. All must present either [proof of vaccination or negative COVID test](#) in order to enter the venue. For details see globalartslive.org/covid-safety-protocols.

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