TD Jazz: The Roots of Jazz
Abdullah Ibrahim & Ekaya and special guest Freddie Hendrix in tribute to The Jazz Epistles
Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 8:00pm
This is the 823rd concert in Koerner Hall

Abdullah Ibrahim, piano & composer
Noah Jackson, bass & cello
Will Terrill, drums
Cleave Guyton Jr., alto saxophone, flute & clarinet
Lance Bryant, tenor saxophone
Andrae Murchison, trombone & trumpet
Marshall McDonald, baritone saxophone

Freddie Hendrix, trumpet & flugelhorn

Abdullah Ibrahim
Nelson Mandela has referred to Abdullah Ibrahim as “South Africa’s Mozart,” and few would disagree. Born in 1934 in Cape Town, Ibrahim’s journey to becoming a conduit of beautiful music began at the age of seven with formal piano lessons at his mother’s church.

As a young boy, his musical influences ranged from spiritual hymns, traditional African music, carnival and minstrel music, and American jazz, swing, and boogie woogie. He earned the nickname “Dollar” from American sailors for his spirited efforts to buy American LPs, which could be found for one dollar. This nickname stuck, and he would later earn renown as “Dollar Brand.”

He was a founding member of South Africa’s first premier jazz group, the Jazz Epistles. In exile in 1963 Europe, destiny would call when Duke Ellington discovered Ibrahim in a jazz café in Zurich, which led to the recording Duke Ellington presents the Dollar Brand Trio.

In the 1970s, his songs “Mannenberg” and “Soweto” were embraced as anthems of protest against Apartheid South Africa and, in the 1980s, he formed the septet Ekaya, which became one of the few successful acoustic jazz groups of this era. The 1990s saw collaborations with big bands and classical string orchestras. A documentary film, A Struggle for Love, about Abdullah Ibrahim’s life journey, was made in 2004. His three previous recordings, Sotho Blue, Mukashi, and The Song Is My Story, demonstrate Abdullah Ibrahim at his most serene.

Freddie Hendrix
Over the past two decades, Freddie Hendrix has become one of the most in-demand trumpeters in jazz and beyond, who has forged his own sound out of the tradition of Freddie Hubbard, Woody Shaw, Lee Morgan, and Clifford Brown.

Also an accomplished composer, arranger, and educator, the Teaneck, New Jersey native’s skill and versatility have resulted in him working with a wide array of performers that range from the Count Basie Orchestra and The Christian McBride Big Band, to Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, and Alicia Keys.

A product of the esteemed jazz program at William Paterson University, with a Masters in Jazz Studies and Performance from New Jersey City University, Hendrix also shares his knowledge and passion for the music by serving as a faculty member at the Hartt School of Music at The University of Hartford, The New School in New York, and Jazz House Kids in Montclair, New Jersey.
Whether leading his own groups or lending his talents as a lead or section player in much larger ensembles, Freddie Hendrix continues to flourish as one of the most exciting trumpet voices on the music scene.

All of tonight’s artists are making their Royal Conservatory debuts.