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**For Immediate Release**  
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**9 November 2011**

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**LVanHart Presents Jazz @  
Kingston High School Auditorium  
Tuesday, December 6, 2011 @ 7pm  
The Mike Clark Trio  
Featuring Jerry Z (Organ/keyboards)  
and Matt Finck (Guitar)**

**Also Featuring:**

**The Rondout Valley 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Jazz Ensemble, Dir. Jason Clinton  
The Kingston High School Jazz Ensemble, Dir. Dan Shaut**

Music for ALL Ages!

For Information: [www.lvanhart.com](http://www.lvanhart.com)

For Reservations: (845) 514-2079

Tickets Sold @ the Door: \$15/\$8 with Student ID

Kingston High School – 403 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401

**KINGSTON, NY** - On Tuesday, December 6, 2011 LVanHart Artist Productions proudly presents, live in concert, [The Mike Clark Trio](#) featuring [Jerry Z](#) on organ/keyboard and Ulster County's own [Matt Finck](#) on guitar in a special performance at Kingston High School Auditorium. The music will begin with the Rondout Valley Middle School Jazz ensemble, Directed by Jason Clinton, followed by the Kingston High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dan Shaut, followed by the Mike Clark Trio.

*"He's a great jazz drummer—and he hasn't lost any of the stuff that he brought from Oakland. So now he's totally free to do both, and he does. The solo he played on the album Thrust, on the song "Actual Proof," is one of the best drum solos on any of my albums. So many people have remarked about that solo, saying, 'Incredible.'" **Herbie Hancock on Mike Clark.***

Earlier in the day, Kingston high School will be hosting a workshop that will be attended by the Rondout Valley 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and High School Jazz Ensembles, and the Kingston High School Jazz Ensemble. Mike Clark, with Jerry Z and Matt Finck, will coach all three ensembles, sharing their collective experiences and knowledge of jazz, lending their expertise to help guide and inspire a new generation of musicians. It will be a very special day for these lucky students! **All three musicians have a vast knowledge of the history of the music, yet have an eye on the future by creating modern mainstream jazz with great respect for the music's roots.** A winning combination to share with the students!

[LVanHart Artist Productions](#) is very pleased that these young players and their teachers will have this invaluable opportunity to work with these master musicians. Both schools have received deep cuts to their programs, programs that are successful - where both students and teachers are dedicated to keeping this art form alive. It is our hope to bring more recognition to this great work happening right here in our own community.

Donations for this event may be sent to: **JWB Jazz at JW Bailey Middle School, 118 Merilina Ave. Ext., Kingston, NY 12401, ATTN: Dan Shaut and Rondout Valley Middle School Band, Attn: Jason Clinton, Rondout Valley Middle School, 122 Kyserike Road, Accord, NY 12404.**

**The Rondout Valley 7th & 8th grade Jazz Ensemble**, with Director Jason Clinton, has worked with Steve Wilson, Paquito De Rivera, the Count Basie Big Band and members of the Chick Corea Band. Last year at the Music in the Parks Competition in Hershey, PA they received the Best Overall Jazz Band Award, 1st Place in the Middle School/Junior High Division. This group received a Level IV Gold with Distinction Rating at NYSSMA Majors and has received over 20 consecutive Gold Ratings at the NYSSMA Majors Festival.

**The Rondout Valley High School Jazz Ensemble**, Randolph Loder, Director, is constantly in demand for local events in the Hudson Valley. This year we are honored to announce that Alex Graf has been selected as the number one guitarist in the state from a difficult audition process, and will be performing with the All State Jazz Ensemble. We encourage the students to listen to jazz and compose for the group, including these works in our performances. Recently we have also had the honor of premiering "A Place Above" by world renowned trombonist Roswell Rudd.

**The Kingston High School Jazz Ensemble**, under the direction of **Dan Shaut**, has worked with Chris Vadala, Jim Snidero, Tim Collins, the West Point Jazz Knights, Ron Carter, Dennis Mackrel and many other professional jazz musicians. The group has performed at the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) festival in Rochester, and NYSBDA (New York State Band Director's Association) in Syracuse. The Jazz Ensemble has consistently performed the highest level music in the NYSSMA festival and received gold or gold with distinction ratings. In 2009 while under the direction of Robert Shaut, the Jazz Ensemble was selected a finalist at the Essentially Ellington Competition at Jazz at Lincoln Center where the students worked with Wynton Marsalis and the entire Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

**MIKE CLARK** gained worldwide recognition as one of America's foremost jazz and funk drummers while playing with Herbie Hancock's group Headhunters in the early 1970's. Mike became known as a major innovator through his incisive playing on Hancock's Thrust album, which garnered him an international cult following.

While often referred to as the "Tony Williams of funk", Mike considers himself a jazz drummer, and in fact has become one of the most vital to sit behind a set. He's performed with jazz greats such as Herbie Hancock, Chet Baker, Vince Guaraldi, Tony Bennett, Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson, Eddie Henderson, Rob Dixon, Bobby Hutcherson, Woody Shaw, Donald Harrison, Larry Coryell, Jack Wilkins, Mike Wolff, Wallace Roney, Geri Allen, Billy Childs, James Genus, Bob Hurst, Chris Potter, Onaje Allan Gumbs, Bobby McFerrin, Al Jarreau, Dave Liebman, Nat Adderly, Oscar Brown Jr., Bill Doggett, Nicholas Payton, Christian McBride, Mose Allison, Maxine Brown, Gil Evans and his orchestra and many illuminating etceteras too numerous to list.

Born in Sacramento, CA Mike had the benefit of traveling around the country with his father, a union man for the railroad, while growing up. He was also a drummer at one time and had a keen ear, a killing record collection, and a great appreciation for music. This allowed the younger Clark to soak up the diverse regional music of the United States, which he credits as providing an invaluable education. Clark was a prodigy as well, picking up his first sticks at the tender age of five and sitting in--and getting "house" --with bands in Texas and New Orleans when he was as young as 7 and 8.

He continued to play in a variety of blues, R&B, organ trios, and jazz bands, settling in Oakland, CA, until his introduction to Herbie Hancock and his recruitment into the Headhunters in 1973.

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**Jerry Z** is a fresh voice on the organ/keyboards and is quickly gaining recognition as one of the most original and innovative musicians on the New York jazz/funk scene. With a style all his own, Z has captured the attention of audiences at home and abroad with fresh melodies, potent grooves and soulful compositions.

Notable collaborations include two recordings for soul-jazz pioneer Melvin Sparks "Groove on Up" (featuring Z's funky opus "Onion Patch") and "This Is It"; Jim Paynes "Sensei" and "Energie"; and John Basile's "It Was A Very Good Year." Sought after as a sideman, Jerry Z has enjoyed performing and recording with Doug Munro, Delbert McClinton, Hiram Bullock, Adam Nussbaum, John Scofield, Mark Whitfield, Bernard Purdy, Fred Wesley, Oz Noy, and others.

More recently, Jerry Z has been touring with the Headhunters and Mike Clark's "Prescription Renewal Trio."

**Matthew Finck** is one of the most respected and versatile guitarist on the scene today. At home in most styles, he has been earning his living by playing in organ trios, Funk and Big Bands, as well as playing mandolin and guitar on some of the biggest video games titles in the US and Europe. After graduating High School in 1990, Matthew made the move to NYC in order to pursue a BA in music from LIU, Brooklyn Campus. While attending university, Matthew was a staple on the Harlem music scene, establishing himself as a formidable blues and Bop guitarist.

After receiving his BA in 1997 Matthew lived and performed in NYC until 2000 when he returned to his native Hudson Valley. Since then he has performed and recorded with many of the great musicians residing in the greater NY area including Roswell Rudd, Adam Nussbaum, Jay Anderson, Dennis Mackrel, and Ira Coleman. He has also taught at Poughkeepsie Day School, Dutchess Community College, and currently teaches at College of Saint Rose in Albany as their guitar instructor and ensemble director.