



# The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)

Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 7:30 PM  
Saint Peter's Church  
54th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, NY

## Christian McBride on Duke's Bass Players



Christian McBride, outstanding player of both the electric and the acoustic bass, will be our guest at the January 11 meeting. He has played on recordings with many top musicians and also leads his own Christian McBride Band.

In 2005, he was named co-director of The Jazz Museum in Harlem, working with Leonard Garment and Loren Schoenberg. He sees the opportunity to bring young people to jazz. "To a degree, jazz is non-existent in most major urban communities, which deeply saddens me."

His father, Lee Smith is a well-known bassist in Philadelphia, where Christian grew up, and his great uncle Howard Cooper is also a bass player. Christian began playing at age 9, starting on the electric bass and learning the acoustic bass two years later.

Although he is only in his early thirties, he has been playing in New York since 1989, when he arrived to study at Juilliard on a partial scholarship. He soon discovered he was playing gigs with many bands. He had to decide whether to remain in school or go on the road, and the life of an active musician playing in many venues was the greater draw.

In addition to his work as a performer, McBride has Artistic Director positions at the Jazz Aspen Snowmass summer program and the Dave Brubeck Institution at the University of the Pacific. He also holds a Creative chair for the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

His own music is not limited to any one style or genre. This should be an interesting meeting.

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