



[2025 Jazz at Weiwuying]

# Joe Lovano Quartet featuring Leo GENOVESE, John MENEGON and Lamy ISTREFI

## *Joyous Encounter*

2025.9.13 Sat. 19:30

Weiwuying Opera House

Duration is 90 minutes without intermission.



National Kaohsiung  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEI WUYING

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心  
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

## Synopsis

Joe LOVANO stands as a towering figure in jazz, his bold artistry shaping the genre's past, present, and future. A master of sound and spirit, he won the 43rd Grammy Award for *52nd Street Themes*, a testament to his brilliance as both performer and arranger. Honored by *DownBeat* as Artist of the Year and Best Tenor Saxophonist, he remains a defining force in modern jazz.

Fearless and exploratory, LOVANO's music is rooted in tradition yet boundless in reach. His sound flows effortlessly—from blues-soaked melodies to avant-garde abstraction, from bebop's pulse to the meditative depths of free jazz. Each performance unfolds like a story, brimming with energy, surprise, and soul.

Now, LOVANO and his quartet arrive at Weiwuying, where history and innovation collide. In this night of jazz discovery, his saxophone will weave together past and future, carrying listeners on a journey through the expanding universe of sound.

## Performers



Saxophone | Joe LOVANO

Grammy-winning saxophonist, composer and producer Joe LOVANO is fearless in finding new modes of artistic expression. With a Grammy win for his *52nd Street Themes* and 14 other nominations, he has won *DownBeat* Magazine's Critics and Readers Polls countless times as Tenor Saxophonist, Musician of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year and Triple Crowns from *DownBeat*. He has also received numerous awards from *JazzTimes* and the Jazz Journalists Association for Tenor Saxophone, Album of the Year and Musician of the Year.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 29, 1952 he attended the famed Berklee College of Music in Boston where years later he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate. Since 2001 he has held the Gary Burton Chair in Jazz Performance and is a founding faculty member since 2009 of the Global Jazz Institute at Berklee directed by Danilo PÉREZ. He is a guest lecturer at New York University's Jazz Program, Juilliard and Manhattan School of Music as well as Clinician at Universities around the globe.

From 1991 through 2016, LOVANO released an unprecedented 25 records as a leader for the historic Blue Note Records. Joe LOVANO Quartet: *Classic! Live at Newport* featuring Hank JONES was recorded in 2005 and released in 2016 to critical acclaim. In 2019, LOVANO released his debut album as a bandleader on ECM Records, *Trio Tapestry*, with Marilyn CRISPELL and Carmen CASTALDI. Over the next few years, LOVANO saw the release of three additional ECM Records albums: *ROMA*, a collaboration with Enrico RAVA; *Arctic Riff*, a special guest appearance with the Marcin WASILEWSKI Trio; and the sophomore release from LOVANO's Trio Tapestry, *Garden of Expression*. In 2021, LOVANO released *Other Worlds*, his third album with Sound Prints, a quintet he co-leads with trumpeter Dave DOUGLAS. The next year brought a collaboration with guitarist Jakob BRO, *Once Around the Room: A Tribute to Paul Motian*. In 2023, LOVANO released his third Trio Tapestry recording entitled, *Our Daily Bread*. Most recently, LOVANO released *Homage*, a follow-up recording with the Marcin Wasilewski Trio.





## Piano | Leo GENOVESE

Leo was born in Argentina in 1979. He moved to the United States in 2001.

He has been traveling the world playing music for the last twenty years.

He has eleven (or so) albums as a leader and dozens as a sideman.

He believes in music as a force of change.

He practices the saxophone in hotel rooms.

He doesn't support MP3 culture.

He cooks pretty spicy food, like his music.

He won a grammy for best improvised solo.

He wrote a piano book called Diagramas

One of his compositions is featured in the Real Book V.



## Bass | John MENEGON

*"New York bassist John MENEGON is in the line of George MRAZ and Michael MOORE; a harmonically sophisticated bassist with technical facility who swings hard when it's called for." — Kirk SILSBEE, Downbeat*

MENEGON is a Jazz Bassist as well as a multi-instrumentalist and composer. He began his career as a musician in Montreal playing in groups with the great guitarist Nelson SYMONDS, as well as pianist Vic VOGEL and guitarist Sonny GREENWICH. After relocating to New York City, he played bass for over ten years with two legendary tenor saxophonists, Dewey REDMAN and Texas Tenor David "Fathead" Newman.

MENEGON has released five CDs as a bandleader featuring Dewey REDMAN, Frank KIMBROUGH, Joel FRAHM, Matt WILSON, David "Fathead" NEWMAN, Kenny BURRELL, Jack DEJOHNETTE, Teri ROIGER, John DI MARTINO, John GUNTHER, and many others. He currently plays with jazz legend Joe LOVANO's "Joyous Encounters" Quartet as well as numerous other stellar musicians.

As an educator, he spent over 20 years teaching in the Jazz Department at SUNY New Paltz (NY), and also taught at Williams College, Bard and Bennington.

MENEGON's latest recording as a leader, *Sound Embrace*, released in 2024, features his original compositions with Jean-Michel PILC on piano, Chet DOXAS on sax, and Jim DOXAS on drums.

*"Although Sound Embrace showcases MENEGON's exceptional writing skills, let's not forget the strong, lyrical and harmonically-advanced bass playing of MENEGON as a soloist or intuitively interacting with the ensemble. There is something very special about Sound Embrace." — Abe GOLDSTEIN, Papatamus Redux*



## Drums | Lamy ISTREFI

Lamy ISTREFI is a New York City-based drummer, percussionist, and composer, originally from Mitrovicë, Kosova. A protégé of Idris MUHAMMAD and Milford GRAVES, he has been a member of Grammy Award-winner Joe LOVANO's Quartet since 2013. ISTREFI attended the University of Music and Dramatic Arts Graz (KUG) in Austria before moving to the United States. For almost 30 years, he has performed/toured internationally with several legendary jazz and free music artists. ISTREFI continues to collaborate with a notable group of musicians for his trios/quartets including Dave LIEBMAN, George GARZONE and Ben STREET, as well as Musical Minds Orchestra, a 21-member conceptual improvisation ensemble that he founded in 2010.

## Creative and Production Team

Saxophone | Joe LOVANO

Piano | Leo GENOVESE

Bass | John MENEGON

Drums | Lamy ISTREFI

Sound Engineering | Just Music Lighting & Sound Co., Ltd.

## Production Team of Weiwuying

Program Coordinator | Vanessa CHEN

Production Coordinator | CHEN Peng-chen

Technical Coordinator | CHUANG Ching

Stage & Rigging Staff | CHEN Wei-kuang, Jeremy CHANG, Rachel LEE

Lighting Designer & Staff | LIU Jo-ling

Lighting Staff | CHENG Te-pin, CHEN Ping-hung

Audio & Video Staff | HUANG Pao-ching, Dylon HO

Marketing Coordinator | JEN Li-yu

With All the Staff of National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying)

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Weiwuying Online Questionnaire

