



all about jazz

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A triple bass bill should be enough to send most people screaming. But the Carlini Group's adventurous May 24th booking of three elders of the upright at Merkin Hall demonstrated why the bass player can make or break any band.

Buster Williams, Eddie Gomez and Richard Davis represent nearly 150 years of combined experience; they also embody vastly different approaches. Williams, in trio with George Colligan and drummer Lenny White slinked around interpretations of "All of You", "Little Girl Blue", "Song for Thaddeus" and a mesmerizing solo "Summertime".

Eddie Gomez, mostly in duo with pianist Mark Kramer showed off his classical nimbleness on an original piece by himself and Kramer and several covers, Michel LeGrand's "You Must Believe in Spring", Johnny Mathis' "Wonderful Wonderful" and a lovely version of Fiddler's "Sunrise Sunset", Gomez's bowing used to great effect.

Davis, the big draw of the evening, played with White and pianist James Williams on two numbers, "Strange Vibes" by Horace Silver and "Everytime We Say Goodbye". Davis plays seated, his bass slung at almost a 45° angle, his arco the sweetest thing you've ever heard.

The trio of bassists explored a long version of "Toku Do" as a rousing closer. Bassists such as Ron Carter, Rufus Reid, Lisle Atkinson, Hill Greene and Steve Tintweiss were in attendance to pay their respects.

Andrey Henkin