

# Jazz Excellence by Matthew Whitaker

## 馬修·惠特克《爵士快車》

開幕節目 Opening Programme

香港大會堂音樂廳  
Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall

1 / 3 六 SAT\*  
7:30 PM

 節目長約 90 分鐘，不設中場休息  
Approx. 90 minutes with no interval

2 / 3 日 SUN  
3:00 PM


\* 演出前將舉行「無限亮」開幕儀式（設香港手語傳譯）  
The "No Limits" Opening Ceremony will be held prior to the performance  
(Hong Kong Sign Language available)

無限亮加料節目 No Limits PLUS  
P.128

爵士樂魔力：馬修·惠特克分享  
及即興演奏會  
The Magic of Jazz - Artist Sharing &  
Jam Session with Matthew Whitaker

設點字場刊及語音場刊  
House programme in braille and  
audio format available



 敬請關掉所有響鬧及發光裝置。  
Please switch off all sound-making  
and light-emitting devices.

 請勿擅自攝影、錄音或錄影。  
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TOM LEE  
Music



惠特克的表演充滿生命力，在無數音樂演出中為觀眾帶來正能量。「我希望樂手在台上玩得盡興之餘，一眾觀眾都能聽得投入愉快。」對他來說，爵士樂是樂隊眾人之間的即興互動、彼此配合，而更重要的精神在於所有人平等參與。爵士樂擁有包容、普及和多樣的特質，不單給予每位表演者展現個人魅力的舞台，也讓觀眾可熱情回應，讓台上台下打成一片。

自小接觸不同風格的音樂，精於鋼琴、敲擊樂或風琴演奏，每當惠特克演繹歌曲時，必然融合爵士樂的元素和精粹。這亦反映他無拘無束的個性，不被世界的既定規則所限制，以最自在的方式享受生命：「爵士音樂，彰顯我的生活態度：即興與自由。」爵士樂的動聽之處，在於樂手能展現出個人獨特風格，因此，惠特克的演出總被形容為不單是在演奏音樂，更似與音符「玩遊戲」，他能彈出悅耳變奏、複雜和聲，一雙手在八十八個琴鍵之間飛快舞動。音樂是他的生命，而他正是自由靈魂的化身。

這位天才的音樂天賦曾引起外科醫生和神經科學家查爾斯·林博士的好奇。林博士以 MRI 腦部掃描惠特克的腦部活動，嘗試理解惠特克的大腦，在演奏時會怎樣運作，從而理解他的創造力。結果發現，當惠特克聽見熟悉的音樂時，整個大腦包括視覺皮層區域都被刺激起來，他雖不以眼睛接收訊息，但確實在利用大腦的視覺部分來感知音樂。惠特克對此坦言感到驚訝，並領略到一個人的潛能比自己想像的更廣更闊，「我能感知光影，卻不常以視覺思考音樂。但或許在我理解曲目時，或多或少會產生一種視覺概念。」

他感激當下的科技，讓一切都變得更輕鬆和更可實現。「有些人可能將失明視為負面的事情，我卻堅信這是我們的獨特之處，即使是殘疾，也毋須寫下負面定義。我們甚至可以藉着特質造福自己及啟迪他人。」每個人都可努力將夢想化成現實。假如世界只剩下一首樂曲，假如他往後只能傾聽一首樂曲……他會選擇《多麼美好的世界》。



## A life of improvisation and freedom

Matthew Whitaker is indeed a vibrant performer, bringing joy and energy to countless audiences. “While the musicians are enjoying themselves on stage,” he says, “I want the audience to be immersed in the joy of music.” For Whitaker, jazz is about spontaneous interactions and collaboration between band members. More importantly, it is about being able to participate as equals. The inclusivity, accessibility and diversity of jazz give each musician a chance to demonstrate their charms and for the audience to respond enthusiastically, achieving equity between performers and the audience.

Since childhood, Whitaker has been immersed in various musical styles, excelling at piano, percussion and organ performances, seamlessly integrating jazz elements into his interpretations. This also reflects his unrestrained character, beyond conventional constraints and enjoying life in his most natural way. “Jazz reflects my attitude towards life—improvisation and freedom.” What makes jazz so

captivating is the musician’s ability to showcase their unique style. Because of this, Whitaker’s performances are often described not just as a performance but also as a game with music ranging from melodic variations to complex harmonies, coming alive through the two hands leaping between 88 keys. Music is his life, and he is the embodiment of a free spirit.

It is easy to see why Whitaker is called a genius when his musical talent piqued the interest of neuroscientist Dr Charles Limb. Using an MRI brain scan, Dr Limb attempted to understand Whitaker’s creativity by monitoring his brain activities while he played music. The findings were astounding. When Whitaker hears a familiar piece of music, the entire brain, including the visual cortex, is stimulated. Although he does not rely on vision to process information, he uses the visual areas of his brain to “perceive” music. Whitaker was shocked by this discovery and realised how a person’s potential is greater than one’s own imagination. “I can sense light and shadow, but I don’t usually think about music visually. When I understand a piece of music, I might unconsciously develop certain visual concepts.”

He is grateful for technological advancements, making everything easier and more achievable. “Some people might think that blindness is a negative thing. But I think it is our unique quality. Even if it’s a disability, it shouldn’t be defined as a negative thing. We can even use this quality to benefit and inspire other people.” Every person can work hard to make their dream a reality.





曲目 Programme

馬修·惠特克	是的
卡爾德拉	天空群島
戴夫·布魯貝克	土耳其藍迴旋曲
威爾·哈德森、歐文·米爾斯、米歇爾·帕里什	風琴手的搖擺
羅伯特·蘭姆	因為回家而快樂
查爾斯·特納	哈林 哈林 哈林
科里·亨利	明白了 醫生
馬修·惠特克	停戰
鮑·勃蒂勒、喬治·大衛韋斯	多麼美好的世界
溫基·克拉克	期待奇蹟
馬修·惠特克	稍息
路德·范德羅斯 / 查卡·卡恩	永遠不會太多 / 不是沒有
Matthew Whitaker	Yessaah
Caldera	Sky Islands
Dave Brubeck	Blue Rondo a la Turk
Will Hudson, Irving Mills, Michell Parish	The Organ Grinder's Swing
Robert Lamm	Happy Cause I'm Goin' Home
Charles Turner	Harlem Harlem Harlem
Cory Henry	Gotcha Now Doc
Matthew Whitaker	Stop Fighting
Bob Thiele, George David Weiss	What A Wonderful World
Twinkie Clark	Expect Your Miracle
Matthew Whitaker	Take A Break
Luther Vandross/Chaka Kahn	Never Too Much/Ain't Nobody

曲目 Programme

戴夫·韋克爾	花園圍牆
切克·哥利亞	西班牙
馬修·惠特克	上城之旅
戴夫·布魯貝克	五拍子
朗尼·史密斯博士	朝聖
馬修·惠特克	新的一天
喬治班喬	沒甚麼，就這樣
馬修·惠特克	一切都會好起來
馬修·惠特克	情感
艾哈邁德·賈邁勒	寧靜
艾迪·哈里斯	自由爵士舞
馬文·蓋伊	怎麼回事 / 內城藍調
Dave Weckl	Garden Wall
Chick Corea	Spain
Matthew Whitaker	Journey Uptown
Dave Brubeck	Take Five
Dr Lonnie Smith	Pilgrimage
Matthew Whitaker	A New Day
Jorge Ben Jor	Mas Que Nada
Matthew Whitaker	It Will Be Okay
Matthew Whitaker	Emotions
Ahmad Jamal	Tranquility
Eddie Harris	Freedom Jazz Dance
Marvin Gaye	What's Going On/Inner City Blues

曲目有可能更改 Programme is subject to change

「爵士樂的當下即興、  
與樂隊即場互動的特質，  
讓我感覺到最實在的自由。」

"The spontaneity of jazz,  
the interaction with the band  
in real time, gives me a sense of  
real freedom."

馬修·惠特克  
Matthew Whitaker



## Programme Note

馬修·惠特克年僅 23 歲，已被譽為當今爵士樂界最吸引的年輕才子之一。他的音樂魅力非凡，傳統與創新並重，令聽眾沉醉於愉悅而感性的世界。不論是現場演出還是錄音作品，聽他表演就像踏上一趟旅程。他的藝術超越了音符，將節奏與靈魂交織成一種深刻感人的體驗。

對我而言，惠特克的音樂特別能夠展示出集體和個人經歷的力量。不論是在紐約卡內基音樂廳，或是德國的阿勒那爵士音樂節，任何看過他現場演出的人，都會一致認同他在舞台上壓台感十足。他的音樂人人都會喜愛：充滿活力、生氣勃勃、深情動人。

福音音樂是塑造他音樂風格的關鍵元素。他從小在教堂彈奏音樂，如今演奏中洋溢的暖意和真誠，亦是源起於此。振奮人心的能量與深情，滲透在他的每個音符中。在曼哈頓音樂學校磨練技藝時，他的天賦更上層樓。他其後不斷提升自己，於 2017 年出版首張專輯《箱子以外》，立即成為備受關注的藝術家，直至 2024 年出版最新專輯《在他們的肩膀上：致敬風琴》。

惠特克透過最新專輯，表達他對吉米·史密斯和喬伊·德弗朗切斯科等爵士風琴大師的真摯致意。專輯不僅反映出他對爵士傳統的深厚尊重，也展現他不斷追求創新的熱情。2025 年「無限亮」，見證他音樂中閃閃發亮的探索精神；音樂會選曲既有原創作品，亦有向激勵他的音樂人致敬的曲目，為觀眾帶來難忘的體驗。

演出曲目涵蓋他四張專輯的內容，展示他卓越的作曲才華和詮釋能力。亮點之一是來自專輯《連接》的歌曲〈一切都會好起來〉，這首歌剛柔並重，傳遞希望和堅韌的信息，總是讓我深感共鳴。歌曲的美撫慰人心，讓人反思生活中的挑戰，並相信未來會有更好的日子。

音樂會亦有風格截然不同的樂曲，展現惠特克的即興演奏才華，以及他在感官層面上與觀眾聯繫的能力。例子包括最新專輯的重頭作〈是的〉，此曲作為兩晚「無限亮」音樂盛會的開場曲，實屬完美。歌曲散發出復古風琴藍調的氛圍，令人情不自禁想隨之舞動。

惠特克透過音樂會向音樂傳奇致敬，並將他們的風格無縫地融入到自己的音樂中。他致敬的對象包括「冷爵士」先驅戴夫·布魯貝克、爵士融合創新者切克·哥利亞、騷靈樂天才馬文·蓋伊，以及節拍感一流的巴西音樂明星喬治班喬。

音樂會最具野心的一首曲目是《土耳其藍迴旋曲》，收錄於布魯貝克四重奏於 1959 年發行的破格專輯《時間暫停》。樂曲糅合爵士和中東音樂風格，大膽使用奇數拍子；惠特克的版本除了將這些特點加以發揮，也為這首名曲注入 21 世紀的色彩，加入放克和嘻哈元素，帶來大膽而獨特的演繹。

惠特克擅於糅合傳統與創新，堅守獨特的音樂風格，使他成為新一代爵士樂的領軍人物，這一代音樂家在不同音樂類型間轉變自如，文化意識濃厚，對創新充滿熱情。當我想到他的音樂，我想到的是直接觸動靈魂的音樂，傳遞力量與堅韌的普世信息，以及探索的喜悅。他的音樂提醒我們，生活中的挑戰只是成長路上的踏腳石；這擲地有聲的信息，在演出最後一個音符落下後，仍然縈繞不散。

撰文：馬特·米庫奇





At just 23 years old, Matthew Whitaker has established himself as one of the most captivating young talents in jazz today. His magnetic music draws listeners into a lush, emotional world where tradition meets innovation. Hearing him perform, whether live or through his recordings, is always a journey. His artistry transcends notes, weaving rhythm and soul into something profoundly moving.

To me, Whitaker's music particularly speaks to the strength of both shared and individual experiences. Anyone who has seen him perform live from New York's Carnegie Hall to Germany's Aalener Jazzfest can attest to his commanding presence on stage. His sound is universal: vibrant, alive, and deeply emotional. Gospel music played a pivotal role in shaping his sound. Growing up playing in church, he found the warmth and sincerity that now define his performances. You can hear it in every note – uplifting energy paired with deep feeling. As he honed his skills at the Manhattan School of Music, his talent evolved into something extraordinary. That evolution can be tracked from his 2017 debut, "Outta the Box", which immediately marked him as an artist to watch, to his latest album, "On Their Shoulders: An Organ Tribute".

This newest album finds him paying a heartfelt tribute to jazz organ greats of the past like Jimmy Smith and Joey DeFrancesco. In his performance at "No Limits" 2025, he dazzles audiences with a mix of originals and tributes to musicians and peers who have inspired him. The setlist spans his four albums, showcasing both his compositional prowess and interpretive brilliance. Among the highlights is "It Will Be Okay" from Connections, which always deeply resonates with me. This piece blends serenity with strength, offering a message of hope and resilience.

Its calming beauty invites reflection on life's challenges and trust in the promise of better days.

On the opposite side of the spectrum are tracks that reveal Whitaker's improvisational prowess and his ability to connect with audiences on a visceral level. Among them, "Yessaah," featured at the core of his latest album, and the perfect opener of his two-night No Limits extravaganza, radiating vintage organ blues vibes that practically demand movement. Throughout his performances, Whitaker pays homage to musical legends, seamlessly weaving their influences into his own sound. His tributes span cool jazz pioneer Dave Brubeck, jazz fusion innovator Chick Corea, the soulful genius of Marvin Gaye, and the rhythmic brilliance of Brazilian icon Jorge Ben Jor.

One of the most ambitious pieces of his repertoire is a rendition of "Blue Rondo à la Turk," famously introduced on the Brubeck Quartet's groundbreaking 1959 album "Time Out". Whitaker's version reimagines this iconic piece, expanding its fusion of jazz and Middle Eastern influences and bold use of odd time signatures, infusing it with a 21st-century flair, integrating funk and hip-hop to create something ambitiously distinct.

Whitaker's ability to blend tradition with innovation while staying true to his unique voice places him at the forefront of a new generation of jazz musicians. When I think of his music, I think of music that speaks directly to the soul, communicating universal messages of strength and resilience, and the joys of exploration. It reminds us that life's challenges are merely stepping stones on the path to growth. And it's a powerful message that reverberates long after the final note of his performances fades.

Text: Matt Micucci

## 馬修·惠特克

## Matthew Whitaker

多才多藝的美國青年藝術家馬修·惠特克除了彈奏鋼琴外，亦擅長其他樂器，無論國際巡演、在電視亮相、製作電影音樂、以客席音樂家與交響樂團同台獻藝都令觀眾嘆為觀止。他先天失明，一直以來倡議殘疾人士權益，致力改善通達設施，為不同機構擔任通達顧問。

他曾三度贏得美國作曲家作詞家協會赫伯·阿爾帕特年輕爵士樂作曲家大獎，至今已發行四張專輯：《箱子以外》、《現在聽着》、《連接》與《在他們的肩膀上：致敬風琴》。

American pianist and multi-instrumentalist Matthew Whitaker is a versatile young artist who captivates audiences around the world with international tours, TV appearances, the production of film scores, and guest soloist appearances with orchestras and symphonies. Born blind, he is also an advocate for people with disabilities, consulting with companies to improve accessibility features.

A three-time ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composers Award winner, Whitaker has released four albums - "Outta The Box", "Now Hear This", "Connections" and "On Their Shoulders: An Organ Tribute".



### 演出 Performers



利亞尼·馬特奧  
Liany Mateo

低音大提琴 / 低音電結他  
Bass and Electric Bass



馬科斯·羅賓遜  
Marcos Robinson

結他  
Guitar



伊凡利·亞內斯  
Ivan Llanes

敲擊樂  
Percussion



約翰·斯蒂爾  
John Steele

鼓  
Drums