

"This unequaled vocalese master is a hipster's hipster and a story teller's story teller. He's Lord Buckley and Professor Irwin Cory by way of Eddie Jefferson and Jon Hendricks. Captivating, entertaining, amusing and oh so musical, this cat is absolutely without equal. No matter where he roams the stage, the reviews are almost always the same... 'Where did this cat come from? He's absolutely phenomenal!' And, when he puts his lyrics to Bird's solos, the magic really begins."

~ FRANK MALFITANO, EXEC. DIRECTOR **DETROIT/FORD JAZZ FESTIVAL**

"If the Rolls Royce could sing jazz, it would assuredly sound like Giacomo Gates."

~ DAN SINGER **IN TUNE INTERNATIONAL**

"Gates is one of the most extraordinary singers working in jazz today, the owner of a joyful baritone who has synthesized a host of influences – Eddie Jefferson, Jon Hendricks and Sinatra among them – and turned them into something uniquely his own."

~ GLENN WHIPP **LA DAILY NEWS**

"He has the ability to get to a tune's essence in a way that perhaps its composer couldn't, something Billie Holiday was noted for in her many interpretations of banal pop material."

~ RICHARD MEYER **ESPRESSO JAZZ**

"Giacomo Gates is one of the top male jazz singers around today. His scat singing, use of Vocalese and bebop attitude plant him as a successor to Eddie Jefferson, King Pleasure and Dave Lambert."

~ SCOTT YANOW **LA JAZZ SCENE**

"Jazz vocalist and terminal hipster Giacomo Gates just keeps getting better and better."

~ JOE LANG **NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY**

West Hartford Town Hall

50 South Main Street, West Hartford Center

Directions from Boston or NYC via I-84

- Take the Park Road exit 43 towards West Hartford Center.
- At end of ramp make left onto Park Road.
- Go 0.3 miles and at light make right onto South Main Street.
- Go 0.4 miles and turn right into parking lot opposite Ellsworth Avenue at traffic light.
- Take your parking ticket with you as it will be validated.
- West Hartford Town Hall is just beyond the parking entrance at 50 South Main Street.

Past Performers

2018	Bria Skonberg	2007	Jacky Terrasson Trio
2017	Curtis Stigers	2006	Dena Derose
2016	Jazzmeia Horn	2005	Mark Murphy
2015	Cyrille Aimée	2004	Andy Bey
2014	Cécile McLorin Salvant	2003	Danilo Perez Trio
2013	The Grant Stewart Quintet	2002	Pat Martino
2012	Anat Cohen	2001	Kevin Mahogany
2011	Roberta Gambarini	2000	Kurt Elling
2010	Karrin Allyson	1999	Eric Reed Trio
2009	Tierney Sutton	1998	Eddie Gomez Trio
2008	Curtis Stigers		

JAZZ FOR
JUVENILE
DIABETES

Giacomo Gates



JAZZ FOR JUVENILE DIABETES

Saturday March 9, 2019 7 to 11pm

dinner drinks dessert coffee

West Hartford Town Hall

50 South Main Street, West Hartford Center

\$150 per person | **RSVP** by February 23, 2019 | **Cocktail attire**

Proceeds to benefit **JDRF**

Hors d'oeuvres served promptly at 7pm **dinner at 8pm**

Caterer **Billy Grant**

Inquiries Steven Sussman 860.614.0770 | JDRF 860.470.0020 or visit www.JazzForJuvenileDiabetes.com

Giacomo Gates

Giacomo Gates does more than sing “a bunch of songs.” He is truly an entertainer, for all ages and styles, as audiences enjoy the music, the interaction on the bandstand between him and his musicians, the spontaneity, the humor, the stories about the music and composers, along with their relation to everyday life. People are smiling, having a good time, while thoroughly enjoying the music. What usually lacks in most of today’s performances is obviously present ... fun!

The criteria for defining jazz singing will probably be argued for the rest of time. But no matter which side of the argument one may be on, there can be no doubt that Giacomo Gates is an authentic jazz vocalist. Heavily steeped in the traditions of the original vocal improvisers from Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald through their modern counterparts Betty Carter and Leon Thomas, Giacomo’s own approach draws most heavily from the bebop-rooted masters like Jon Hendricks, Babs Gonzales, King Pleasure and most of all, Eddie Jefferson. Like his influences, Gates has forged his own unique path.

In his own words, “In this kind of music it’s about intention, honesty and what comes through in your voice – the Experience of Life.” Without question, Giacomo’s life experience is unlike any other jazz artist that may come to mind. Blessed with a full-bodied and mellifluous voice, extraordinary rhythmic precision and an unerring sense of lyricism, Gates’ total command of the vernacular, boundless creativity and exuberant passion set him apart from nearly every other vocalist on the scene. However, he didn’t display his talents to the public-at-large until 1990, at 40 years of age. Prior to that, Gates led the life of a hardworking blue collar ‘man’s man.’ After a number of years driving everything from school buses to cattle transporters to 18-wheelers, Giacomo departed for the Alaskan wilderness in 1975, working for 14 years in a variety of jobs, including three years on the Alaska Pipeline. Whether he was doing road construction, operating scrapers, loaders and bulldozers, or driving spikes into railway tracks in the flatland emptiness of the tundra with no directional guides other than a compass and the sky, Gates found these experiences to be powerful stimulation for developing his own artistic expression.

“Two things always struck me out there,” Giacomo says of that experience, “feeling insignificant and feeling very alive.” With severe risk to life and limb from all sorts of dangers ranging from geographic disorientation to heavy machinery accidents to

hungry polar bears, Gates was confronted with sights, sounds and experiences that had a profound effect upon his being, and therefore his art.

Although he had always been exposed to music since early childhood, singing and playing guitar through his teenage years, there were no real opportunities to perform in Alaska until nearly the end of his time there. Looking for growth and development even as a construction worker, Gates would occasionally leave Alaska to spend time in places like Washington State and Tucson, Arizona working on new projects and learning the use of new equipment. In those more civilized environments, he would perform whenever possible, sitting in on a variety of musical activities. In the late ‘80s, he had many opportunities to do the same in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he occasionally moonlighted as a bouncer in local clubs. After much encouragement from local and visiting performers, Giacomo decided to return to his native Connecticut and devote full attention to the music.

Playing major U.S. clubs, major festivals and at countless universities and jazz societies, Giacomo’s enormous appeal and popularity are obvious from the many repeat engagements he has had at these venues. He’s also performed and taught in Europe, Russia and Australia. Gates has eight heavily acclaimed CDs, all charting in the Top 20, with two #1 recordings, for six and four weeks! The most recent release in April 2017, “What Time is it?” on Savant Records (his 4th on Savant), garnering rave reviews and receiving heavy airplay and reaching number 8 on the national jazz radio charts.

Heavily committed to education, Giacomo teaches at Wesleyan University, and Sacred Heart University, and has conducted workshops and residencies at numerous educational institutions all over the U.S. Like all seriously committed jazz artists, Giacomo Gates is a student of the music’s great legacy. Known for his interaction with his live audience through witty patter and informative introductions, every performance becomes a lesson in jazz history.

Giacomo’s sheer joy, exuberance, wit and unlimited creativity make him one of jazz’s most compelling artists.