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**FREE LISTENING PARTY WITH  
JEFF "TAIN" WATTS AND LAURA KAHLE  
MAY 31 - 7PM**

**Who/What:**

Jazz at Lincoln Center hosts its tenth and final Listening Party of the 2010-11 season with drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts and pocket trumpeter Laura Kahle as they play tracks from and discuss their respective new releases, Watts' *Family*, and Kahle's *Circular* (both on Dark Key Music), with Jazz at Lincoln Center's Ken Druker.

For more information on this series visit [jalc.org/listeningparty](http://jalc.org/listeningparty).

**When:**

Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 7pm.

**Where:**

Nesuhi Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Broadway at 60<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY.

**How:**

Event is free and seating is open to the public on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at 6:30pm.

**About:**

As one of the most prolific sidemen in the last thirty years, and one the most vibrant and volcanic drummers on the scene, **Jeff "Tain" Watts** knows what he's talking about. His new CD, *Family*, which is his seventh as a leader, features saxophonist Steve Wilson, pianist Dave Kikoski, and bassist James Genus. "While I was preparing and recording the music on this CD I got married and I'm trying to start this family," Watts says. "This CD represents this moment in time." Unlike the politically-charged themes of his last CD, Watts' *Family* features nine compositions written by Watts

inspired by relatives, artists and friends. The title track is an in-the-pocket ditty swung in the leader's dancing Afro-swing style, contrasted by the Motherland-pulsed rhythms on "Of August Moon," composed with the celebrated Pittsburgh playwright August Wilson in mind. "Edwardian Overture" and "Jonesin' (for Elvin)" are syncopated shout-outs to the great New Orleans drummer Ed Blackwell and Elvin Jones, and "Little Michael" playfully quotes the drum intro to Michael Jackson's "Rock with You." On all of the tracks you can hear Watts conjure up the entire jazz drumming tradition with swing, nerve and verve. "He's the perfect balance of natural musicianship and intellect," Laura Kahle says.

**Laura Kahle** arrived in New York in 2004, performed with Bill Lee and the Natural Spiritual Orchestra, and has arranged for Watts and The Danish Radio Big Band, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, and the Branford Marsalis Septet featuring the music of Gil Evans. *Circular*, Kahle's debut recording as a leader, features a diverse and dynamic array of sidemen including alto and tenor saxophonists Yosvany Terry and J.D. Allen, bassist Orlando le Fleming and Watts on drums. "I call the CD *Circular*, because [music] is kind of a circular process for me," Kahle says, "writing, the experimentation of performance and recording. My main objective was to get my compositions out." The CD's eleven tracks ring with Kahle's warm, buttery, fleet-fingered pocket trumpet stylings, which lace the spare and swinging opening number "Chance Encounter," the Lee Morgan-like grooves of "The Well," and the cycle-structured title track, to 'two commission-derived pieces, "Daize" and "Audax at Fidelis (which means 'bold but faithful' and is the motto of the Queensland state where Kahle grew up). Special guests Chilean vocalist Claudia Acuña and vibraphonist Monte Croft add their artistry to the multilingual and haunting "Blackberry Garden." "20/20 Vision" is a waltzy nod to the husband and wife's shared birthday of January 20. A hidden track, "Chance Encounter II," is also available on iTunes. "She's really brave, honest and cool," Watts says of his wife. "She's very confident in presenting her voice innocently and honestly."

#### **Sponsorship:**

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