

BUTCH THOMPSON, PIANO

with guest LAURA SEWELL, CELLO



Jazz pianist Butch Thompson's partnership with cellist Laura Sewell offers a program full of variety and the pure joy of music-making. This unique duo plays a far-reaching repertoire, from Duke Ellington and Scott Joplin to J. S. Bach and Giuseppe Verdi. Lyrical tunes by Cole Porter, stomps by Jelly Roll Morton, an aria or two, an original blues — this unique combination erases the line between formal and informal music.

Cellist **Laura Sewell** founded the award-winning Lark Quartet in 1984 and was its cellist for five years, performing over 80 concerts a year in most of America's major cities, as well as in Europe and the Far East. Since leaving the group and returning to the Twin Cities, Ms. Sewell has played as a substitute cellist with the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, appears regularly with the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota and performs in a duo with jazz pianist Butch Thompson, with whom she has recorded a cello and piano CD. She has taught at the MacPhail Center for the Arts and is on the faculty of the Madeline Island Music Camp. Currently, she serves as the Chair of Chamber Music America, the national service organization for chamber musicians. Ms. Sewell was trained at the Juilliard School and the Cleveland Institute of Music, and her teachers have included Leonard Rose and Jacqueline duPre.

"The two make ideal partners. Both are sensitive to the unique gifts of the other: the sensuous sound of Sewell's cello and the dazzle and energy of Thompson's piano. And in complementing each other, they made the most of both."

-William Randall Beard, St. Paul Pioneer Press

For more information on Butch & Laura, including audio clips, visit: www.butchthompson.com