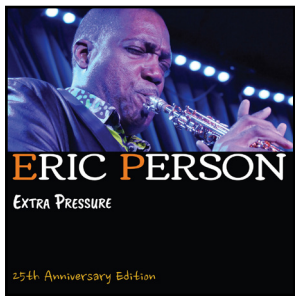


to Cohen for an extended spotlight, becoming an equal partner in the storytelling. Varner then closes the arrangement with an unexpected melodic variation.

The album closer, "Undecided" (Charlie Shavers, Sid Robin) sends this new release out on a high note, propelled by a blistering tempo and bold improvisations from Varner and her ensemble. The performance captures both the exuberance and spontaneity that were hallmarks of Fitzgerald's recordings, culminating in an exhilarating finale. Varner avoids replication and captures something more valuable, namely artistic freedom.

For more info visit [cellarlive.com](http://cellarlive.com). Varner is at Saint Peter's Church Jul. 9, The Django Jul. 12, Mezzrow Jul. 19 and Zinc Bar Jul. 20. See Calendar.



*Extra Pressure (25th Anniversary Edition)*  
Eric Person (Distinction)  
by Scott Yanow

The reissue of Eric Person's *Extra Pressure* celebrates the silver anniversary of its original release. By the time of this 1999 recording, Person, an alto and soprano saxophonist with his own intense sound and passionate ideas, had already picked up important experience and quite a bit of recognition for his work and recordings with drummers Ronald Shannon Jackson's Decoding Society and Chico Hamilton (with whom he had a long association), as well as the World Saxophone Quartet, plus bassist Dave Holland's quartet.

This album represents the initial release on Person's Distinction label and his fourth album as a leader since 1992, and the only documentation of this particular quartet. Formed in 1998 as the debut recording of his group Meta Four, Person's unit featured John Esposito (piano), E.J. Strickland (drums), and the newest member, Carlos Henderson (bass). Surprisingly, this reissue actually leaves out one of its original 11 songs ("Plummet"), though Person in the liner notes assures listeners that it will be reissued in the future along with alternate takes of this music. All of the pieces excepting Esposito's "Personal Blues" (note: not a blues) are by the leader. None of the selections utilize standard chord changes and, although the opening title cut may remind one in spots of John Coltrane and McCoy Tyner, in general the musicians all display original voices on their instruments.

There are numerous album highlights. The leader's short outbursts of notes are quite effective on the title track, as is his playing without piano accompaniment during the first half of his solo on "Personal Blues". "Fallout" has a somber theme accentuated by the shifting pattern played by bass and drums, and Henderson's half-time walking bass on "The Pull" is an excellent contrast to Person's passionate improvising. The bassist and drummer make for a formidable and flexible team throughout, as they show on the danceable "There Will Be Better Days", and on "This Devotion" in 5/4. "Perfection" may have an immodest title but the inventive and explorative piano and alto saxophone solos come close to reaching that goal.

More than 25 years later, the dynamic music on *Extra Pressure* sounds extra timeless.

For more info visit [ericperson.com](http://ericperson.com). Person is at Smalls Jul. 24-25 and "Jazz By The Water Festival" on Governor's Island Jul. 25. See Calendar.

## Piano in Bryant Park

Live ragtime, stride,  
and jazz performances

Now through Oct 1  
Monday - Friday

12:30pm-2:30pm  
Upper Terrace

\*Sing-A-Long  
July 23, 30, Aug 6, 13  
2pm-3:30pm



Photo: Angelito Jusay

<b>Jun</b>	1 - 5	<b>Pete Malinverni</b> Improv, conductor, educator *Thurs + Fri: Juliet Kurtzman (violin)
	8 - 12	<b>Ted Rosenthal</b> American jazz, standards *Thurs: Ayako Shirasaki Tribute *Fri: Gary Smulyan (baritone sax)
	15 - 19	<b>Marc Devine</b> Straight-ahead jazz *Thurs: Junior Mance Tribute
	22 - 24	<b>Ramona S. Baker</b> Ragtime, music historian
	29 - Jul 3	<b>Daryl Sherman</b> Best jazz vocalist <i>Hot House Jazz Guide</i> *Mon: Peter & Will Anderson (jazz sax)
<b>Jul</b>	6 - 10	<b>Jon Weber</b> Jazz, TV score composer, radio host
	13 - 16	<b>Armen Donelian</b> International bandleader, composer
	17	<b>Roy Eaton</b> Played Carnegie Hall in 1937
	20 - 24	<b>Russ Kassoff</b> Trio & solo jazz, Broadway, music director *Thurs: Sing-A-Long (2pm-3:30pm)
	27 - 31	<b>Isaac ben Ayala</b> Film recording artist *Thurs: Sing-A-Long (2pm-3:30pm)
<b>Aug</b>	3 - 7	<b>Dan Manjovi</b> Recording artist, performer, composer *Thurs: Sing-A-Long (2pm-3:30pm)
	10 - 14	<b>Larry Ham</b> Jazz, composer, educator *Thurs: Sing-A-Long (2pm-3:30pm) with Dan Manjovi
	17	<b>Roman Ivanoff</b> American Songbook swing
	18 - 19	<b>Celia Tewey</b> Jazz improvisation
	20	<b>American Songbook Swing Trio</b> Roman Ivanoff (piano, harmonica) Paul Nowinski (bass, violin), Nat Harris (guitar)
	21	<b>Victor Neufeld's Jazz Party</b> David Pearl (piano), Linus Wyrtsch (clarinet/sax) John DeCesare (bass), Tony Galino (drums)
	24 - 28	<b>Joel Forrester</b> Boogie-woogie, swing, stride *Thurs + Fri: Dred Scott (piano jazz)
	31 - Sep 4	<b>Kuni Mikami</b> 12 years with Lionel Hampton's Big Band
<b>Sep</b>	7 - 11	<b>Victor Lin</b> Kenny Barron-trained, Columbia instructor
	14 - 16, 18	<b>Bertha Hope</b> Jazz, composer, arranger A special week of performances in loving memory of Cobi Narita, Frank Owens, and Danny Mixon *With special guests Lafayette Harris (piano) and Antoinette Montague (jazz singer) on select days
	17	<b>Yuka Aikawa</b> Jazz, composer, accompanist Tap-A-Long with Toes Tiranoff and Friends
	21 - 25	<b>Peter Yarin</b> Stride, jazz, composer *Thurs: Uri Zelig (drums), Dmitri Kolesnik (bass)
	28 - 30	<b>Charlie Judkins</b> Ragtime, protégé of Terry Waldo
<b>Oct</b>	1	<b>Terry Waldo's Gotham City Band</b>

[bryantpark.org](http://bryantpark.org)



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