“So how come you guys never have any guitarists?” We’ve had that question more than once, and, even though it is not quite true (Ben Monder, Keith Ganz, John Hart), it does make a point – we never have had a guitarist as leader. That’s a mistake best remedied so next February 13th we present the Johnathan Kreisberg quartet. Mr. Kreisberg is a fabulous artist, and this quartet is especially strong, standing out in a sea of really good guitar-led groups.

Jonathan Kreisberg was born in New York, educated at the University of Miami where he played in their Concert Jazz Band, and was quickly gigging with the likes of Michael Brecker and Joe Henderson. He’s also performed 20th century classical works with the New World Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas. Back in New York in 1997, he played in the bands of Lee Konitz, Joel Frahm, and Joe Locke among many others. Here’s what Mr. Locke had to say about Mr. Kreisberg:

“Jonathan Kreisberg is a great musician whose playing and writing always tell a story. His formidable technique and intellect never get in the way, but only serve the agenda of the heart.”

            Both classical music and rock have influenced Mr. Kreisberg from the start, but he is and remains a jazz musician to the core. Here is has comment from an interview by Gianni Salinetti of “Jazz On!”

“Most modern music students are expecting their musical education to be like a "download" to their smartphone... "*i'll learn these scales in school, and then i'll be a Jazz master!*" haha. In reality, the theory and scales etc. is only there to guide one in the study of the language. The students need to learn the tradition and understand how it works, then they are ready to do something great.”

His current group features three long-time associates, alto saxophonist and sometime pianist Will Vinson, bassist Rick Rosato, and drummer Mark Ferber. This quartet, and earlier Kreisberg-led groups, have produced about one acclaimed CD a year since 2011, most recently “Wave Upon Wave” (Colin Stranahan replaces Ferber).

            I first encountered Mr. Kreisberg at his long-standing Wednesday night gig at La Lanterna, The Bar Next Door. But you don’t have to brave the wintery streets of New York – you can check this great group out next February in the warm and cosy confines of Chez Brodsky-Curtis. See you there!