

INTERNATIONAL JAZZ COMPOSERS' SYMPOSIUM

Danilo Pérez



Mike Holober



Anat Cohen



John Beasley



John Clayton

Oded Lev-Ari

NASHVILLE, TN
MAY 16-18
ISJAC.ORG



2024

Nick Smart



Ryan
Middagh



Michele
Fernández



Darcy James
Argue



Orbert Davis



Monika
Herzig

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Greetings!

On behalf of the Board of the International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers (ISJAC), I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you attending the 2024 Jazz Composers' Symposium.

Incredibly, ISJAC is quickly approaching its 10th anniversary - its vision of uniting and serving the international community of jazz arrangers/composers reaffirmed and realized more and more each year. Frankly, it's almost surreal to look back over the last 8+ years and view all that has been accomplished to date:

- Over 300 composer/arrangers' works featured via the Symposium and online gatherings
- Almost \$40,000 of commission and prize funding provided to over 30 composers.
- An archive of 100+ guest artist blogs from over 75 different composer/arrangers housed on the ISJAC website along with other valuable composer resources.
- Assembling a highly distinguished and engaged Board consisting of artists and industry leaders that include an NEA Jazz Master, a MacArthur Grant recipient, and multiple Grammy, Guggenheim & Doris Duke Artist Award winners amongst many other honors.

...and that's just a sampling. We've come a long way from an initial vision and aspirations to the reality of this moment.

While those accomplishments can and should be celebrated along with what unites us as composers & arrangers, it's clear ISJAC has only scratched the surface of its potential and ability to meet the needs of its members. During this conference and in the coming months, you'll hear about plans for several new programs that we believe can be transformational in expanding opportunities for our members as well as recognition for jazz composers/arrangers worldwide. You'll also begin to see the orderly transformation of leadership in ISJAC - a sign of the health and vibrancy of our society. For now, I hope you'll take a moment to offer a very warm welcome to our incoming President, John Beasley, as well as to Dave Stamps, who is moving from his role on the Board to serve as ISJAC's Managing Director. It's a pivot point for ISJAC. As we move towards our second decade the baby feathers are being shed and we're ready to fly; but we're going to need a lot of support. Stay tuned!!

For now, however, ... and for the next three days ... we get to geek out over everything jazz composition. We'll reunite with old friends while encountering new ones - relishing this supportive community. We'll discover an array of inspirational new works, projects, and ideas. And, in the process, we'll reignite or simply reaffirm our passion and dedication to this wonderful profession. Enjoy and embrace it fully!

A very special thanks to the Blair School of Music and all those who have worked so diligently and enthusiastically to make this happen: Ryan Middagh (Director of Jazz Studies), Provost Cybele Raver, Dean Melissa Rose, Chancellor Daniel Diermeier, and the incredible production staff overseen by ED Chris Costello. Of course, none of this would be possible without the contributions of our prestigious & hard-working Board, our sponsors & partners (the ASCAP Foundation, iJazzMusic) and, most importantly, the support of ISJAC's Individual, Consortium, and Affiliate Members. We thank all of you and hope you find this year's Symposium enriching while taking full advantage of everything that Vanderbilt University and Nashville has to offer.

Cheers!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Owen'.

Chuck Owen, President
International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of South Florida



A message from Chancellor Daniel Diermeier



On behalf of Vanderbilt University, I am delighted to welcome you to the Vanderbilt Blair School of Music for ISJAC's 2024 International Jazz Composers' Symposium. It is our great honor to host this forum to bring together some of the world's brightest minds in jazz music, and it is our great pleasure to share a few days with all of you in our hometown of Music City.

Much like jazz composition, Vanderbilt University itself comprises discovery, innovation and wide-ranging artistic expression and collaboration across disciplines. Ours is a culture that similarly remains steeped in proud tradition even as it continually evolves, forever making way for bold new voices and pioneering achievements—and forever celebrating the richly diverse experiences that make up our modern, global society. In our community, artists and thinkers of all kinds have free rein to explore, to question, to innovate—and to work together to set new standards of excellence and create positive social impact in the world.

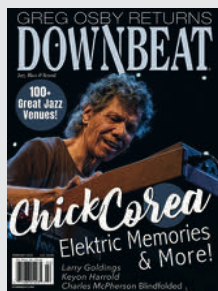
We are particularly proud of the Blair School's jazz program and its increasing accolades, such as 13 DownBeat awards and numerous national and international performances, including invitations from the U.S. State Department. But more than that, our jazz artists exemplify our community's core values of belonging, self-direction, radical collaboration and continual growth. At Vanderbilt, we share a mindset by which we deeply support one another while simultaneously challenging each other, and ourselves, to reach for new heights.

This spirit also defines ISJAC—and depicts what attendees of this symposium have in store. In the next few days, you will hear groundbreaking compositions, and gain deep insights and inspiration, from established and emerging masters of the art. And you will have the chance to forge meaningful connections and create powerful networks that will energize and support you for years to come. For many, the symposium offers a life-changing opportunity—opening unseen potential far into the future—and our university is proud to play a part.

While you are here, I encourage you to engage in the many opportunities for educational and cultural enrichment—and for good, old-fashioned fun—that our campus and the vibrant city of Nashville have to offer. From our state-of-the-art performance venues, to our storied local establishments, to our world-class cultural institutions, there is no shortage of ways for all who love music to come together for the experience of a lifetime, here.

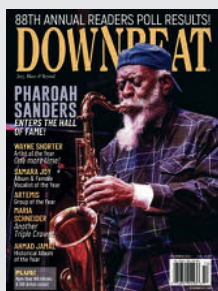
We are deeply grateful to ISJAC for the privilege of hosting this symposium, and to the many organizers at the Blair School who have helped make it possible. Thank you to all participants for making the journey to join us, and may your next few days be inspiring, productive, memorable and deeply fulfilling. May they serve to forever enrich your lives—and to advance the enduring vitality and the positive impact of jazz.

Daniel Diermeier
Chancellor



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Thursday, May 16

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 11:00–12:00 | •Registration Opens •Kenny Wheeler Exhibit Opens | Blair School of Music Entrance Library |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | •Book Talk “Song for Someone - The Musical Life of Kenny Wheeler” - Nick Smart | Library |
| 12:30–1:50 | •Kenny Wheeler: Evolution of a Distinct Compositional Voice (Nick Smart with the Music City Big Band, led by Casey Brefka) | Turner |
| 2:00–2:50 | •Nashville Composers Panel with Jeff Coffin, Edgar Meyer, Béla Fleck, Wu Fei, & Ryan Middagh (Moderator) •Michele Fernández | CRH 2175 |
| 3:00–3:50 | •First Takes – Sam Blakeslee & Drew Zaremba •First Takes – Sarah Jerrom & Steve Guerra | 2192 2190 |
| 4:00–5:30 | •ISJAC Welcome – Chuck Owen, ISJAC President •Artist Talk – John Beasley “From Solo Piano to Orchestra Form” | Turner |
| 6:00–7:30 | •Welcome Reception •Wheeler Exhibit Remains Open | Ingram Library |



8:00pm

Danilo Pérez Trio


with Ian Ashby (bass) and Adam Cruz (drums)

Ingram Hall



Danilo Pérez

For over three decades Grammy® Award Winning Panamanian Pianist-Composer Danilo Pérez has been lauded as one of the most creative forces in contemporary music. With Jazz as the anchoring foundation, Pérez's Global Jazz music is a blend of Panamanian roots, Latin American folk music, West African rhythms, European impressionism – promoting music as a borderless and multidimensional bridge between all people.



Born in Panama in 1965, Pérez started his musical studies when he was three years old with his father, a bandleader and singer. By age 10, he was studying the European classical piano repertoire at the National Conservatory in Panama. After receiving his bachelor's degree in electronics in Panama, he studied jazz composition at the prestigious Berklee College of Music. While still a student, he performed with Jon Hendricks, Terence Blanchard, Slide Hampton, Claudio Roditi and Paquito D'Rivera. Quickly established as a young master, he soon toured and/or recorded with artists such as Dizzy Gillespie United Nations Orchestra from 1989-1992, Jack DeJohnette, Steve Lacy, Lee Konitz, Charlie Haden, Michael Brecker, Joe Lovano, Tito Puente, Wynton Marsalis, Tom Harrell, Gary Burton, and Roy Haynes.

As a composer, Pérez has been commissioned by The Lincoln Center, Chicago Jazz Festival, and Imani Winds Quintet, among others. His octet for members of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela was commissioned by Carnegie Hall. In 2014, the Banff Centre commissioned Pérez to write a piano quintet for the Cecilia String Quartet titled "Camino de Cruces" and he also composed the music for the Museum of Biodiversity in Panama, designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry. In 2015, Pérez premiered another two new compositions: "Expeditions – Panamania 2015" was premiered at the Panamerican games in Toronto and his "Detroit World Suite – La Leyenda de Bayano" was premiered at the Detroit Jazz Festival.

Pérez has received a variety of awards for his musical achievements, activism and social work efforts. He is a recipient of the Doris Duke Artist Award in 2021, the United States Fellowship 2018, and the 2009 Smithsonian Legacy Award. He currently serves as UNESCO Artist for Peace, Cultural Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Founder and Artistic Director of the Panama Jazz Festival, and the Berklee Global Jazz Institute in Boston's Berklee College of Music.

Friday May 17

| | | |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| 9:00–9:50 | •Artist Talk – Mike Holober | Turner |
| 10:00–10:50 | •First Takes – Ross Strauser & Vanessa Perica •Orbert Davis “A Third Stream (R)Evolution” | 2190 CRH |
| 11:00–11:25 | •First Takes – Pascal Le Boeuf •First Takes – Simon Lasky | 2192 2190 |
| 11:30–12:20 | •Artist Talk – Anat Cohen & Oded Lev-Ari | Turner |

LUNCH

| | | |
|-----------|--|------|
| 1:30–2:45 | New Music Workshops | |
| | •Student - Led by Ayn Inserto & Ryan Middagh | 2192 |
| | •Small Group – Led by Danilo Pérez, Anat Cohen, & Oded Lev-Ari | 2190 |
| | •Large Ensemble –Led by John Clayton & Mike Holober | CRH |

Student

Ricardo Arana
Sean Kiefer
Jordi Roviró
Jonathan Salcedo
Kevin Shinskie
Stephanie Urquhart

Small Group

Erez Aviram
David Bernot
Zachary Bornheimer
Joseph Herbst
Masa Ishikawa
Tom Larson

Large Ensemble

Robert Buonaspinna
Bilge Günaydin
Andy Lutkoff
Fabia Mantwill
Desmond Ng
Dave Rivello

Friday May 17

continued

3:00–3:50

•Artist Talk – Danilo Pérez

Turner

4:00–6:00

•Poster Session/Reception

IRH

Fabio Augustinis
Andrew Binder
David Binkley
Casey Brefka
Tom Call
Carolina Calvache
Constantine Campbell
Derick Cordoba
Rayne Vitorino Dias
DownBeat Magazine
Michael Echaniz

Matt Erion
Sofia Goodman
Sam Griffith
Anders Helmerson
Clarence Hines
Tom Johnson
Jamal Jones
MA Big Band
Dan Mar-Molinero
Chelsea McBride
Jonathan McElroy
Damiano Pascarelli

John C. Paulson
Melissa Pipe
Scott Routenberg
Monica Schriver
James Shaw
David Springfield
John Sturino
Hendrik Viljoen
Tracy Yang
John Yao
Drew Zaremba

DISCUSSIONS and DINNER ON OWN



8:00pm

John Clayton

with the Ryan Middagh Jazz Orchestra

Ingram Hall

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PARLOR SERIES
VOLUME III



John Clayton

Bassist, Composer, Arranger and Producer, John Clayton is a busy man. He is a Grammy© winner with nine additional nominations and has written and/or recorded with artists such as Milt Jackson, Diana Krall, Paul McCartney, Regina Carter, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Gladys Knight, Queen Latifah, McCoy Tyner, Yo Yo Ma and Charles Aznavour, to name only a few.



John was the principal bassist in the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra (The Netherlands) from 1980-1984. In 1986, John co-founded the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and rekindled The Clayton Brothers Quintet. In addition to his individual clinics and workshops, he also directs the educational components of Centrum, The Port Townsend Jazz Festival, and the Vail Jazz Workshop.

It is John's arrangement of the "Star Spangled Banner" that helped propel Whitney Houston in her 1990 performance at the Super Bowl (the recording went platinum). His recordings with the Clayton Brothers, the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, Milt Jackson, Monty Alexander, Count Basie and others are plentiful. John feels "I've been guided by a village of musicians who helped me understand the humility that goes along with playing music at the highest level you can. Ray Brown used to tell me to 'Learn how to play the bass!!' Just take care of the music and it will take care of you."

John Clayton, Jeff Hamilton and Jeff Clayton founded the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. The excitement of this powerful 19-piece band is the result of the band's stellar performances and John's writing. Their music is composed and arranged by John, and it is not unusual to hear his take on a composition by Jeff Hamilton or something from the Hamilton trio book.

Along with multiple Grammy© nominations, the orchestra is featured on recordings with Milt Jackson, Diana Krall, John Pizzarelli, Charles Aznavour, Ernie Andrews, Barbara Morrison, Natalie Cole and many more. People often describe their sound as being influenced by Ellington, Basie and Thad Jones. This would never be denied by the orchestra, but one listen lets you know that their voice is unique, distinct and impactful.



Ryan Middagh Jazz Orchestra

Comprised of world-class musicians based in Nashville, Tennessee, Ryan Middagh and his Jazz Orchestra seek to show that Music City is a great home for the large jazz ensemble.

The members of Middagh's ensemble include top-call studio musicians, touring artists, music educators, and fellow composers and arrangers. Ryan, a producer, saxophonist, composer, arranger and educator is Director of Jazz Studies at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music; a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Middagh has called Nashville home since 2007.

The jazz orchestra founded in early 2018 is a life-long dream as well as a vehicle for Middagh's compositions and arrangements. The ensemble has collaborated with special guests including Keb' Mo' and Wycliffe Gordon and works to feature the artists in the ensemble, such as saxophonists Jeff Coffin and Don Aliquo, and vocalist Bethany Merritt.

The mission of the Ryan Middagh Jazz Orchestra is to create high quality music, collaborate within and across musical genres, and educate our community about the diverse music called jazz.

Saxophones

Jimmy Bowland
Jeff Coffin
Alex Graham
Ryan Middagh
Jovan Quallo

Trombones

Roy Agee
Martin McCain
Bob McChesney
Jonathan Salcedo

Trumpets

Olivia Achcet
Emmanuel Echem
Steve Patrick
Jose Sibaja

Rhythm Section

Pat Coil - Keyboard
Rob Linton - Bass
Steve Kovalcheck - Guitar
Denin Slage Koch - Guitar
Marc Widenhofer - Drums



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Saturday May 18

8:30–9:45 • Coffee Conversations Turner Lobby

9:00–9:50 • Monika Herzig “Artistic Research in Jazz - Share Your Artistic Voice” 2190
• Research Papers – Daniel Henderson & Ben Morris 2175

10:00–10:50 • Darcy James Argue “Decoding ‘Codebreaker’: Deep Structure and Storytelling” Turner
• Research Papers – Paul Ferguson & Jonathan Lindhorst 2175

11:00–12:15 New Music Workshops

- Student – Led by Ellen Rowe & Omar Thomas 2190
- Arranging – Led by John Clayton, Anat Cohen, & Oded Lev-Ari 2192
- Large Ensemble – Led by Mike Holober & Remy Le Boeuf CRH

Student

Gwen Nagel
Daiki Nakajima
Eden Mastriani-Levi
Micah Miller
Zengtao Pan
Thomas Wenglinski

Arrangement

Yotam Ishay
Andrew Janak
Patrick Lui
Pete McGuinness
Christopher Merz
Damiano Pascarelli

Large Ensemble

Philip Ryan Goss
Tom Haines
Takumi Kakimoto
Bryan Kennard
Eiko Suzuki
Greg Weis

LUNCH

1:00–1:50 • Artist Talk – John Clayton Turner

Saturday May 18

continued

- 2:00–2:50 •First Takes – Rufus Reid/Nick Finzer & Remy Le Boeuf CRH
•First Takes – Jussi Reijonen & Chris Zuar 2192
- 3:00–4:15 **Awards Concert** Ingram
featuring the Ryan Middagh Jazz Orchestra
- SONIC Awards
 - Large Ensemble - Zach Rich "Broken Mirrors"
 - Small Group - Neil Carson "Halloween (I + II)"
 - Arrangement - Damiano Pascarelli "Ornette's Clockwork"
 - Fundamental Freedoms Commission
 - Meg Okura "Silent Screams: An Anthem for the Unheard"
 - Owen Prize in Jazz Composition
 - Sam Parnin "Auburn"
 - Prize for Emerging Black Composers
 - Michael R. Dudley Jr. "Overture to The Before and After Times"
 - Wayne Shorter Jazz Arranging Prize
 - Danny Jonokuchi "Ping Pong"
- 4:30–5:30 •DownBeat Live Blindfold Test Turner
with Frank Alkyer, John Clayton & Rufus Reid

8:00pm

Hall of Fame Ceremony

Anat Cohen Tentet
with Musical Director, Oded Lev-Ari

Ingram Hall



Symposium After Party
Tailgate Brewery, Music Row

10pm



Anat Cohen

Ever charismatic, prolific and inspired, Grammy-nominated clarinetist-saxophonist Anat Cohen has won hearts and minds the world over with her expressive virtuosity and delightful stage presence. The New York Times writes, “Ms. Cohen on the clarinet was a revelation. Using the clarinet’s upper register, she could evoke infectious joy. In the lower register, her playing could conjure a deep, soulful melancholy. On up-tempo numbers, her improvisations weren’t just bebop fast; they had a clarity and deep intelligence that is really quite rare. She made it look effortless, even as she was playing the most technically difficult of all the reed instruments... she took my breath away.”

Anat has been declared Clarinetist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association every year since 2007 and has also been named the top clarinetist in both the readers and critics polls in *DownBeat* for multiple years running. That’s not to mention years of being named Rising Star in the soprano and tenor saxophone categories in *DownBeat*, as well as Jazz Artist of the Year. In 2009, ASCAP awarded Anat a Wall of Fame prize for composition and musicianship, among other honors.


One June 14, 2019 the Anat Cohen Tentet reached a new crest in its evolution with its second recording - *Triple Helix*. The album’s centerpiece is a three-movement concerto composed for Cohen and the Tentet, by her longtime collaborator Oded Lev-Ari, the Tentet’s musical director and Cohen’s producer/label partner at Anzic. Commissioned by New York’s Carnegie Hall and Chicago’s Symphony Center for live world premieres earlier in 2019, “Triple Helix” won raves from The Chicago Tribune as “a work of considerable expressive reach” and a “sensuous tonal palette,” with Cohen “sounding like a musician transformed.”

However easy Anat makes it seem onstage, the mastery of any great art is a long, elusive challenge, and she teaches the fine points of jazz and the music of Brazil to budding students across North America, including recent residencies at Stanford, Oberlin, Michigan State University, University of California-San Diego, the Centrum Choro Workshop and California Brazil Camp. About her experiences onstage, in the classroom or just engaging with her listeners, Anat says: “Any day when I get to share music with people – other musicians, an audience – feels like a celebration to me.”



Oded Lev-Ari

Across a diverse range of work, GRAMMY-nominated composer Oded Lev-Ari showcases his own, individual soundprint, one of cinematic richness and open-hearted lyricism. He has created and collaborated on music that span recordings, stage, and media, reflecting a genre-bending sensibility, expansive creativity, and unique ability to bring out the best in his collaborators.



In 2019, Oded conducted the premiere of his work *Triple Helix: Concerto for Clarinet and Ensemble* - commissioned by Carnegie Hall and Symphony Center Presents in Chicago, featuring iconic clarinetist Anat Cohen. The piece was hailed as “an Everest” and “a significant addition to the clarinet repertoire” by the Chicago Tribune. The Anat Cohen Tentet, for which Lev-Ari is musical director, recorded the work on their GRAMMY-Nominated album, *Triple Helix*.

Oded has written more than 1000 arrangements and compositions for chamber and wind ensemble, big band and symphony orchestra, and a variety of jazz combos. In reviews for Anat Cohen’s album *Noir*, The Washington Post called the it “one of the finest jazz records of the year, thanks in large part to the arrangements by Oded Lev-Ari, which alternate from lush Gil Evans harmonies to hard-charging bebop to a laconic beauty that could accompany a moody European film;” and NPR’s Morning Edition chimed in, “The arrangements on *Noir* are anything but black – they are life-affirming and intriguing.” Billboard magazine labeled his work “outstanding.”

Oded – born in Tel Aviv but a longtime resident of New York City – released his debut album as a leader, *Threading*, in April 2015 via Anzic Records, the label he has owned and directed for the past decade alongside Anat Cohen.

Born in 1975, Lev-Ari graduated from Israel’s Thelma Yellin High School for the Arts before serving in the Israeli Defense Force Orchestra. From 1993 to 1996, he was house arranger for the Dan Shilon – Live! television talk show. Lev-Ari is a recipient of the America Israel Cultural Fund scholarship, and graduated with honors from New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Bob Brookmeyer and Tamara Brooks.

Anat Cohen Tentet Members

Oded Lev-Ari, Musical Director & Conductor

Sheryl Bailey, electric guitar

Jeff Coffin, saxophone

Anat Cohen, clarinet

Nick Finzer, trombone

Victor Gonçalves, piano/accordion

Christopher Hoffman, cello

Tal Mashiach, upright bass

Nadje Noordhuis, trumpet/flugelhorn

Ofri Nehemya, drums

James Shipp, vibraphone/percussion

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Meg Okura Silent Screams: An Anthem for the Unheard

A Tokyo-native Juilliard graduate violinist/composer Meg Okura has won over two dozen honors and has shared stages with such luminaries as Michael Brecker, Steve Swallow, Lee Konitz, and Tom Harrell. With a discography of seven albums, she has appeared in over 100 projects. Her Pan Asian Chamber Jazz Ensemble has appeared at Birdland, Blue Note, Dizzy's, Knitting Factory, Roulette, Kennedy Center, and K.L. Jazz Festival in Malaysia, and toured in the U.S., Israel, Serbia, and Japan.



ISJAC/USF Owen Prize in Jazz Composition

Sam Parnin Auburn

Sam Parnin is a composer and multi-instrumentalist who draws inspiration from many different traditions of music including classical, electronic, jazz, and afro-caribbean. His diverse catalog ranges from chamber works to big band, the latter of which has been featured on two self-produced EPs. Sam is pursuing a B.M. degree in music composition with minors in jazz and electronic music at Indiana University.



ISJAC/USF Prize for Emerging Black Composers

Michael R. Dudley Jr. Overture to The Before and After Times

Michael R. Dudley Jr. has developed a career branching across and defying conventions of genre. As a composer they have earned commissions through the Sphinx Organization, ASCAP, New York Youth Symphony, and American Composers Orchestra. They have also performed as a trumpet player with groups such as the Maria Schneider Orchestra and Christian McBride Big Band, and recorded on GRAMMY®-winning albums. Michael currently lives in Potsdam, NY where they serve as an Assistant Professor at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music.



ISJAC/iJazz Music Wayne Shorter Jazz Arranging Prize

Danny Jonokuchi Ping Pong

Danny Jonokuchi is a jazz trumpeter, vocalist, composer, arranger, producer, and educator, based in NYC & LA. His most recent big band albums are *Voices* (2023) and *Past is Present* (2024), and his upcoming album will be released August 2024. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by an array of artists including Lady Gaga, Catherine Russell, Nicole Zuraitis, The Capitol Symphonie Orchester, The Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Airmen of Note, & The Nashville Pops Orchestra.



SONIC Awards

Big Band Winner

Zach Rich Broken Mirrors

Zach Rich is a multi-award-winning composer, trombonist and educator based in Denver, CO and current faculty at the DU Lamont school of music. His work has received awards from ASCAP, ASMAC, Downbeat Magazine, JEN, the Ravinia Festival, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. He has worked professionally with Billy Childs, Rufus Reid, Steve Wilson, the New York Youth Symphony and the Helsinki Jazz Orchestra, just to name a few. His latest album, "Solidarity", can be found on all streaming platforms.



Small Group Winner

Neil Carson Halloween (I + II)



Chicago-based composer/arranger/saxophonist Neil Carson has carved out a niche for himself through his unique rock-influenced medium/large ensemble writing. Neil's 9-piece band New Nostalgia has released 2 records, 9 singles and received a 4-star review in Downbeat, and is being honored with a SONIC Award at the 2024 ISJAC Symposium. Other recent projects have included arrangements for a forthcoming album by Chicago's Blueshift Big Band featuring the music of Nintendo composer Koji Kondo.

Arrangement Winner

Damiano Pascarelli Ornette's Clockwork

Damiano Pascarelli is a composer, arranger and conductor based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He regularly collaborates with the Dutch Metropole Orkest and works also for many other world-class orchestras such as the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw and the SWR Big Band Stuttgart among many others. He has written for concerts and recording projects featuring artists such as Lalah Hathaway, Kurt Elling, Jacob Collier, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Take 6.



Guest Artists & Lecturers



Michele Fernández

Michele Fernández is a published composer/arranger, active clinician/guest conductor, educator and performer. Her works for jazz and wind ensemble are represented by various publishers including Hal Leonard, EMP and MMP, as well as her own company MF/GiraSoul Music, and have been performed (as well as clinics presented) at Midwest, CBDNA, JEN, IAJE, various MEA's All-State/Regional bands.

Michele serves ensembles of all ages across the country through virtual or in-person clinics and Artist-in-Residence events. She recently retired from teaching after 30 years, where her Miami Senior High ensembles earned top honors and gained international acclaim despite being a Title One school with minimal resources.

Her groups have been selected for appearances at the Midwest Clinic (Chicago '93 & '98), IAJE (Boston '94, NY '97), Montreux Jazz Fest (Switzerland '96), FMEA and national publications. Michele has featured on "CBS Sunday Morning", Band Director's Guide and Downbeat Magazine. She has also taught SPED, ESOL, HS English and Chemistry. Before focusing on writing, she served as an oboist in the Miami area, and spent several years as a rhythm section member of a busy local Afro-Latin/Jazz ensemble. As a composer/clinician: Michele views writing and clinics as an opportunity to discuss important aspects of life, while also focusing on the art form of performance, and in so doing, to help others gain more self-confidence and an increased awareness of compassion for others that will lead to success in all areas of life.

Nick Smart

Head of Jazz at the Royal Academy of Music, Professor Nick Smart is an internationally renowned jazz educator, trumpeter and conductor who has given guest masterclasses and performances around the world.



Nick has performed alongside some of the leading names in jazz and was a member of the late Kenny Wheeler's Big Band with whom he had a long association and has just finishing co-writing Wheeler's biography. In 2013 he was awarded the Parliamentary Jazz Award for Jazz Education, in 2015 awarded Honorary Membership of the Royal Academy of Music, and in 2022 conferred with Professorship from the University of London as well as completing his PhD at the Academy. In addition to releasing three critically acclaimed albums as a leader, he has been equally in demand as both educator and musical director: leading projects with big bands all over Europe, as guest director of the Grahamstown Festival Big Band in South Africa, at Sydney Conservatory in Australia, and numerous residencies in North America focussing on Wheeler's music alongside Dave Holland.

Music City Big Band

Special thanks to the Music City Big Band for their assistance with Nick Smart's Kenny Wheeler session. The ensemble is led by Casey Brefka and includes the following musicians:

Katie Blomarz, Nigel Cathey, Chase Coffey, Zachery Douglas, Abigail Flowers, Sofia Goodman, Will Hawley, Scott Hearn, Dan Hitchcock, Chelsea McBride, Alex Murphy, Desmond Ng, Will Padgett, Nadia Reist, Josh Scalf, Phil Smith, and Kevin Williams



Orbert Davis

Trumpeter Orbert Davis is co-founder, conductor and Artistic Director of Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, a 60-member, symphonic-jazz orchestra.

He served as jazz consultant and arranger for "Road to Perdition" starring Tom Hanks. He earned an Emmy Award for original music composed for the PBS documentary "DuSable to Obama: Chicago's Black Metropolis."

In 2017 he won a Jeff Award (music) for the TimeLine Theater production 'Paradise Blue.' Orbert hosts the weekly jazz radio show, "The Real Deal" on WDCB 90.9 FM (Chicago.)

Orbert earned a Bachelor's degree in trumpet performance from DePaul University, Masters degree in Jazz Pedagogy from Northwestern University as well an Honorary Doctorate from Governors State University.

Darcy James Argue

Darcy James Argue, "one of the top big band composers of our time"(Stereophile), is best known for Secret Society, an 18-piece group "renowned in the jazz world" (New York Times). Argue brings an outwardly anachronistic ensemble into the 21st century through his "ability to combine his love of jazz's past with more contemporary sonics" and is celebrated as "a syncretic creator who avoids obvious imitation" (Pitchfork).



Acclaimed as an "innovative composer, arranger, and big band leader" by The New Yorker, Argue's accolades include multiple GRAMMY nominations and a Latin GRAMMY Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Doris Duke Artist Award, and countless commissions and fellowships.



Mike Holober

Described by DownBeat Magazine as "one of the finest modern composer/arrangers of our time," Mike Holober was awarded the 2022 American Academy of Arts and Letters Andrew Imbrie Award in Music. His 2019 release "Mike Holober and the Gotham Jazz Orchestra: Hiding Out" was nominated for a GRAMMY® ("Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album) and features two of his extended works for jazz orchestra.

In addition to leading his own band, Mike has served at the helm of some of the world's most renowned large ensembles as composer, arranger, and conductor. He was Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed Westchester Jazz Orchestra, and he has worked extensively overseas, writing and conducting for the hr-Big Band (Frankfurt, Germany) and the WDR Big Band (Cologne, Germany). Upcoming engagements include residencies at the Jazzcampus in Basel, Switzerland, and the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts (in cooperation with the hr-Big Band). In November 2024 he will be arranging poem settings by Omer Klein for vocalist Rebecca Martin with the hr-Big Band, and in July 2025 he will be writing a project for the WDR Big Band, featuring saxophonist Chris Potter.

Amongst his honors, Mike is the recipient of a prestigious Chamber Music America New Jazz Works commission for "Don't Let Go," a song-cycle written for "Balancing Act," his jazz octet with voice. He was named the inaugural Stuart Z. Katz Professor in the Humanities and the Arts at The City College of New York in 2017, and he has enjoyed multiple artist residencies at MacDowell (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2009; 2020), The Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts (2019), The Ucross Foundation (2007; 2019), and Yaddo (2005).

Mike is a full Professor at The City College of New York, and teaches composing and arranging at The Manhattan School of Music. He was Associate Director of the BMI Jazz Composer's Workshop from 2007 - 2015, where he taught with Director Jim McNeely, and he is an active member of the International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers (ISJAC), frequently featured as a presenter alongside luminaries such as Anat Cohen, John Clayton, Jim McNeely, and Danilo Pérez.

John Beasley

John Beasley is a versatile pianist, composer, arranger who began his career in his 20s backing jazz icons Miles Davis and Freddie Hubbard. Since then, Beasley has performed with a wide range of artists, including Dianne Reeves, Christian McBride, John Patitucci, Chaka Khan, Carly Simon, to name a few. He was music director for international tours with Steely Dan, AR Rahman (Slumdog Millionaire) and Queen Latifah and co-MD for Chucho Valdes La Creation tour.



Beasley's work as a composer-arranger-pianist extends beyond jazz with many credits in TV and film, particularly with 15-time Oscar-nominee film composer Thomas Newman in the upcoming Elemental (Pixar June 2023) and blockbusters 1917, James Bond's Spectre and Skyfall, Finding Dory, He Named Me Malala, Shawshank Redemption. Newman invited John to orchestrate & conduct his big band MONK'estra in Steven Soderbergh's Let them all Talk with Meryl Streep.

As an educator, Beasley is committed to nurturing the next generation of musicians. He conducts master classes at music schools around the world. His bands often are intergenerational. He has been fortunate to write commissions for Los Angeles Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles and Carnegie Hall National Youth Orchestra.



Ryan Middagh

Ryan Middagh is an innovative educator, composer, arranger, saxophonist, band leader, and clinician who has traveled the globe, sharing his unique blend of talents and musical influences with audiences and music students. A passionate advocate for jazz education at all levels, he pursues creative programming and is devoted to reaching diverse communities through jazz.

Middagh's career as a jazz composer and arranger is studied with accolades. His works have been commissioned by musicians and ensembles throughout the United States. Grammy-winning artists, DownBeat award-winning educational ensembles, and esteemed collegiate and professional groups have recorded his compositions. His diverse collaborations span from arranging for Victor Wooten, Wycliffe Gordon, David Paich, Caleb Chapman's Crescent Super Band, the Nashville Jazz Orchestra, and his Blair School of Music colleague Jeff Coffin. iJazz and UNC Jazz Press have published several of his compositions and arrangements.

Middagh's versatility shines through as a soloist, collaborator, and band leader. His performances have graced jazz festivals worldwide, including tours and shows on behalf of the U.S. State Department. He is a sought-after studio musician in his hometown of Nashville, lending his skills to various genres. The Ryan Middagh Jazz Orchestra, a platform for his new compositions and arrangements, features some of Nashville's most talented musicians. He has also released three albums as a leader, and his upcoming album "Tenor Madness" will be released on EarUp Records.

Ryan Middagh is the Director of Jazz Studies at Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music. Middagh is an artist and clinician for Yamaha, JodyJazz, and D'Addario.

Monika Herzig

In 1987, the pedagogical institute in Weingarten, Germany awarded a scholarship for a one-year exchange program at the University of Alabama to one of their students, jazz pianist Monika Herzig. Together with her partner and guitarist Peter Kienle, she arrived in the States on a one-way ticket, with one suitcase of belongings and one guitar in August 1988. nce then she has completed her Doctorate in Music Education and Jazz Studies at Indiana University, where she taught for three decades.



She has released more than a dozen CDs under her leadership on her own ACME Records as well as Owl Studios, Whaling City Sound, Jazz Urbane, and Savant. Her awards include a 1994 Down Beat Magazine Award for Best Original Song, a Jazz Journalist Association Hero 2015 award, as well as grants from the NEA, the Indiana Arts Commission, MEIEA, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Chamber Music America, Indiana University, among others. Her project "SHEROES" (Whaling City Sound, Sabant) features the world's leading female jazz instrumentalists including Leni Stern, Jamie Baum, Jennifer Vincent, Rosa Avila, Mayra Casales, Reut Regev, Ada Rovatti, and Ingrid Jensen and was featured on NPR's Here and Now as well as cited as one of the best releases of 2018 in DownBeat Magazine, placing #31 on the year-end Jazz Week Charts. Thomas Garner from Garageradio.com writes, "I was totally awed by the fine musicianship throughout".



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First Takes

Sam Blakeslee Ephemeral

Sam Blakeslee is a New York City-based trombonist and composer. As a composer, In 2018, Blakeslee won the David Baker Prize in Composition from Ravinia Steans Music Institute and was also a 2020 COVID-19 Commission Grant recipient from International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers. As a bandleader, he has released 5 albums and in May 2023 recorded two albums of music with his jazz orchestra the Sam Blakeslee Large Group, both of which will be released separately at later dates.

Nick Finzer (with Rufus Reid) Legacy: A Centennial Celebration of JJ Johnson

Renowned as a "Rising Star" in jazz, Nick Finzer excels in original compositions and trombone virtuosity. Mentored by Steve Turre at Eastman and Juilliard, Finzer's accolades include Grammy nominations and Downbeat's "Rising Star Trombonist" title. As a bandleader with seven acclaimed albums, he founded Outside in Music to promote emerging talent. An Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas, Finzer shares expertise through books, masterclasses, and his YouTube channel. His latest album, "LEGACY," epitomizes his commitment to evolving artistry.

Steve Guerra Sete Anéis

Steve Guerra is the program director for Studio Jazz Writing at the Frost School of Music's department of Studio Music and Jazz. In high demand as a composer and arranger, Steve has been commissioned to write music for Dave Koz, Ben Folds, Jon Batiste, among others. His writing has recently been featured by the National Symphony Orchestra, the Inter Miami Football Club, the Nu Deco Orchestra featuring Met Opera star Will Liverman, and opera super group Il Divo's recent Christmas EP.

Sarah Jerrom Magpie Part VIII: Crystallization (For R)

Sarah Jerrom is a vocalist, pianist, composer and arranger specializing in jazz and creative music, taking inspiration from lyric-driven melodies, genre-defying instrumentation and experimental soundscapes. She has released 3 critically-acclaimed albums to date: Dream Logic (2021, TPR Records), The Yeats Project (2017) and Illuminations (2007). Sarah's new album, "Magpie," featuring her 90-minute suite for expanded jazz orchestra and 4 voices, will be released on Apr. 12th, 2024 on TPR Records.

Simon Lasky Closer To The Sky

British musician, Simon Lasky, is known on both sides of the Atlantic for his expansive jazz compositions and arrangements. He relocated from London, England to Tampa, FL in 2018 on the receipt of a Fellowship to study jazz composition with Chuck Owen. That same year he won the prestigious British Composer Award for his piece 'Close To Ecstasy'. In March 2024 Simon released his 3rd album as a leader on Ubuntu Records. He leads his 8-piece Simon Lasky Group in concerts in the U.K. and the U.S.

Pascal Le Boeuf Are We Dreaming the Same Dream?

Described as "a composer that rocks" by the New York Times, Pascal Le Boeuf is a GRAMMY-nominated composer, pianist, and electronic artist whose works range from modern improvised music to hybridizing notation-based chamber music with production-based technology. Pascal is currently an Assistant Professor of Practice in Music and Technology at Vanderbilt University, a 2023 Guggenheim Fellow, and Ph.D. candidate in Music Composition at Princeton University.

Remy Le Boeuf Stop & Go

Remy Le Boeuf is a 4x Grammy-nominated composer and saxophonist. Le Boeuf is the founder of the jazz orchestra, Assembly of Shadows, the Chief Conductor of the Nordkraft Big Band, and Co-leader of Le Boeuf Brothers. He has worked with a range of collaborators including the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Linda Oh, HAIM, JACK Quartet, Dayna Stephens, and Bob Mintzer. Le Boeuf is the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music.

Vanessa Perica The Eye is the First Circle

Vanessa Perica is a composer, arranger and conductor based in Melbourne, Australia. Primarily a big band writer, she has also been commissioned for string quartets through to symphony orchestras. Accolades include winning the APRA Art Music, Australian Jazz Bell, Music Victoria, and APRA Professional Development Awards. She has conducted performances of her music in Norway, and at the Sydney, Melbourne and Perth International Jazz Festivals.

Rufus Reid (with Nick Finzer) Legacy: A Centennial Celebration of JJ Johnson

Rufus Reid, a true renaissance figure in the arts, has been a prominent presence in jazz since the 1970s. With over 500 recordings, including 25 under his name, his contributions span genres. Notable releases like "Celebration" feature his jazz trio with a string quartet. Reid's versatility extends to composition, education, and accolades such as the Guggenheim Fellowship and Grammy nominations for his work. His influence as an educator is evident in pioneering programs like the Jazz Studies Bachelor of Music at William Paterson University.

Jussi Reijonen Three Seconds | Kolme Toista: III. The Weaver, Every So Often Shifting the Sands Beneath Her

Described as "a stunner... a single, unified, diverse, overwhelming statement" by JazzTimes and "unlike anything in memory" by AllAboutJazz, Finnish composer, fretted/fretless guitarist and oud player Jussi Reijonen's new nonet album, "Three Seconds | Kolme Toista" weaves an epic transcultural narrative between the open spaces of Arctic Lapland, the microtonal maqamat of the Arab world, the rhythmic richness of Africa and India, and the improvisatory spirit of American jazz.

Ross Strauser Endless Ties

Ross Strauser is a saxophonist, composer and educator who serves on the University of South Florida music faculty and teaches Jazz Saxophone, Jazz Composition & Arranging and Jazz Ensemble II. He earned his Master's degree in Jazz Studies with an emphasis in Jazz Composition from USF. Currently, he composes for and leads The Ross Strauser Jazz Orchestra, which released its debut album, Endless Ties, in May of 2023.

Drew Zaremba Blue Yonder

Selmer artist Drew Zaremba has composed and arranged pieces for the BBC Orchestra, the WDR and NDR Big Bands, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, and others. Drew joined the faculty of the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) jazz studies department in 2018. Drew's recently released "Reunion", his premiere big band album, produced by John Clatyon and featuring Wayne Bergeron, which was released through Outside In records in November 2023.

Christopher Zuar Exuberance

Christopher Zuar's music has been performed by the WDR Big Band, the Danish Radio Big Band, and the Brussels Jazz Orchestra. Zuar recently released 'Exuberance', a 60-minute song cycle for jazz orchestra and painted animation. Pianist Fred Hersch describes it as "a mature statement by a great composer in his prime, performed by a stellar ensemble with passion and care." Zuar is the recipient of the 2021 Symphonic Jazz Orchestra Commissioning Prize and the 2020 Copland House Residency Award.

New Music Workshops

Small Ensemble

Erez Aviram Quarantrio

Erez is a composer and pianist best known for "Elegy" and "Welcome to Addis", both received Hollywood Music in Media Awards nominations for Best Orchestral Work (2021, 2022). His most recent project is the Erez Aviram Ensemble, a chamber jazz group playing his compositions and arrangements. The ensemble had performed at the Rochester Jazz Festival 2023, Chamber Music America's Conference 2024 and Hartford Public Library Jazz Series 2024, and is planning to release an EP later this year.

David Bernot Never-Ending Cycle

David Bernot is a jazz composer and saxophonist currently based in Greeley, Colorado studying composition at UNC Colorado. He has received several accolades including two Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer awards, and three Downbeat student awards. David took first place in the 2022 Carinthia International Jazz Award saxophone competition and has presented research and performances at the NASA (Saxophone) and JEN conferences. David's debut album "Never-Ending Cycle" was released in March 2022.

Zachary Bornheimer A New Chapter Unfolds

Saxophonist, composer, and GRAMMY® Award Winning Album Assoc. Producer Zachary Bornheimer has already built an international reputation for his intermixing of free, orchestral, fusion, Brazilian, swing, and post-bop jazz elements in his work yielding mainstream recognition with more than 500,000 streams of his compositions along with commendations from ISJAC, ASCAP, the VSA, and RSMI. Bornheimer's works have been influenced heavily by his studies and work with Chuck Owen and Maria Schneider.

Joseph Herbst Song of the Matsutake

Composer, copyist, & woodwindist Joseph Herbst uses music as a medium for storytelling. In 2021, he released his debut album, This is Our Environment, bringing together original music, spoken word, and environmental justice. Works in progress include his first big band album, Into the Void of My Dreams, exploring personal change through an original story of a person entering their Dreamworld, and his theatrical show, Ghosts in the Mirror, exploring internalized messages and how we handle them.

Masa Ishikawa San San Nana

As a pianist, Masa Ishikawa has performed at many jazz festivals/concerts including Italy, China and the United States. In summer 2023, Masa released his 2nd original piano trio album, titled First Note as well as the 3rd original sextet album, titled Montage. Several of his compositions have been published from UNC Jazz Press. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano at James Madison University. Past teaching includes Gustavus Adolphus College and University of Iowa.

Tom Larson Forbearance

Tom Larson is an Associate Professor of Composition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he serves as the Area Head for Jazz Studies and Music Director and Composer-in-Residence for the Faculty Jazz Ensemble. Tom has performed worldwide at the Montreux Jazz Festival, the ISB Convention in Copenhagen, and the Tokyo Brass Art Orchestra in Tokyo. He has also written scores for numerous films shown on The American Experience (WGBH, Boston), American Masters (WNET, New York), and Nova (PBS).



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Robert Timothy Buonaspinas Chorinho em Vão Três

Robert T. Buonaspinas is a New-York-City-based composer, arranger, producer/music director, conductor/bandleader, multi-instrumentalist, and educator. As a composer and arranger, Robert has had the honor of having his work performed around the world. In January 2021, Robert was the recipient of the ISJAC Chuck Owen Prize in Jazz Composition.

Philip Ryan Goss Open Questions

Philip Ryan Goss is a composer, arranger, and educator residing in Brookline, MA. He is currently on the faculty in Berklee College of Music's Contemporary Writing and Production department, and holds an MM in Jazz Composition from New England Conservatory and a BM in Jazz Composition & Music Education from Berklee College of Music. Ryan's music draws inspiration from poetry, literature, visual art, and cosmic phenomena.

Bilge Günaydın The Dream of Scheherazade

Bilge Günaydın is a jazz pianist and composer based in NYC. She holds a Master of Music degree in jazz composition from William Paterson University. In 2020, her debut album "Daydreams" was released by receiving acclaim from "All About Jazz" as "an impressive first outing". Her second album "Sketches of Green" followed in 2022. Günaydın's projects have been featured at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Flushing Town Hall NYC, Drom NYC, Istanbul International Jazz Festival, and many more.

Tom Haines Pickle Dance

Tom is a UK-based composer/arranger with a reputation for distinct original music for large jazz ensemble. Since 2013 he has won multiple national & international jazz composing/arranging awards, including the 2021, inaugural Sophie Desmarais Composition Award for 'Pickle Dance', performed by the Orchestre National de Jazz de Montréal. In 2020 'A Tall Tale' was nominated for an Ivor Novello Composer Award and in 2022 was invited to record three works with the NDR Big Band in Hamburg, Germany.

Takumi Kakimoto Two-Faced Dance

Takumi Kakimoto was born in Himeji, Japan, and started playing the piano at six. He was awarded a full-tuition scholarship from Berklee College of Music and graduated with a B.M. in Performance and Jazz Composition. He has studied composition with Miho Hazama, Greg Hopkins, and Ayn Inserto, among others. Besides multiple winnings in the ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards, he has received various recognitions such as the DownBeat Student Music Award and the Yamaha Music Scholar.

Bryan Kennard Will I Live Dreaming or Cast Away These Shackles

Composer and flutist Bryan Kennard has become an established member of the writing community in Cleveland, Ohio. He is an active performer and serves as Director of the BOP STOP, curating the performance calendar. Bryan also teaches flute and composition in the region. He has studied composition and arranging with Gary Lindsay, Stephen Guerra, John Daversa, John Mills, and Dave Morgan. BM, Mercyhurst Univ.; MM, Youngstown State Univ.; MM, UT at Austin; DMA, Univ. of Miami. bryankennard.com

Andy Lutkoff Go For It!

Andy Lutkoff, 73, studied sax with Joe Viola, Tim Price, Alexa Tarantino. Started studying writing big band scores 3 years ago with Grammy winner Steven Feifke. Berklee College of Music 1973, 2 semesters. Graduated Ohio U. (1978, psychology, music), tenor sax soloist in OU's big band (1977). Perform professionally on alto sax. "Go For It!" is an original composition I wrote @a year and a half ago. It represents my philosophy; it's never too late to pursue your dreams. Go For It!

Fabia Mantwill Sleeping Giant

Boundary-defying composer, saxophonist, and vocalist Fabia Mantwill (*1993, Berlin) reshapes the orchestral landscape with her own hybrid jazz chamber orchestra. She collaborates with the Metropole Orkest and Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and serves as Artistic Director for the Berlin YouthJazzOrchestra since 2022. Winner of the German Jazz Prize 2021, she received the Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead Residency in 2016. Her upcoming record features acclaimed soloists Anat Cohen and Kurt Rosenwinkel.

Desmond Ng We're Almost There

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Desmond Ng is a highly active trombonist in the Nashville community. Desmond attended CSU Northridge where he received his B.M. in Jazz Studies and then relocated to Nashville where he received his M.M. from Middle Tennessee State University. As a performer he has recorded and performed with notable artists like Carly Pearce, Maren Morris, Dan & Shay, Joss Stone, Lauren Daigle, The War and Treaty and has performed in venues all across the world.

Dave Rivello Dave Rivello's Moving Stories

Dave Rivello is an American-born composer, conductor and bandleader working primarily in Jazz, and Contemporary Classical idioms. He apprenticed with Rayburn Wright, Bob Brookmeyer, Manny Albam, Bill Holman, and Sam D'Angelo. He leads a 12- piece ensemble (The Dave Rivello Ensemble) that is his main orchestral voice. He is the author of the book, Bob Brookmeyer in Conversation with Dave Rivello (ArtistShare), and also teaches at The esteemed Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Eiko Suzuki The Coming of Spring

Eiko Suzuki graduated from Berklee, where she majored in Jazz Composition. She has received the Barns and Noble Award and Toshiko Akiyoshi Award. She was selected to participate in the masterclass by Maria Schneider. She has created many symphonic jazz pieces for Concert Band. Her works was praised and she was selected as the arranger for "New Sounds In Brass in 2024". She is also the co-leader of the pianoduo project "EYRIE", performing at FUJIROCK and Hibiya Music Festival.

Greg Weis For Purple Mountains

Greg Weis directs the instrumental jazz program at Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kansas and manages the annual Bryce Luty Jazz Festival. His compositions have received awards and recognition from ASCAP, Downbeat Magazine, the American Society of Arrangers and Composers, the New York Symphony, and the Jazz Education Network.

New Music Workshops Arrangements

Yotam Ishay Our Love is Here to Stay

Brooklyn-based Grammy-nominated Interdisciplinary composer & pianist. With over 900k streams on Spotify, music from his debut album "Opus 1" was placed in Netflix shows, and his solo piano albums "SEED" & 'SPROUT' were praised by Japanese magazine "JAZZ LIFE". His music expresses a unique dialect by blending Western classical music, Middle-Eastern music, and Jazz. Yotam has collaborated with renowned artists such as Zakir Hussain, Michael League, Berklee Indian Ensemble, and Jamey Haddad.

Andrew Janak I Love You?

Dr. Andrew Janak is the Instructor of Jazz Saxophone at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and active saxophonist/composer/arranger/educator throughout the Mountain West. He has worked with acclaimed jazz musicians such as Mitch Towne, Marcus Lewis, Bob Lark's Alumni Band Band, Drew Zaremba Fellowship Jazz Orchestra and the Tom Matta Big Band. His sophomore album No Second Guessing was released in 2024 featuring his original compositions and arrangements.

Patrick Lui Orbits

Patrick Lui is an award-winning pianist, composer, arranger, and producer. He has won the Marvin Hamlisch International Music Award (Jazz Composition), the Taichung Jazz Festival Piano Competition, and was a semi-finalist at the Bucharest International Jazz Competition. Patrick's big band album, 'Sonder', recorded in New York, is distributed by Sony Music. He has collaborated with Alex Sipiagin, Will Vinson, Kyoto Composers Jazz Orchestra, Taipei Jazz Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

Pete McGuinness You Don't Know What Love Is

Pete McGuinness is the Tenured Full Professor of Jazz Arranging at William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ. He has been a long-time presence on the New York City jazz scene as a jazz composer-arranger, trombonist (retired) and award-winning jazz vocalist. Pete has been awarded three Grammy nominations for his big band arrangements, has released five CDs as a leader, and leads his own big band The Pete McGuinness Jazz Orchestra which frequently headlines at the NYC jazz club Birdland.

Christopher Merz Speak No Evil

Christopher Merz is the director of Jazz Studies at the University of Northern Iowa. He was the 2006 recipient of the University book and Supply Outstanding Teaching award, and is a member of both the JEI and CJC Halls of Fame. His newest project is Shorter Stories, which performs septet arrangements of the music of Wayne Shorter. He has written commissions for high schools and Universities around the country, and his music is published through ejazzlines, UNC Jazz Press, and iJazzMusic.

Damiano Pascarelli Ornette's Clockwork

Damiano Pascarelli is a composer, arranger and conductor based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He regularly collaborates with the Dutch Metropole Orkest and works also for many other world-class orchestras such as the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw and the SWR Big Band Stuttgart among many others. He has written for concerts and recording projects featuring artists such as Lalah Hathaway, Kurt Elling, Jacob Collier, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Take 6.

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New Music Workshops Student

Ricardo Arana Almost There

Ricardo Arana is a Composer from the Las Vegas area. He is active in composing music for Jazz, Classical and Film styles. Ricardo is pursuing his masters degree at The University of North Texas under the mentorship of acclaimed composers Richard DeRosa and Bruce Broughton. He has garnered many achievements including multiple Downbeat awards. Ricardo has also had the opportunity to work on projects with artists such as Rachel Eckroth, Kenny Rampton, Tia Fuller and the UNT One O' Clock Lab Band.

Sean Kiefer A Sad Bird Still Sings

Sean Kiefer is a jazz trumpeter and award winning composer/arranger currently studying jazz at the University of Northern Iowa, under Dr. Michael Conrad and Chris Merz. As a composer/arranger, he has been recognized on numerous occasions by the International Society of Jazz Composers and Arrangers (ISJAC) and Downbeat Magazine for his works. He has had the opportunity to present his works with ISJAC and fulfill commissions for both big band and combo settings.

Eden Mastriani-Levi Preconceived Notions

Eden Mastriani-Levi is an Israeli-American pianist, composer, and educator based in Atlanta, Georgia. Eden grew up in Israel and in South Carolina's Lowcountry, where he began to play with the Junior Jazz Foundation. In his last year of high school, he moved to Atlanta to study at Georgia State University. Since graduating, he has become an established bandleader and collaborator. In addition to this, he teaches privately and through the Hilton Head Jazz Camp and Rialto Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Micah Miller Transitions

Micah Miller (b. 1998) is a composer, performer and educator living in Denver. He studied jazz trumpet and voice at the University of Northern Colorado, and recently completed a Master's in trumpet performance from the University of Wyoming. As a freelancing musician, Micah plays around the Northern Colorado and Wyoming area in a variety of ensembles and musical settings. He recently released his debut album of original works for jazz quintet, *Why Not Here?*, in September 2023.

Gwen Nagel Pierre's Predicament

Gwen Nagel (they/she) is a jazz drummer, composer, and arranger based out of Northern Colorado. As an undergraduate jazz performance major at the University of Northern Colorado, they also studied jazz composition and arranging with Drew Zaremba and Jim White. Their works have been premiered by such groups as the Smalls, Green Mill, and Blue Note Combos, Jazz Lab Bands II and III, Spectrum Studio Orchestra, and Compass Jazz Orchestra.

Daiki Nakajima Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da

Daiki Nakajima is a composer and flutist/multi-instrumentalist in the SF Bay Area. Currently an undergraduate at Stanford University, Daiki studies mathematics and physics as well as music technology, computer music, and audiovisual/intermedia arts at Stanford's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). As a composer, Daiki has been recognized as the recipient of the ISJAC Owen Prize, a 3x winner of the ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards, etc.

Zengtao Pan Windy Days

Zhengtao Pan is a young musician from Shanghai, China, currently studying Jazz Composition and Composition at Berklee College of Music. He actively works in media scoring, arranges jazz tunes for jazz orchestras and bands, and writes concert music. He collaborates with Andrew Gould, Benny Benack III, Itai Kriss on his upcoming Bigband album, to name a few. Some of the orchestras that he worked with include New York Philharmonic, Shanghai Philharmonic, Budapest Scoring Orchestra.

Jordi Roviró Rambla

Jordi Roviró is a 22 year old Catalan-German Jazz-Trumpet player, composer and arranger. Currently a Jazz Trumpet student of the Music and Arts University Vienna (Austria) he is co-founder of the "Vienna Composers Big Band" (VCBB), an ensemble performing compositions/arrangements from the band members only, facilitating the performance of new Large Ensemble music in Vienna. The VCBB released its debut album "First Harvest" December 2023.

Jonathan Salcedo Push and Pull

Jonathan Salcedo is a versatile trombonist based out of Nashville, Tennessee. An active freelance musician, his playing can be heard in anywhere from games like Destiny 2 and Apex:Legends, to Amazon Prime's Thursday Night Football. An avid composer, Jonathan also won the 2022 Downbeat Award for Best Small Group Composition, and his works have been performed around the world. Jonathan is also a passionate chef and baker, and enjoys cooking for friends and family in his free time!

Kevin Shinskie Endeavours

Kevin Shinskie is a multi-instrumentalist receiving his Master's in Jazz Performance from the Frost School of Music. He earned his Bachelors of Music from Vanderbilt University under the mentorship of Jeff Coffin and Director of Jazz Studies, Ryan Middagh. He has also been awarded multiple individual downbeat awards in composition and improvisation. His most recent professional work includes performances with the Broward Arts Center, Steve Guerra Big Band, and Ryan Middagh Jazz Orchestra.

Stephanie Urquhart Cloudbunner

Stephanie Urquhart (she/her) is a mixed-race pianist, composer, and arranger. Her debut album, Concealment, was released in 2019 and was nominated for Best Jazz Album by One World Music Awards. Her music has been featured at international events including the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity's 2021 Jazz and Creative Music Residency, and the 2017 Earshot Jazz Festival in Seattle, Washington. She won 2nd place in the 5th Annual Jazz Composition Contest for Women Composers in 2017.

Thomas Wenglinski Iguana Beat

Thomas Wenglinski is an award-winning composer/arranger/pianist based in Miami, FL. Originally from Houston, he studied Jazz Composition at the University of Texas with Dr. John Mills and Jeff Hellmer. In 2020, he moved east to attend the University of Miami, where he since completed his Masters and pursues a DMA under Dr. Stephen Guerra, serving as his teaching assistant and composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute. Aside from jazz, Thomas is an avid fan of soul and Brazilian music.

Paper Presentations

Ben Morris Genre Blending and National Identity in Norwegian Jazz Through the Lens of the Punk! Festival

Ben Morris is a composer-pianist whose eclectic output includes music for chamber groups, orchestra, opera, film, and intermedia. He lived in Oslo on Fulbright and American-Scandinavian Foundation Grants to study the influence of folk music on Norwegian jazz, culminating in his debut album, "Pocket Guides." His recent accolades include Downbeat and ASCAP Herb Alpert Awards and a Newport Jazz Festival performance. Morris teaches composition at Stephen F. Austin State.

Daniel Henderson Music is Sex: How Nelson Riddle Writes Arrangements That Simmer, Sizzle, and Scream

Dr. Daniel Henderson directs the Studio Orchestra at BYU-Hawaii, specializing in mid-century jazz and popular orchestral music. Before moving to Hawaii, Daniel taught Jazz Harmony and Jazz Improvisation at Harvard University and was awarded the Harvard Certificate of Teaching Excellence eight times. He holds DMA and MM degrees in Jazz Composition, with Academic Honors and the Gunther Schuller Medal, from New England Conservatory. Daniel's early mentor, friend, and hero was the great Billy May.

Jonathan Lindhorst The Application of Tone-Clock Theory to Contemporary Jazz Composition

Described as "an imperious presence on tenor sax, with a voice that ranges from the powerfully austere...to the gently lyrical," improviser, composer, and researcher Jonathan Lindhorst explores new harmonic frontiers. With a career that has spanned nearly 30 years, Jonathan has performed regularly in Europe, the UK, and Canada, and has become a leading researcher in the emerging field of Tone-Clock theory. He is currently a D.Mus candidate, Schulich School of Music of McGill University and a member of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT).

Paul Ferguson Comparing Thad Jones to Ellington/Strayhorn-a harmonic analysis

Paul Ferguson is Senior Instructor in Music at Case Western Reserve University and Artistic Director of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. He won the Gil Evans Fellowship in 1995 and was the sole American contestant at the 2012 ART-EZ Jazz composition contest in Enschede, Holland.

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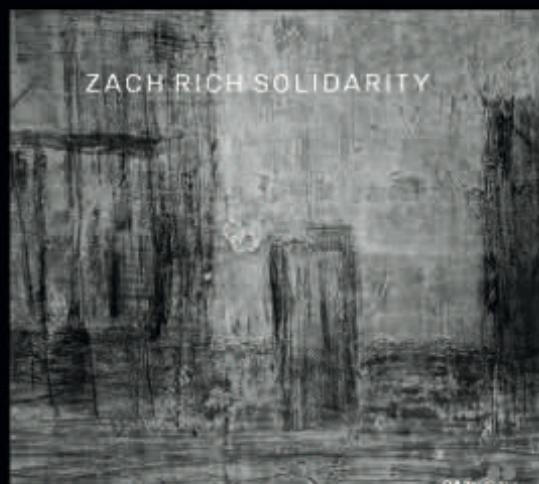
This book presents Bob's conversations with Dave Rivello on his approach to composition, teaching, conducting, bandleading, and a variety of other topics, including his various compositional exercises, views of his own works, and his views on influential 20th century composers.

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--Stephen Graham, Marlbank (UK)



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Fabio Augustinis Choro em 28 de Fevereiro

Dr. Fabio Augustinis, a dynamic figure encompassing roles as a drummer, percussionist, educator, composer, and producer, currently serves as Assistant Professor of Practice in Commercial Music and Jazz Studies at Texas Tech University, where he also coordinates the Commercial Music programs. For more information, please visit www.fabioaugustinis.com

Andrew Binder "Conspiracy Deliracy": A Conspiracy Theorist's Approach to Jazz Composition

Dr. Andrew Binder is a bassist and composer from St. Louis, Missouri currently teaching at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, MO. Andrew holds a D.M.A. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in addition to degrees from the University of Miami and Bowling Green State University. In 2023, Andrew was awarded an Urbana Arts Grant for his original group "Conspiracy Deliracy", featuring all original compositions based on conspiracy theories.

David Binkley Seconds and More (An original composition)

Pianist/composer Donald Brown has said, "David writes amazing compositions that are musical, innovative, and deeply respectful of the tradition." Gregory Tardy has said, "David's music is as good as many jazz standards out there." David has studied piano/composition with Jim McNeely and Richie Beirach. He has performed extensively in the Knoxville and Charlotte areas, and has presented original compositions at the 2008, 2017, 2019, and 2022 International Jazz Composers' Conferences.

Casey Brefka Won't You Wait For Love

Casey Brefka, a jazz trumpet player from Nashville, TN, is a versatile musician, composer, and arranger. He performs with various bands including the Chris Weaver Band, The Willies, and leads the Music City Big Band, founded 2017. Inspired by legends like Maynard Ferguson, Casey studied at Berklee College of Music, later earning a Master's from New England Conservatory. He has performed with many jazz greats, and serves on the executive board of AFM Local 257 in Nashville.

Tom Call Gnarlmau/Teethgrinder: Exploring Triplets and Heaviness

Utah born Trombonist and Composer Tom Call has a lifelong passion for creating music. Tom received a BMUS in jazz composition from the University of Utah in 2016, a MM from New York University in 2018, and is a Jazz Studies Doctorate of Arts candidate at the University of Northern Colorado. Tom's most recent project is his dissertation composition "Cantus Imperialis", a jazzmetal big band song cycle based on the narrative of the Horus Heresy, the recording of which will be available in mid 2024.

Carolina Calvache Pan-American Fusion in Composition: Where Jazz, Classical, and Pan-Latin Music Meet.

Carolina Calvache is a pianist and composer from Colombia. Following her jazz quartet album "Sotareño," Calvache released "Vida Profunda," which presents songs orchestrated for a jazz chamber ensemble featuring the legendary singer Rubén Blades. Carolina's latest commissions include a piece for the group Bonegams and multiple chamber works premiering at the Trombone International Festival. Calvache holds a master's degree from UNT and a DMA in jazz composition from the University of Miami.

Constantine Campbell Athina

Dr Constantine Campbell is an Australian jazz saxophonist and composer. He teaches jazz performance and theory at the Australian National University and has recently completed a doctorate exploring the fusion of jazz and Greek rebetiko music. Campbell has performed with the highest calibre jazz musicians in Australia, including James Morrison, James Muller, Miroslav Bukovsky, as well as many in US, such as Ernie Watts, Odeon Pope, Bill Watrous, Bobby Broom and Gustavo Cortiñas.

Derick Cordoba Analysis of four original compositions "J & J," "Pat's Tune," "High Ceilings," and "Number 7."

Dr. Derick Cordoba is the Director of Commercial Music at Anderson University. His research is focused on sacred and liturgical jazz. Derick's dissertation, "Liturgical Jazz: The Lineage of the Subgenre in the Music of Edgar E. Summerlin," was on the origins of liturgical jazz and its evolution. He has presented research at JEN, CMS, ISJAC, and the Rhythm Changes Conference. His latest jazz recording, J & J, was released in 2022. He holds degrees from UIUC (DMA), FIU(MM), and UNF (BM).

Rayne Vitorino Dias A Comparison of Three College Music Ensemble Professors' Approaches to Teaching Brazilian Musical Styles to Non-Brazilian Musicians in the United States of America.

With a strong foundation in music education from the Federal University of Uberlandia, pursued a master's degree in jazz studies and a second master's in music education at the University of Iowa. Currently in the second year of the PhD program in music education at UWO, their research focuses on jazz, popular music, and Brazilian popular music.

Michael Echaniz Seven Shades of Violet (Rebiralost)

Michael Echaniz is one of the brightest composers emerging from the West Coast, studying at the California Jazz Conservatory (B.M.) and CalArts (MFA). A pianist since five, Michael is an avid performer, supporting artists such as Jeff Denson, Wu Man, Romain Pilon in venues such as Yoshi's and the Montreux Jazz Festival. A winner of numerous awards and grants, Michael recently released his debut album on Ridgeway Records, Seven Shades of Violet (Rebiralost), earning a 4-star review in Downbeat.

Matt Erion Composition or Arranging? A 12-tone pastiche

Matt Erion, MT-BC is a composer and bassist from Illinois. Matt is a board-certified music therapist, and is interested in how music can lead his clients into making transformative change in their lives, and is also passionate about presenting large-ensemble jazz in his community. He is currently the leader of a twelve-piece large jazz ensemble. He has performed with Grammy Winners and NEA Jazz Masters, and has received commissions to write original compositions for the Fox Valley Jazz Big Band.

Sofia Goodman The Music of Sofia Goodman

The Music of Sofia Goodman will present the latest work of drummer and composer Sofia Goodman and allow listeners a sneak peak of her upcoming album Receptive. Receptive was recorded in Nashville and was produced by Pascal Le Boeuf. The octet album is comprised of original music and contains tunes that swing, groove and explore the inspiration of transforming into a receptive state of being. Goodman will allow attendees to view scores and she will give away lead sheets of the title track.

Sam Griffith Riffs, Solos, Blues, and Four on the Floor: Utilizing the principles of the Kansas City Jazz Style in modern jazz ensemble composing and arranging.

Sam Griffith is the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Missouri. Sam's favorite class - Kansas City Jazz and Gangsters - examines the cross section of Kansas City Jazz and organized crime. In 2020, Sam published "The Jazz Trombone Book" on Qpress. He also actively composes and arranges for ensembles in Columbia, MO. Sam received a BFA from the New School, an MM in Trombone Performance from CSU-Sacramento and a DMA in Jazz Studies from CU-Boulder.

Anders Helmerson Ritual iDance

Anders started composing in his teens and launched his first album at age of 20. He never achieved any higher education in music but started medical school. After this as his music had attained appreciation, he resumed the career in music with new albums 2001 and 2010. In 2016 he started writing music for piano trio only and have since then produced 2 albums. 2022 he created a trio with musicians he recruited from Berklee and have since then been presenting his own music all over the world.

Clarence Hines Confluence: The Intersection of Talent and Resilience

Clarence is the Director of the School of Music at the University of North Florida. He has taught at Eastman and Tritone Jazz Camps, Birch Creek Music Academy, and is a Conn-Selmer trombone artist. Clarence's compositions are performed by professional and collegiate ensembles throughout the U.S. His recent pieces have debuted at venues such as Lincoln Center, the Tanglewood Music Festival, the Strings Music Festival, and the World Association of Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference.

Tom Johnson Simple Song

Dr. Tom Johnson is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Indiana State University and a graduate student in the Masters in Music Composition program at Butler University, where he studies with Michael Schelle. He previously studied with Bill Adam, Dominic Spera, and Brent Wallarab of Indiana University. Tom's compositions include jazz and art music as well as music and lyrics for two musicals. Later this year he will be releasing his second CD of compositions for Jazz Orchestra.

Jamal Jones The fusion of jazz orchestra composition/arranging, live-looping and turntablism.

Jamal Jones is a composer/arranger and trumpeter based out of Philadelphia, PA. He is currently the bandleader of his original music jazz orchestra, Jamal Jones and The Bureau of Sonic Wonderland and a Professor of Jazz Composition at The University of the Arts and Kutztown University. Jones is currently a PhD candidate for a PhD in Creativity degree, in which he is working on fusing jazz orchestra composition with live-looping, sampling and turntablism.

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This degree program, in collaboration with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band, provides specialized courses to bridge academic study with professional practice. It includes work phases, concerts, and studio productions with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band. Applicants can choose between one of three main areas of study: playing in, writing for, or conducting a big band. Students who choose "writing" as their main focus get to record their music with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band from the first semester on.

Dan Mar-Molinero Taproot: Growing Your Own Jazz

Dan is a saxophonist, composer and educator. His work includes hit records in the UK, US and worldwide. Dan's roots are firmly in jazz, he's written and worked with leading jazz artists eg Soweto Kinch, Dave Liebman and Jasper Hoiby. He lectures at the University of Southampton (UK) as "Head of Jazz & Pop" and is a lead tutor for National Youth Jazz Collective also sitting on the organisation's board. His piece, '22:22' was nominated for the prestigious 2022 "Ivor Novello for Jazz Composition".

Chelsea McBride Oriental Folk Song

Whether it's her big band (Chelsea McBride's Socialist Night School), her pop-jazz sextet (Chelsea and the Cityscape) or her jazz trio (Chelsea McBride Group), Chelsea is a diverse musician who refuses to stay in one creative box. Chelsea is currently based in NYC, but maintains a busy Canadian performance schedule. Chelsea has released three albums with Chelsea and the Cityscape and three with her Socialist Night School, all of which can be found on Bandcamp.

Jonathan McElroy Blues Bop

Jonathan McElroy earned his PhD in Music Education at New York University, a Master of Music in Composition/Arranging, and Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance from William Paterson University. Jonathan is a professor at Monmouth University and adjuncts at Montclair State University. He actively performs and composes/arranges on Broadway and off-Broadway, leads a jazz sextet, and is resident composer/arranger for the Living Room Big Band. Jonathan's website is www.jonathan-mcelroy.com

John C. Paulson Refuge

John C. Paulson got his B.M and M.M from the University of Utah and his DMA in music education from the University of Washington. He's played sax for over 60 years and has a passion for flute. Paulson retired from Saint Mary's University of MN and then taught jazz studies at Winona State University. His third big band CD "Refuge" was released in 2023. He's a member of ISJAC, ASCAP and JEN. Visit www.paulsonjazz.com for more.

Melissa Pipe Of What Remains

Melissa Pipe is a baritone saxophonist, bassoonist, composer and arranger from Montreal, Canada. As well as leading her own quintet and sextet, she performs regularly with jazz, hip hop, indie, and classical ensembles as a freelancer. A versatile player and writer, she has written for small groups and large ensembles.

Scott Routenberg Concerto for Jazz Piano and Orchestra

Dr. Scott Routenberg is an award-winning American composer, arranger, jazz pianist, and educator. He has released three critically acclaimed albums on Summit Records, Inside, Supermoon, and Every End is a Beginning, and is a featured arranger on Singapore's first symphonic jazz album, Jeremy Monteiro's Tapestry Live (2024). Premieres include Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Dr. Routenberg is currently tenured Associate Professor of Jazz Piano at Ball State University School of Music.

James Shaw Make That Change (collaboration with rapper/singer Lance Sampson)

James Shaw is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and is a composer, arranger, saxophonist, conductor and educator. In 2016, Shaw started The Vesuvius Big Band, which he writes, arranges, performs and conducts with. Their debut release, Live at Open Waters Festival was nominated for the 2022 ECMA and MNS: Jazz Recording of the Year. His latest project, Hearing Halifax paired artists/genre that are not typical found in a Big Band setting; from Tabla and Fiddle to Ingenious Singing and Rap.

Monica Shriver The Possibility of Us

Monica Shriver is a saxophonist, composer, bandleader, visual artist, writer, and co-founder of Brave Musician®. Shriver is dedicated to exploring the connections between composition, improvisation, and life with her experimental jazz ensemble, the Monica Shriver Quartet. Her artistic expression embraces vulnerability, collaboration, connection, and is deeply inspired by the vast and complex experiences of being a human. Monica released her first album, *Acceptance*, in 2023. MonicaShriver.com

David Springfield Always

David Springfield is an Associate Professor and the Director of Jazz Studies at Valdosta State University, where he teaches jazz piano and directs the VSU Jazz Ensemble. He attended the Eastman School of Music, studying with Rayburn Wright, Bill Dobbins and Fred Sturm. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by such artists and ensembles as Branford Marsalis, Phil Woods, the Count Basie Orchestra and the Boston Pops Orchestra. His works are published by Kendor and Sierra Music.

John Sturino Rule Of Threes

John Sturino is a drummer, percussionist, composer, and educator residing in New York City. Sturino's current project as a bandleader is BLOW GLOBE, a 10-piece ensemble that fuses the sound of instrumental jazz and ethos of contemporary electronic and songwriter musics.

Hendrik Viljoen Symmetrical Harmonic Motion's Applications in Chord Substitutions

Hendrik Viljoen is a performer, educator, and arranger based in Lincoln, Nebraska. He taught in public schools for eight years, and performs with local groups including The Root Marm Chicken Farm Jug Band and Clementine & the Meandering Oranges. His improvisational and compositional methods employ a synthesis of Barry Harris and Ernst Levy's concepts to create a novel approach to improvisation and composition based around symmetrical voice-leading and new harmonic motions.

Tracy Yang OR Album Preview

Born and raised in Taiwan, Tracy Yang is a cross-discipline artist based in NYC. She was awarded the Charlie Parker Jazz Composition Prize and has received grants from institutions like New Music USA and NYFA. Yang provides live music for renowned dance companies and schools such as Martha Graham, Paul Taylor, Limon, Juilliard, and ABT JKO. Tracy also works as a photographer and videographer on the music scene. She is set to release her debut 17-piece jazz orchestra album *《OR》* in 2024.

John Yao Continuum

NYC based trombonist, composer and arranger John Yao's relentless drive to push the boundaries of harmony and rhythm, have established him as a unique and forward-thinking jazz talent. In 2023, Yao earned a place in the Rising Star Trombone and Rising Star Big Band categories in the Downbeat Critics Poll. He serves as Assistant Professor of Trombone at Berklee College of Music and Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and as Adjunct Professor of Music at Molloy University.

Drew Zaremba Rhapsody in Raag Jog

Selmer artist Drew Zaremba has composed and arranged pieces for the BBC Orchestra, the WDR and NDR Big Bands, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, and others. Drew joined the faculty of the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) jazz studies department in 2018. Drew's recently released "Reunion", his premiere big band album, produced by John Clayton and featuring Wayne Bergeron, which was released through Outside In records in November 2023.

Mission & Board

The International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers strives to unite and serve the international community for jazz arrangers and composers by advancing the understanding and appreciation of jazz composition as well as stimulating the creation, performance, and dissemination of new works and research.

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Sincere thanks to all those who helped in the production and planning of this incredible gathering of jazz composers, arrangers, performers, scholars, and industry leaders. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the following:

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Jeff Helmer
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