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Faculty Recital: MT & i3° - ICy Jazz Presents The Music of "Frozen"

MT & i3°

ICy Jazz

Gregory Evans

Mike Titlebaum

Nicholas Walker

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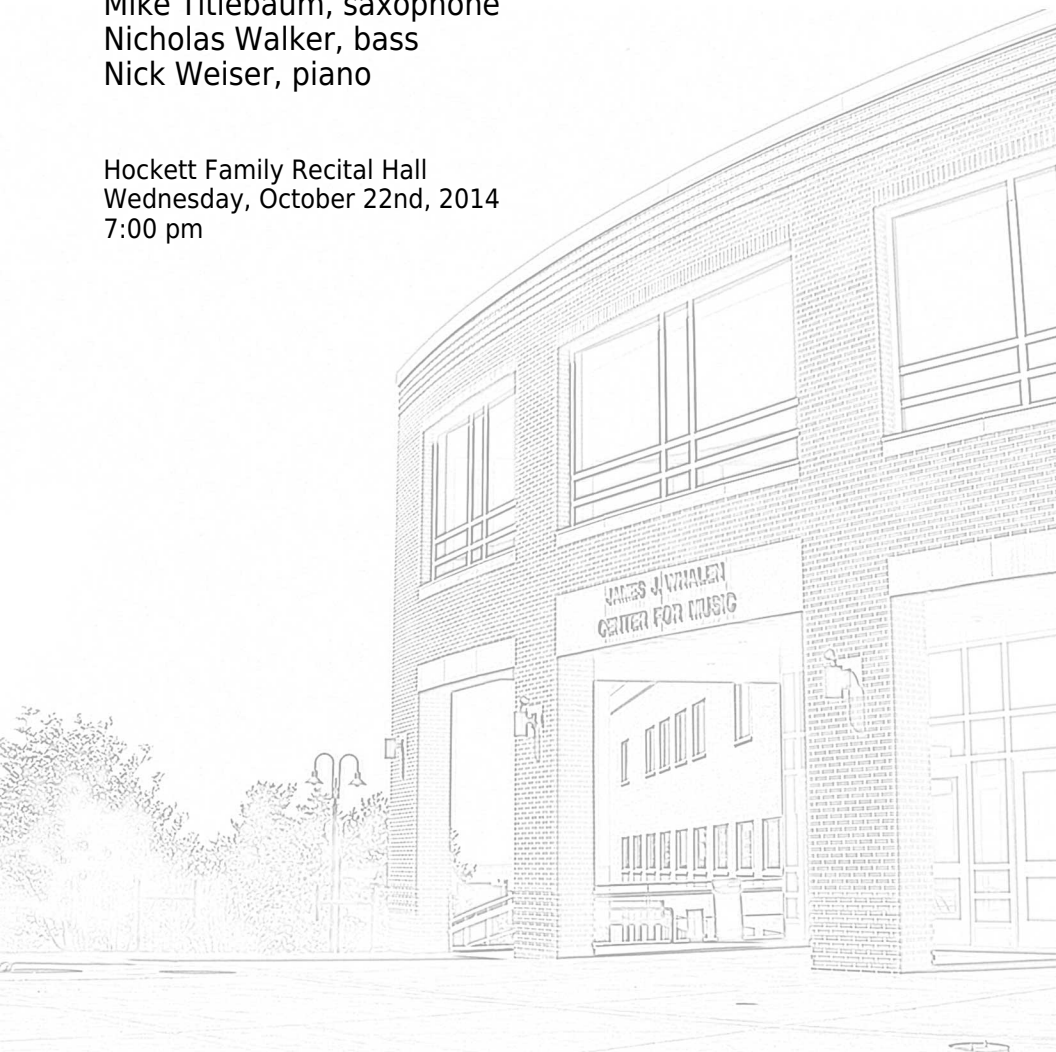
MT & i3°, ICy Jazz, Gregory Evans, Mike Titlebaum, Nicholas Walker, and Nick Weiser

Faculty Recital:
MT & i3°

ICy Jazz: The Music of "Frozen"

With:
Greg Evans, drums
Mike Titlebaum, saxophone
Nicholas Walker, bass
Nick Weiser, piano

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Wednesday, October 22nd, 2014
7:00 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Selections to be chosen from the following:

Frozen Heart

Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

For the First Time in Forever

Love Is An Open Door

Reindeer(s) Are Better Than People

In Summer

Let It Go

Fixer Upper

Biographies

Greg Evans is a passionate and captivating performer, pedagogue and composer. His drive, energy and facility on the drum set has given him experience across the spectrum of the music industry. Greg's influence spans multiple milieus including studio recordings, live clubs/venues, festivals and the classroom.

Evans has also has an extensive performing career. He has performed in multiple national tours including those of the bands ISM, Remington, and Turkuaz. Evans has also performed with many artists including The Count Basie Orchestra, Jonathan Batiste, Terence Blanchard, Chick Corea, Joey DeFrancesco, Melinda Doolittle, Kurt Elling, Robin Eubanks, Jimmy Heath, Joe Magnarelli, Eric Marienthal, Branford Marsalis, John Pizzarelli, Hank Roberts, Dave Samules, and Allen Vizzutti. Evans is also a active clinician, having presented at various New York State All-County Festivals, the Oneida Jazz Festival, and Essentially Ellington. Evans is also a active clinician, having presented at various New York State All-County Festivals, the Oneida Jazz Festival, and Essentially Ellington.

At Ithaca College, Evans conducts the Jazz Repertory Ensemble, coaches combos, teaches several jazz courses and maintains an active private studio. Evans earned his Masters of Music at Ithaca College (2011) in percussion studies where he studied under Gordon Stout. He holds a Bachelors of Music in jazz studies from the Manhattan School of Music (2009) where he studied under Justin DiCioccio.

Saxophonist/composer/arranger **Mike Titlebaum** is Director of Jazz Studies at the Ithaca College School of Music. He is a passionate advocate of jazz and other social music. At IC Titlebaum directs the IC Jazz Ensembles and teaches jazz saxophone, improvisation, repertoire, arranging, and history.

Titlebaum has delivered workshops, lectures and performances at numerous state and national conferences, including NYSSMA, NYSBDA, TMEA and JEN.

He played in many of New York's world famous musical venues, including the Blue Note, Smalls, Augies, Fez/Time Cafe and the infamous CBGB's as well as the pit orchestra of the Broadway musical "Cats." He has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra, and with dozens of internationally recognized artists and groups.

He earned his BM in Saxophone Performance, MM in Jazz and Contemporary Media and the coveted Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music.

Nicholas Walker is an accomplished musician who brings a broad range of training and experience to the string bass: classical and jazz, modern and baroque, solo recitals and chamber ensembles, his enthusiasm and aptitude transcend arbitrary musical boundaries.

Walker earned his DMA in Early Music at Stony Brook University in 2004. Formerly Walker studied with Paul Ellison at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, where he received a BMA in 1994. Walker has also apprenticed with two master mentors: for three years he toured with swing era saxophone legend Illinois Jacquet, and for the last eighteen years Walker has worked closely with the pioneering maestro of the double bass, François Rabbath. As a Fulbright Scholar (1994-95) he worked with Rabbath at the Nadia Boulanger Conservatoire de Paris, and has since received two diplomas from L'Institut International François Rabbath, one in performance, and one in teaching.

As Associate Professor of Music at Ithaca College, Walker demonstrates the art of playing in the broadest sense: he shows the full capacity of the instrument, and guides students to new levels in the traditional repertoire, early music, new music, jazz music, as well as in the art of improvisation and creative collaboration.

Pianist **Nick Weiser** is steeped in both the jazz and classical idioms and has performed at events as far reaching as the Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy, and Switzerland's Montreux Jazz Festival. During his formative years in western Kansas, Weiser studied piano with the late jazz pianist, composer, and arranger Frank Mantooth before matriculating to the University of Kansas. There, he developed his classical background while maintaining an active involvement in the jazz and musical theater programs, winning the prestigious Dick Wright Jazz Award in 2006 and performing with such greats as Peter Erskine, Ingrid Jensen, Rich Perry, John Abercrombie, and Gary Foster, to name a few.

He received his Bachelor of Music degree with highest distinction in 2008 before attending the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. At Eastman, he has studied with artists Harold Danko and Bill Dobbins, and was a member of the Downbeat Award-winning Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, whose performance with renowned trombonist, composer, and arranger Bob Brookmeyer garnered international acclaim. Actively sharing his passion for music with others, Weiser is on the jazz faculty at Ithaca College and Cornell University and has given lectures and master classes at universities and institutions nationwide. He continues to teach privately while maintaining an extensive jazz and classical performance schedule throughout New York and Connecticut.

Program Notes

Well-known songs have been the foundation of jazz since its inception. For the entire recorded history of jazz--almost 100 years--jazz musicians have latched onto the songs that were part of their popular culture and expanded on them through their skills as improvisers.

However, within just a few decades after the creation of jazz, some journalists and musicians declared jazz was an art that should exist above the fray of popular culture. They thought jazz players shouldn't concern themselves with connecting to their audience; to do so was "selling out." Ironically, this shift occurred not many generations after the booming jazz age of the 1920s when jazz music was the dangerous, counter-culture music teenagers danced to in order to upset their parents.

We, the jazz faculty at IC, have always felt that this argument is actually an entirely false dichotomy. Jazz is simultaneously artistic and popular. The greatest jazz musicians in history have performed and recorded the popular songs they heard on the radio, on records, in movie theaters and later on television. Louis Armstrong played "St. Louis Blues." Charlie Parker recorded the movie theme "Laura." Ella Fitzgerald sang "A-Tisket A Tasket." Sonny Rollins played the show tune "Surrey With The Fringe On Top." Brad Meldau played Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit." None of these folks sold their souls by performing well known songs; they were just doing music they loved.

We enjoy the challenge of playing highly complex music, but also love simple and straightforward melodies. We love music that speaks to our intellect and pushes the boundaries our chops, but we also crave music that reaches us in an honest way. When we hear a song on the radio that moves us emotionally, our nature as jazz improvisers compels us to perform these songs with our own unique stamp.

The movie "Frozen" struck us immediately. The film has connected with millions of kids and grown-ups alike (those of us who are parents can attest to its cross-generational appeal) and like many Disney movies of the past, the music is a huge part of this emotional connection. The songs are beautiful on many levels, and we immediately knew we had to play these songs for you. We hope you enjoy them!

Upcoming Jazz Events at Ithaca

Friday, Oct. 24 at 8:15PM (Ford): Concert Band directed by Mark Fonder, and Jazz Vocal Ensemble, directed by Douglas Avery.

Saturday Oct. 25 at 8:15PM (Ford): Symphonic Band directed by Elizabeth Peterson, and Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mike Titlebaum.

Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 7PM (Hockett): Faculty recital of bassist Nicholas Walker with guitarist Steve Brown, Emeritus Professor.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 8:15PM (Ford): Jazz Repertory Ensemble, directed by Greg Evans.

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 12 Noon (Ford): Campus Band directed by Art Carichner and Campus Jazz Band, directed by Bill Tiberio.

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8:15PM (Ford): Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mike Titlebaum.

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 8:15PM (Ford): Jazz Lab Band, directed by Bill Tiberio.