

3-2-2015

## Concert: Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum

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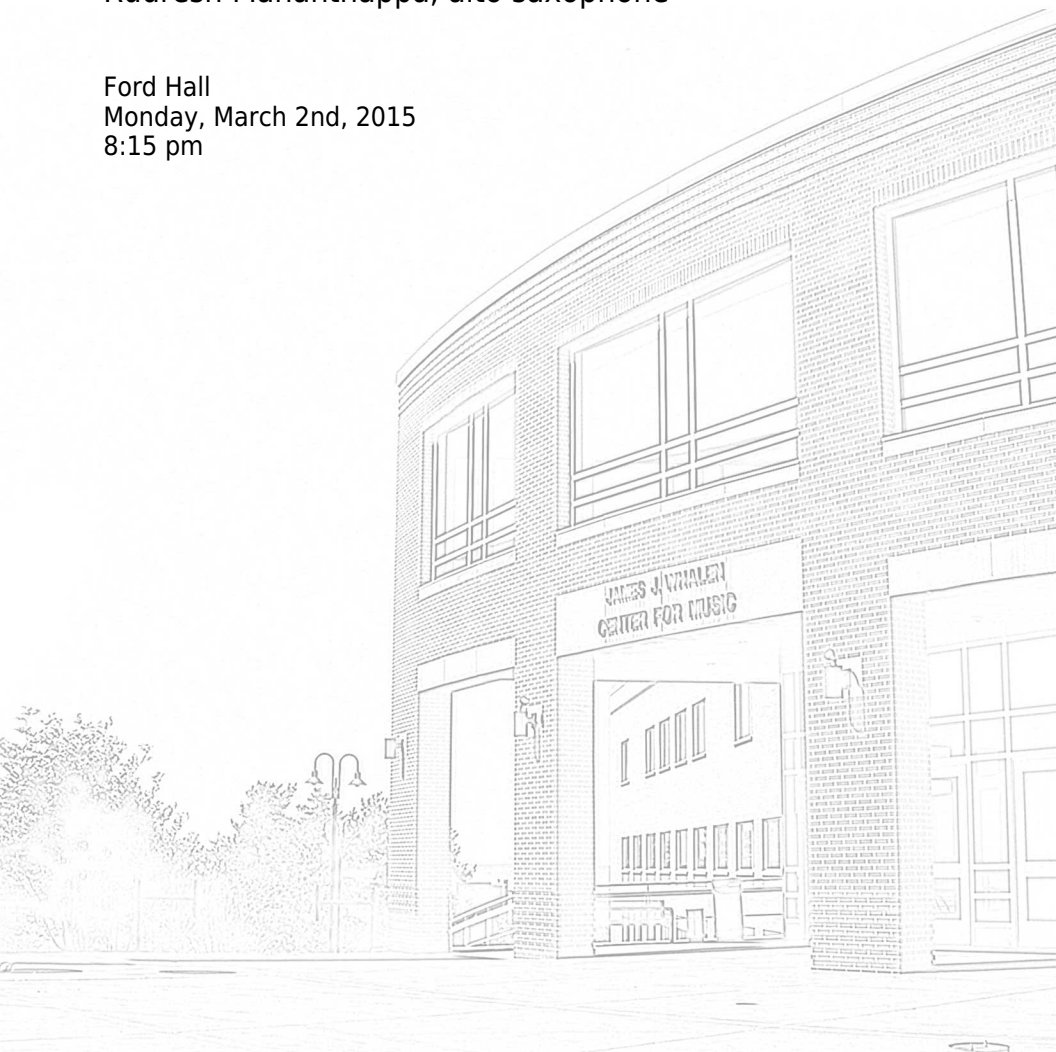
Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble  
Mike Titlebaum, director

5th Annual Composition Contest

featuring

Rudresh Mahanthappa, alto saxophone

Ford Hall  
Monday, March 2nd, 2015  
8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

# Program

Luna B.

*Dan Wenger, trombone*

David von Kampen++  
(b. 1986)

Because I Spit Hot Fire

Josh Oxford  
(b. 1985)

## Introducing Rudresh Mahanthappa, alto saxophone

Chillin'

*Jack Storer, trumpet*  
*Alex Toth, bass*

Rudresh Mahanthappa  
arr. Mike Titlebaum

Manhattan Nocturne

Charles McPherson  
arr. Pete McGuinness++  
(b. 1963)

Letters to Maxine, the Elusive

Alex Lee-Clark+  
(b. 1985)

Kit Ten

Adam Bartczak\*\*  
(b. 1979)

*Jack Storer, trumpet  
Emmett Scott, piano*

Flying Colors

Mark Nimmer  
(b. 1997)

*Winner, 2015 IC Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest, High School Division*

*Jack Storer, trumpet*

Vista Hermosa

Remy Le Boeuf  
(b. 1986)

*2nd Place Winner, 2015 IC Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest,  
Pro/College Division*

*Dan Wenger, trombone*

Mirage

Rick Hirsch  
(b. 1970)

*Winner, 2015 IC Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest, Pro/College Division*

Gerry's Timepiece

Michael Conrad\*  
(b. 1988)

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\* Winner of the 2010 IC Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest  
\*\* Winner of the 2011 IC Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest  
+ Winner of the 2012 IC Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest  
++ Co-Winners of the 2013 IC Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest

## **Biographies**

### **Rudresh Mahanthappa, guest artist**

Few musicians share the ability of Rudresh Mahanthappa to embody the expansive possibilities of his music with his culture. The saxophonist/composer hybridizes progressive jazz and South Indian classical music in a fluid and forward-looking form reflecting his own experience growing up a second-generation Indian-American. Just as his personal experience is never wholly lived on one side of the hyphenate or the other, his music speaks in a voice dedicated to forging a new path forward.

The current manifestations of that trajectory include his latest quintet project Bird Calls which issued its first release in February 2015 as it undertakes an extended period of live performances. This is 21st Century tribute to Charlie Parker includes a stellar band of pianist Matt Mitchell, bassist François Moutin, drummer Rudy Royston, and 20-year old trumpet prodigy Adam O'Farrill.

Hailed by the New York Times as possessing "a roving intellect and a bladelikey articulation," Mahanthappa has been awarded a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, and commissions from the Rockefeller Foundation MAP Fund, Chamber Music America and the American Composers Forum. He has been named alto saxophonist of the year in Downbeat's International Critics Polls, Jazztimes' Critics Polls and by the Jazz Journalists' Association numerous times.

### **Adam Bartczak**

Denver, CO based trombonist and composer Adam Bartczak holds a bachelors in trombone performance from the University of Colorado, a masters in jazz composition from the New England Conservatory, and a doctorate in jazz studies from the University of Northern Colorado, where he taught jazz history, pedagogy, and jazz combo. He currently teaches jazz theory, jazz trombone, and jazz composition and arranging at Metropolitan State University of Denver and performs with a wide stylistic diversity of groups in Colorado, including his own big band the Republic, for which he composes. His compositions have also been performed by the West Point Academy's Jazz Knights and the University of North Texas One O'clock Lab Band, and have featured artists such as Donny McCaslin, Jeff Coffin, Robin Eubanks, Brian Lynch, Billy Pierce, and Geoffrey Keezer.

"Kit Ten" was written as an ode to a cat who lived to be 23, and is in honor of all pets and the unconditional love they give us.

### **Michael Conrad**

Recent highlights from Conrad's composing and arranging career include a string quartet that was premiered at President Obama's 2nd inauguration and a jazz octet arrangement of Ellington's Come Sunday that was premiered at Carnegie Hall. Other honors include Downbeat Student Music Awards in both Composing and Arranging categories, a Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award, first prize in Ithaca College's first annual Jazz Composition Contest, and the West Point Jazz Knights Composers Forum Commission. Conrad was

also commissioned by the New York Youth Symphony to write a new piece for their Jazz Band Classic. As one of the leaders/composers for COLOSSUS, Conrad stays active writing fresh and exciting new music. Michael Conrad got his Master's degree in Jazz and Contemporary Media with a Writing Skills emphasis at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York where studied with Bill Dobbins. Before that, he graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with Bachelor's degrees in Music Education with an emphasis in Jazz Studies and Music Composition and Theory. At UNI Conrad studied with Dr. Chris Buckholz (trombone), Dr. Bob Washut (jazz, jazz piano, composition), and Mr. Chris Merz (jazz, composition). He is currently working as Band Director/Jazz Band Director at West High in Waterloo, Iowa.

About his piece **Gerry's Timepiece**, Conrad writes: "I chose to write a piece honoring Gerry Niewood, a Rochester native and great saxophonist who died tragically in a 2009 plane crash in Buffalo. Gerry's playing was so full of energy and passion. Listening to his recordings, **Slow Hot Wind** (1975) and **Gerry Niewood and Timepiece** (1977) was a good way to explore his compositional voice. A recurring reference to Gerry's lively piece **Joy**, is included -- this music, after all, should be full of joy and life!"

### Rick Hirsch

Rick Hirsch is a busy composer, arranger, saxophonist and jazz educator known for his thoughtful, good-humored approach to creating and teaching music. Rick apprenticed under master jazz composers Toshiko Akiyoshi and Bob Mintzer, serving each as personal music copyist. He has received commissions from Eddie Henderson, Yusef Lateef, Chris Vadala, the Capitol Quartet, the Penn State Blue Band, and dozens more. His titles are published by Alfred, UNC Jazz Press, and HirschMusic Publications. Rick is also in high demand as a jazz educator and guest conductor, having presented workshops and conducted festivals at over 100 schools. He has music degrees from UMass-Amherst (BA *Summa Cum Laude*) and Northern Illinois University (MM).

About his piece **Mirage**, Hirsch writes: "*Plodding through the vast desert a small caravan finds Eden. Then it's gone.* This is the imagined narrative of the evocative soundscape in *Mirage*. Fortunately for the listeners, there is more *partying in Eden* than *plodding through the desert.*" He has dedicated *Mirage* to the memory of his teacher Yusef Lateef.

### Remy Le Boeuf

Composer, saxophonist, and educator, Remy Le Boeuf has a fresh and forward-thinking ear for blending his strong jazz roots with his clear classical, indie-rock, and electronic influences, defying genre and creating an energetic sound that is both intellectual and accessible to any audience. Le Boeuf was born in Santa Cruz, California, and in 2004 he moved to New York City where he performs regularly as a bandleader, sideman, and as co-leader of Le Boeuf Brothers. He received his Bachelors and Masters of Music degrees from the Manhattan School of Music while unofficially studying philosophy and Anthropology at Columbia University. In 2011, he received a Chamber Music America New Jazz Works Commission to write a large chamber work based on the short stories of Franz Kafka. In addition, he has received a National

Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) Astral Grant, the ASCAP Foundation Young Jazz Composer Award six times, the New York Community Trust Edward & Sally Van Lier Fellowship Grant, several Downbeat Student Awards, Best Jazz Album in the 2006 Independent Music Awards, Best Eclectic Song in the 2012 Independent Music Awards, and he was the West Coast Songwriters Song Contest Jazz Category Winner in 2007. Le Boeuf is an active performer and has performed at Carnegie Hall, The Monterey Jazz Festival, The Kennedy Center, and tours internationally with his ensemble, Le Boeuf Brothers. His latest album, "In Praise of Shadows," was released in October 2011 on Nineteen-Eight Records.

### **Alex Lee-Clark**

Alex ('07) is a composer, band leader, trumpet player, and educator living and working in Boston, MA. Along with fellow Ithaca College alum Brian Thomas ('98), he co-leads the Brian Thomas/Alex Lee-Clark Big Band, a group dedicated to original funk and groove music, which is currently in residency for Big Band Sundays at the Beat Hotel in Cambridge, MA. He is also the artistic director for Pop-Up Jazz Club, an organization that brings concerts and TED-style talks to atypical concert halls, from corporate offices to community centers. Alex has studied extensively on trumpet with Dr. Kim Dunnick and Eric Berlin, composition with Jeff Holmes, and improvisation with Steve Brown and Hal Crook. He is currently an adjunct professor at Providence College, where he teaches trumpet and composition and is also serving as the interim director of the Providence College Jazz Band.

### **Pete McGuinness**

Pete McGuinness is a New York City-based jazz trombonist, vocalist, and three-time Grammy nominated jazz composer-arranger. He's currently professor of jazz arranging at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey.

"Manhattan Nocturne" was originally commissioned for the song's composer, saxophonist Charles McPherson, for a performance with the New Jersey City University Jazz Ensemble. This arrangement is also meant to be evocative of much of the music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.

### **Mark Nimmer**

Mark Nimmer is currently completing his junior year at Taylorville High School in Taylorville, IL., where he is heavily involved in the music department. He currently holds positions as the lead percussionist in the concert band, drumline captain in the marching band, and is a pianist and drummer in the jazz band. As a composer, Nimmer has won several awards, and was recently announced to be a recipient of ASCAP's 2015 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award. His compositions have been performed by the Taylorville High School Jazz Band, the Taylorville Municipal Jazz Band, the Meetinghouse Jazz Orchestra, and by big bands at various summer jazz camps. Following high school, he plans to pursue a dual degree in composition and percussion.

## **Joshua Oxford**

Josh Oxford, born in 1985, is a composer, arranger, and performer of myriad styles of music. Using his collection of vintage synthesizers, Josh is the leader of "The OXtet," a jazz fusion ensemble for which Oxford composes all the music. He has performed throughout the country, especially in his native central New York, on piano, percussion, and Moog synthesizer. After suffering a debilitating car crash in 2010, Josh has devoted his energy to composing. His music can be heard on Aaron Tindall's award-winning recording *This Is My House* and on The OXtet's debut CD. Josh graduated with a BM in percussion performance from the Ithaca College School of Music in 2007. He's currently pursuing a masters in jazz composition from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queen's College, where he was awarded The ASCAP Foundation Louis Armstrong Scholarship.

## **Mike Titlebaum**

Saxophonist/composer/arranger Mike Titlebaum is Director of Jazz Studies at Ithaca College, where he directs the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble, coaches combos, teaches jazz saxophone and courses in jazz improvisation, arranging, repertoire and pedagogy. He is one of the founding members of the Ithaca Jazz Quartet and the creator of the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest.

Titlebaum has delivered workshops, lectures and performances at numerous state and national conferences, including the Jazz Education Network, the International Society for Improvised Music, the New York State School Music Association, the New York State Band Directors Association and the Texas Music Educators Association. He has played in many of New York's world famous musical venues, including the Blue Note, Smalls, Augies, Fez Under 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 has published numerous compositions and arrangements through Lorenz (Heritage Jazz Works), Advance Music, and GIA Publications. A CD of original compositions and arrangements for big band entitled "World War II Pizza Man" is scheduled for release in early 2015 by the record label Fleur de Son Classics.

Titlebaum earned his B.M. in Saxophone Performance from the Eastman School of Music in 1991 and the coveted Performer's Certificate in Saxophone. He received his M.M. in 1992 from Eastman in Jazz and Contemporary Media.

## **David von Kampen**

David von Kampen is a composer living in Lincoln, Nebraska. David's creative work spans a wide variety of genres and styles, including jazz, choral music, hymnody and liturgy, solo voice, chamber music, and musical theater. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kansas, and Master's and Bachelor's degrees from the University of Nebraska. David is a four-time Downbeat Award winner in graduate-level jazz writing categories, winner of the 2014 San Francisco Choral Artists *New Voices Project*, winner of



the National Band Association's Young Jazz Composers Competition, and received Honorable Mention in the 2014 New York Youth Symphony *First Music* Commissions. He has over 40 choral and instrumental compositions and arrangements published with G. Schirmer, Concordia Publishing House, UNC Jazz Press, and others. David is active as a pianist and musical director in jazz and theater settings, and as a clinician for both vocal and instrumental ensembles. He is currently an adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University, Neb., and directs the Chamber Singers and Women's Chorus at Christ Lutheran Church in Lincoln. David is a member of ASCAP and the American Choral Directors Association. He lives with his wife Mollie and daughter Gretta.

## Jazz Ensemble Personnel

### Saxophones

Dan Felix, alto  
Nikhil Bartolomeo, alto  
Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor  
Will VanDeMark, tenor  
Alec Miller, bari

### Trombones

Matt Sidilau  
Daniel Wenger  
Matt Nedimyer  
Matthew Della Camera, bass

### Trumpets

Matthew Venora  
Jack Storer  
Alex Miller  
Matt Allen  
Kaitlyn DeHority

### Rhythm

Andrew Hedge, drums  
Jonah Prendergast, guitar  
Emmett Scott, piano  
Tom Smith, percussion  
Alex Toth, bass

## Upcoming jazz events at Ithaca College

**Saturday, March 21 at 3PM (Ford):** Senior jazz recital of Emmett Scott, piano.

**Friday, April 17 at 8:15PM (Hockett):** Junior jazz recital of Jonah Prendergast, guitar.

**Saturday, April 25 at noon (Ford):** Campus Band and Campus Jazz Ensemble, Art Carichner and Bill Tiberio, directors.

**Sunday, April 26 at 9PM (Hockett):** Junior jazz recital of Chris Walsh, trumpet.

**Monday, April 27 at 8:15PM (Ford):** Jazz Lab Band, directed by Bill Tiberio.

**Tuesday, April 28 at 8:15PM (Ford):** Jazz Vocal Ensemble, directed by Douglas Avery.

**Wednesday, April 29 at 8:15PM (Ford):** Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mike Titlebaum.

**Friday, May 1 at 8:15PM (Ford):** Jazz Repertory Ensemble, directed by Greg Evans.