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Concert: Jazz Ensemble

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum

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Jazz Ensemble
Mike Titlebaum, director

The David P '60 and Susan W Wohlhueter Jazz
Composition Contest at Ithaca College

Featuring guest artist Vincent Gardner, trombone

Ford Hall
Thursday, May 2nd, 2019
8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Slippin' Slide
Dave's Choice Jameson Scriver

The Kingdom of Aksum
(for Anthony Bourdain)
*Winner of the 2018-19 David P and Susan W Wohlhueter
Jazz Composition Contest at Ithaca College* Bobby Spellman ('10)

Kemet (The Black Land)
Honorable Mention Javier Nero

The Nearness of You
Hoagy Carmichael
arr. Ben Monacelli ('20)

Ymir's Bones
Honorable Mention Benjamin Morris

Intermission

Whadd'ya Talkin' Bout?
Honorable Mention Jon Gardner

Picture of Dorian Blue
Jack Gale
edited by Ryan Petriello ('19)

Someday My Prince Will Come
Frank Churchill and Larry Morey
arr. Oliver Scott ('19)

Lush Life
Billy Strayhorn
arr. Dan Yapp ('20)

Brooklyn Blues
Honorable Mention Dan Pugach

Biographies

Vincent Gardner was born in Chicago in 1972 and was raised in Hampton, Virginia. After singing, playing piano, violin, saxophone, and French horn at an early age, he decided on the trombone at age 12. He attended Florida A&M University and the University of North Florida. He soon caught the ear of Mercer Ellington, who hired Gardner for his first professional job. After graduating from college, he moved to Brooklyn, New York, completed a world tour with Lauryn Hill in 2000, then joined the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Gardner has served as instructor at The Juilliard School, as visiting instructor at Florida State University and Michigan State University, and as adjunct instructor at The New School. He has contributed many arrangements to the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and other ensembles. In 2009 he was commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center to write "The Jesse B. Semple Suite," a 60-minute suite inspired by the short stories of Langston Hughes. Gardner is featured on a number of notable recordings and has recorded five CDs as a leader for Steeplechase Records. He has performed with The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Bobby McFerrin, Harry Connick, Jr., The Saturday Night Live Band, Chaka Khan, A Tribe Called Quest, and many others.

Jon C. Gardner, M.M; Adjunct Professor of Music, is in his third year at Wilkes University where he directs The Marching Colonels Marching Band. In addition to directing The Marching Colonels, Jon is the band instructor at St. Patrick School in Malvern; a staff member with Leading Tone Lessons; the music director with The Philly Kroc Jazz Orchestra. While maintaining a very active teaching role, Jon has come to develop as a very well sought after arranger and composer primarily in the marching band, jazz ensemble, and studio orchestra idioms. Jon has also served as an educator for various professional, collegiate and high school ensembles in Pennsylvania; Massachusetts; Connecticut; Poland. While many of Jon's marching band compositions and arrangement can be heard in various high school and collegiate formats, Jon has also had the privilege to compose for the following ensembles: Beatlemania Now! and The Penny Lane Horns; Dan Gabel and The Abletones; The Hickory Brass Quintet; Jump City Jazz Orchestra; The Philly Kroc Jazz Orchestra; and many others. Jon still maintains an active relation with the University of Massachusetts in Amherst as one of the staff writers for Jazz Ensemble 1 and The Studio Orchestra.

Ben Morris is a composer and pianist who lives equally in the worlds of jazz and contemporary classical music. His projects, which include chamber and large ensemble music, theater music, film scores, and electroacoustic and intermedia works, blur the lines between these two worlds. He most recently lived in Oslo, Norway studying jazz on a Fulbright Grant, composing a work for extended big band and video

inspired by his Norwegian heritage. His accolades include attending the Aspen Music Festival, studying traditional music in Korea, and receiving both the ASCAP Morton Gould and Herb Alpert Young Composer Awards, a commission from the American Composers Orchestra Jazz Composers Institute, and a Downbeat Award. A passionate educator, Morris completed his studies at Rice University and the University of Miami and will continue on to a DMA at the University of Colorado Boulder this fall. Learn more and listen to his music at www.benjaminmorrismusic.com.

Dr. Javier Nero is a freelance trombonist, composer, arranger, and bandleader living in New York City. As a trombonist Nero has won first place in 4 international trombone soloist competitions and was a finalist in the Detroit Jazz Festival's Curtis Fuller Jazz Trombone competition. Nero performs regularly in NYC with various ensembles ranging from small jazz ensembles, to big bands, and orchestras. As a composer/arranger/bandleader, Dr. Nero has been leading his own ensembles "The Javier Nero Jazz Orchestra" and "Javier Nero Septet" for over 5 years. His new album "Freedom" presents 10 original compositions for instrumentations ranging from septet to larger 11-piece ensembles. The album also features 2 Grammy award-winning artists: pianist Shelly Berg, and trumpeter Brian Lynch on five of the compositions. The album is slated to be released in the fall of 2019. Dr. Nero's compositions have been performed by the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra, The University of Miami Frost Concert Jazz Band, the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra, the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra, the American Music Program Jazz Orchestra and many others. Dr. Nero's compositions have also won various awards from downbeat magazine, and his composition "Tesseract" featuring John Daversa was the winner of the 2018 Ithaca College Jazz Composition Contest. Dr. Nero holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Juilliard School, and a Master of Music in Studio Music/Jazz Writing and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Studio Music/Jazz from the University of Miami.

Dan Pugach is a GRAMMY® nominated drummer and composer living in Brooklyn, NY. He was born in Raanana, Israel and moved to the United States in 2006. He served as the drummer for The Air Force Band in the IDF while attending the Rimon School of Jazz at the same time. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree from Berklee College of Music, where he studied with Terri Lynn Carrington, Hal Crook, and Joe Lovano, and an M.A in music from the City College of New York, where he studied with Mike Holober and Scott Reeves. In 2011 Dan was a recipient of the ASCAP Foundation Young Jazz Composer Award for his Nonet piece "Discourse This!". In the same year he participated in the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead program at the Kennedy Center, where he worked with Curtis Fuller, Nathan Davis and George Cables. In 2013 he received another ASCAP Jazz Composer Award for his Nonet piece "Brooklyn Blues". The Dan Pugach Nonet, his 9-piece ensemble which features Dan's original

compositions, has already won two ASCAP Jazz Composer Awards, a prestigious residency at the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington D.C and a GRAMMY® nomination for Best Arrangement, Instruments with Vocals, alongside vocalist Nicole Zuraitis, his wife. This ensemble tours regularly and has played at Bird's Eye Basel, The Zone in Tel Aviv, Blue Note Jazz, The 55bar, Smalls Jazz Club, The Jazz Loft, The Jazz Estate, Stowe Jazz Festival among respected Performing Arts Theaters across the nation.

Jameson Scriver is a drummer and composer from Seattle, Washington. In 2018 his composition "The Good Fight" was selected for the Jazz Education Network's Young Composers Showcase to be played by the U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors at the 2019 JEN Conference. The piece was published soon thereafter by UNC Jazz Press. Earlier in 2018 he completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Northern Colorado where he studied drum set with Jim White and composition with Mike Conrad and Greg Weis. He is currently a graduate student at Indiana University, studying drums with Steve Houghton and composition with Brent Wallarab.

Bobby Spellman is a jazz trumpeter, composer, theorist, and educator based in Brooklyn, NY. Born and raised in the Greater Boston Area, Bobby was exposed to a wide variety of musical styles from an early age, eventually gravitating toward the free jazz and improvised music prevalent in the Boston jazz scene. Bobby studied briefly at Berklee College of Music before eventually earning a degree in Philosophy from Ithaca College in 2010. Upon graduation, Bobby returned to Boston to pursue a Master's degree in jazz trumpet at New England Conservatory, where he developed a special interest in George Russell's Lydian Chromatic Concept, particularly for its use in integrating disparate styles of music. After graduating from NEC with academic honors in 2012, Bobby later relocated to Brooklyn, where he currently leads several groups including his "Revenge of the Cool" Nonet and Dingonek Street Band. Bobby was a co-founder and longtime member of Ithaca-based Afrobeat collective Big Mean Sound Machine, and he has performed with reggae powerhouse John Brown's Body, Ethio-jazz pioneers the Either/Orchestra, and legendary Motown acts the Temptations and the Four Tops. Bobby currently lives in Bushwick, Brooklyn with his fiancé, woodwind doubler Emily Pecoraro, whom he first met in the IC Jazz Ensemble in 2008. Bobby performs regularly on trumpet and slide trumpet, teaches private lessons in brass and improvisation, and is currently preparing to record an album of new music with his nonet, scheduled to be released in the Fall of 2019.

Mike Titlebaum is Associate Professor and Director of Jazz Studies at Ithaca College, where he teaches jazz saxophone, arranging, improvisation, theory, and directs the Jazz Ensemble. Prior to teaching at IC, he lived in the greater New York City area where he played at

infamous musical venues such as the Blue Note, Smalls, Augies, Fez/Time Café and the legendary CBGB's as well as the pit orchestra of the Broadway musical "Cats" in the Winter Garden Theater. He has performed with dozens of internationally recognized artists and groups such as John Hollenbeck, Gary Versace, Red Rodney, Clark Terry, Lee Konitz, Kenny Wheeler, Randy Brecker, Cab Calloway, Natalie Cole, Billy Taylor, Mel Torme, Branford Marsalis, Billy Hart, Paquito D'Rivera, Jason Robert Brown, the Mingus Big Band, and many more. With colleague Dr. Chad West, Titlebaum co-edited the textbook "Teaching School Jazz: Perspectives, Principles and Strategies" published by Oxford University Press. Titlebaum attended the Eastman School of Music where he earned a B.M. in Saxophone Performance and the Performer's Certificate in 1991, and an M.M. in Jazz and Contemporary Media with a Writing Skills Emphasis in 1992.

The David P '60 and Susan W Wohlhueter Jazz Composition Contest at Ithaca College

The prize was established through the generosity of Ithacan David Wohlhueter — a 1960 Ithaca College graduate and former longtime sports information director at both IC and Cornell — and his wife, Susan. School of Music students were among the judges of the contest, which provided them with experience in both evaluating and performing new music.

Jazz Ensemble

SAXOPHONES

Emma Grey, alto
Sara Mercurio, alto
Dunham Hall, tenor
Steven Foti, tenor
Sebastian Posada, bari

TROMBONES

Kurt Eide
Kate Mori
Barrett Smith
Matthew Flores, bass

TRUMPETS

Dan Yapp
Shaun Rimkunas
Thomas Iandolo
Aleyna Ashenfarb

RHYTHM

John Bourdelais, guitar
Jacob Glueckert, drums
Eric Myers, drums
Ryan Petriello, bass
Oliver Scott, piano

Stay up-to-date on upcoming IC jazz events by following us on Facebook at **[facebook.com/IthacaCollegeJazz](https://www.facebook.com/IthacaCollegeJazz)** or get on the email list by contacting Mike Titlebaum at **mtitlebaum@ithaca.edu**.