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2-29-2020

Concert: Jazz Ensemble

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum

Alexa Tarantino

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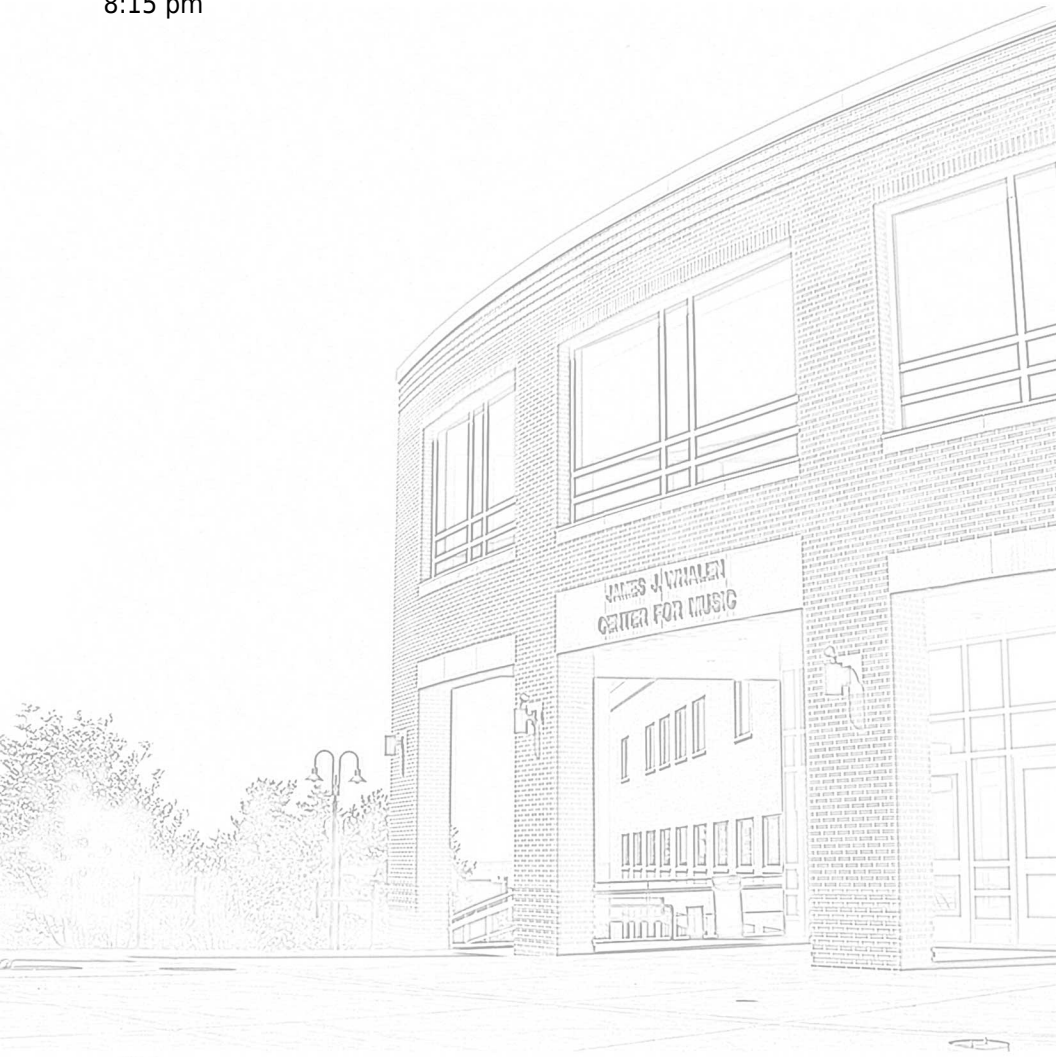
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Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum, director

Featuring guest artist Alexa Tarantino, saxophone

Ford Hall
Saturday, February 29th, 2020
8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Sweet Georgia Brown

Bernie/Pinkard/Casey

Strollin'

Horace Silver

Let's Cool One

Thelonious Monk

Sandu

Clifford Brown

Corcovado

Antonio Carlos Jobim

Driftin'

Herbie Hancock

Bourbon Street Parade

Paul Barbarin

Alexa Tarantino

Alexa Tarantino is an award-winning, vibrant, young jazz saxophonist, woodwind doubler, composer, and educator. Alexa's "lovely, ardent way of improvising," and "sharply plotted but gracefully unencumbered straight-ahead jazz [compositions]" (Giovanni Russonello, *The New York Times*) establish her individual voice which shines through as a dynamic performer and educator. Tarantino was recently named one of the "Top 5 Alto Saxophonists of 2019" by the *JazzTimes* Critics' Poll. Her debut album, *Winds of Change*, peaked at #15 on the *JazzWeek* Charts and landed at #79 for *JazzWeek's* Top 100 records of 2019.

Tarantino's performance highlights include prestigious venues such as Jazz in Marciac Festival (with Wynton Marsalis and the Young Stars of Jazz), Umbria Jazz Festival (with Ryan Truesdell's Gil Evans Project), the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Hollywood Bowl (with Sherrie Maricle & the DIVA Jazz Orchestra), the Rockport Jazz Festival (Alexa Tarantino Quintet), Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra), and the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival (with LSAT, Earth, Wind & Fire and others). She has performed regularly as a leader and sidewoman in a wide variety of ensembles and genres including the Alexa Tarantino Quartet, Cecile McLorin Salvant Quintet, Cecile McLorin Salvant's OGRESSE Ensemble, Ulysses Owens Jr.'s Generation Y, LSAT (quintet co-led with baritone saxophonist Lauren Sevia), Arturo O'Farrill & The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, and Sherrie Maricle & the DIVA Jazz Orchestra.

Tarantino leads her own quartet, which was featured at Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Birdland Jazz Theater, Jazz Standard, and Times Square. Tarantino is an artist on the Posi-Tone Records label. Her debut quartet record on Posi-Tone, *Winds of Change*, released late-May 2019 featuring Christian Sands (piano), Joe Martin (bass), and Rudy Royston (drums), with Nick Finzer (trombone). Her next quartet album will be released in May 2020. Tarantino's other recent projects include her quintet that she co-leads with baritone saxophonist Lauren Sevia called "LSAT." LSAT was selected as the winners of the Made in New York Jazz Competition, where they performed with Randy Brecker, John Patitucci, and more. The two award-winning saxophonists have fused with a dynamic rhythm section that propels their music to new heights. LSAT presents original compositions highlighting the unique combination of baritone and alto saxophone, as well as their own interpretations of favorites from the jazz repertoire. LSAT recently headlined at the Jazz Educators Network Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA.

As a composer/arranger, Tarantino has written and/or recorded works for Lauren Sevia's *Bliss* for Posi-Tone Records, Sherrie Maricle & The DIVA Jazz Orchestra's 25th Anniversary, and Cécile McLorin Salvant's Quintet. With Posi-Tone Records, her work can be heard on *Something Blue*, *Lioness*, *Works for Me*, and *Winds of Change*.

In addition, Alexa has enjoyed opportunities as an instrumentalist in musical theater, such as performing in The New Group's Off-Broadway Production of *SWEET CHARITY* starring Sutton Foster and directed by Leigh Silverman. Prior to *SWEET CHARITY*, she spent a year with Maurice Hines and the DIVA Jazz

Orchestra as part of Hines' production TAPPIN' THRU LIFE for the show's runs in Delaware, Off- Broadway in New York City, and Philadelphia.

Tarantino is currently on faculty for Jazz at Lincoln Center's Youth Education Programs and directs one of their High School Jazz Academy big bands. She has also taken on a larger role in JALC's Jazz for Young People Program, bringing music to New York City schools. Previously, she served as Jazz Saxophone Instructor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Tarantino continues to visit several colleges, high schools, and summer jazz programs across the globe as a guest clinician, including the Rockport Jazz Workshop (MA), of which she is Founder and Director. Rockport Jazz Workshop, currently in its seventh year, expanded in just four years from a five-day program with 7 students to a two-week program with 120 students.

She holds a Master's degree in Jazz Studies from The Juilliard School and Bachelor's degrees in Jazz Saxophone Performance and Music Education from the Eastman School of Music. Tarantino is a graduate of Hall High School's award-winning music program in West Hartford, Connecticut and currently resides in New York City.

Alexa Tarantino is a Vandoren Artist and Yamaha Performing Artist.

Jazz Ensemble

Saxophones

David Florentin, alto
Steven Foti, alto
Drew Martin, tenor
Ali DeRagon, tenor
Timothy Coene, bari

Trombones

Kurt Eide
Kate Mori
Aaron Suttle
Alexander Felker, bass

Trumpets

Dan Yapp
Shaun Rimkunas
Jennifer Rupert
Jason Springer

Rhythm

Robert Irvin, piano
August Bish, bass
Theo Curtin, guitar
Eric Myers, drums
Anna Young, vibes/percussion

Upcoming Jazz at Ithaca College

Mar 22: Jazz Vocal Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble, 4PM Ford

Apr 16: Michelle Shaubi jazz vocal senior recital, 8:15PM Ford

Apr 19: Ben Monacelli jazz vocal senior recital, 3PM Ford

Apr 21: Jazz Repertory Ensemble, 8:15PM Ford

Apr 24: Jazz Vocal Ensemble, 8:15PM Ford

Apr 25: Jazz Lab Band, 3PM Ford

Apr 27: Jazz Vocal Repertory Ensemble, 7PM Hockett

Apr 29: Jazz Ensemble with guest trumpet artist Vincent DiMartino, 8:15PM Ford