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Concert: Ithaca Faculty Jazz

Ithaca College Jazz Faculty

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Ithaca Faculty Jazz

Ford Hall

September 29, 2010

8:15 p.m.

Peter Chwazik, guitar

Greg Evans, drums

Catherine Gale, vocal

John Stetch, piano

Mike Titlebaum, saxophone

Nicholas Walker, bass

Program

PROGRAM TO BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Segment Charlie Parker

Satin Doll Duke Ellington and
Billy Strayhorn

All Of Me Seymour Simons
and Gerald Marks

Love Is Here To Stay George and Ira Gershwin

Autumn Leaves Joseph Kosma
and Johnny Mercer

The Way You Look Tonight Jerome Kern and
Dorothy Fields

Star Dust Hoagy Carmichael
and Mitchell Parish

Stompin' at the Savoy Benny Goodman, Chick Webb,
Edgar Sampson and Andy Razaf

The Girl From Ipanema Antonio Carlos Jobim

Anthropology Charlie Parker
and Dizzy Gillespie

Biographies

Catherine Gale

Catherine Gale was raised in a family of musicians and has been singing since the age of three. She attended Oberlin College, and completed her Bachelor of Music degree at Manhattan School of Music. For over 10 years she was a freelance singer in and around New York City, performing with a variety of groups including The Warren Vache Quintet, The Peter Deutchen Orchestra, Manhattan Sound, The Bronx Arts Ensemble, The Swing Mavens, and Richard Connick. She also frequently performs with her own band.

Though much of her work is as a featured singer, Ms Gale has always been a fan of, and a performer in jazz vocal groups. She toured extensively with Swing Fever, and over the years has been a member of such groups as The Swing Syndicate, Lance Hayward Singers, New Voice of Hope, and Sharp Five. In addition to performing, Ms. Gale was on the faculty of New York University as a professor of jazz voice from 1998 to 2008, and currently directs the Vocal Jazz Ensemble at Ithaca College.

Greg Evans

Gregory Evans, a native of Syracuse, New York is currently in his second year as a percussion graduate teaching assistant at Ithaca College. He teaches drumset lessons and conducts the Monday Lab Band. Evans received his bachelors degree from Manhattan School of Music ('09) in Jazz studies. Evans' playing can be heard on multiple recordings with Remington (Blue Collar Music), Turkuaz (GalaxySmith) and the Danny Rivera Big Band. Evans has also shared the stage with artists such as The Count Basie Orchestra, Jonathan Batiste, Terence Blanchard, Chick Corea, Joey DeFrancesco, Kurt Elling, Robin Eubanks, Jimmy Heath, Joe Magnarelli, Eric Marienthal, John Pizzarelli, Dave Samules, and Allen Vizzutti. He is also a co-founder of the Remington Rock Camp and is also a co-owner of Blue Collar Music LLC.

John Stetch

Born and raised in Edmonton, Canada, John Stetch started his jazz journey by exploring his father's LPs and books. He began on clarinet and later saxophone, but by age 19 he switched to piano. After finishing University in Montreal, Stetch started touring and recording across Canada, and eventually had 5 Juno Award nominations. He won the Prix du Jazz at the Montreal Jazz

Festival in 1998, and placed 2nd in the 1994 Thelonious Monk International Composer's Competition. He has been frequently recorded by the CBC, and has appeared on several NPR programs such as Marian McPartland's "Piano Jazz", "Jazz Set" with Branford Marsalis, and "Weekend Edition" with Leanne Hansen.

After moving to New York City for 12 years, Steinway Artist Stetch performed at some of the most prestigious jazz venues, and now has 10 commercially released CDs, filled with mostly original works. He has worked with Rufus Reid, Charlie Haden, Seamus Blake, Mark Turner, Jeff Ballard, Jorge Rossi, Jim Black, Victor Lewis, Billy Hart and many others. He has performed in Japan, Brazil, Israel, Ukraine and across Europe and North America. As a composer, Stetch recently premiered a short piano quintet with strings, a trio for clarinet, cello and piano, and was commissioned to write a piece for the CBC Radio Orchestra. Stetch's latest CD "TV Trio" explores a more recent chapter of the Great American Songbook – television themes of the 70's and 80's. The album stayed in the top 20 for almost 2 months on the U.S.A. JazzWeek radio chart. Stetch is currently based out of Ithaca, NY.

Mike Titlebaum

Saxophonist/composer/arranger Mike Titlebaum is Director of Jazz Studies at Ithaca College, where he directs large jazz ensembles, coaches small combos, teaches jazz saxophone and courses in jazz improvisation, arranging, pedagogy and history. He is the founding member of the Ithaca Jazz Quartet and the creator of the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest and the Ithaca All-Star Jazz Invitational for aspiring high school jazz musicians.

He was born and raised in Rochester, NY, where he earned his BM in Saxophone Performance from the Eastman School of Music in 1991, as well as the coveted Performer's Certificate in Saxophone. He received his MM in 1992 from Eastman in Jazz and Contemporary Media. As a student, he won nine "DeeBee" awards from DownBeat magazine in multiple categories, including Jazz Performance (on both saxophone and trumpet), Classical Performance, Jazz Arranging, and Jazz Composition.

In 1994, Titlebaum moved to New York City where he enjoyed a very diverse career. He played in many of New York's world famous musical venues, including the Blue Note, Smalls, Augies, Fez/Time Café and the infamous CBGB's as well as the pit

orchestra of the Broadway musical "Cats." He has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and with dozens of internationally recognized artists and groups such as Jason Robert Brown, Red Rodney, Randy Brecker, Jack McDuff, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, Cab Calloway, Jeff Tyzik, Ernie Watts, Natalie Cole, Billy Taylor, Mel Torme, Manhattan Transfer, Branford Marsalis, Clark Terry, Lee Konitz, Kenny Wheeler, Billy Hart, Paquito D'Rivera, and many others.

Nicholas Walker

Nicholas Walker is a musical omnivore, a musician who brings a broad range of training and experience to the double bass - classical and jazz, modern and baroque, solo recitals, chamber ensembles, and orchestral work. His enthusiasm and aptitude transcend arbitrary musical boundaries. Walker studied bass with Paul Ellison (BM at Rice University), François Rabbath (Performance & Teaching diplomas from L'Institut François Rabbath at the Nadia Boulanger Conservatoire de Paris on a Fulbright Scholarship), and Joe Carver (MM at Stony Brook University); he earned his doctorate in early music at Stony Brook University with the viola da gamba. Walker toured for two years with saxophone legend, Illinois Jacquet, among many other rewarding collaborations in jazz. He has been featured on a dozen CDs, three as a leader. His composition EADG for Solo Bass won the ISB composition prize in 1997, and he has performed his two double bass concertos, Pop Song for Double Bass and String Orchestra, and A Grease Fantasy, at a number of venues, most recently with the Cornell Chamber Orchestra. Walker leads an exciting career as a freelance musician, composer, and the double bass professor at Ithaca College. Recently Walker has played with the Handel & Haydn Society Orchestra in Boston, and the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic, in Russia. In October he will present a recital of "crossover" music from North and South America at the International Double Bass Festival in Berlin, Germany. In December he will premiere a new concerto by Dana Wilson with Jeffrey Meyer and the Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra. Walker lives in Ithaca with his wife, Katherine and their three-year old daughter, Clara.

Peter Chwazik

Multi-instrumentalist and composer Peter Chwazik is a principal member of Alligator Mouth Improv, and has been active in the performing arts in upstate New York for 25 years.

As a composer, Chwazik has been commissioned to score modern dance pieces for Lois Welk and American Dance Asylum (The Lois Welk Show, 1995; Soul-ly For You, 1996; Parking Ramp Dance, 1996; Vroom!, 1998), Jill Becker Dance (A Day of Moving Art, 1998-1999), and Jeanne Goddard and CRS Barn Dance (Re: Cycling, 2006). He also has composed improvised scores for David Dorfman Dance and Mark Taylor Dance Alloy (Joint Motion\Improvisation, 1998). He has received four Meet the Composer grants.

As a performer, he has worked with free jazz trumpeter Don Cherry and New York Voices, co-writing the song "Soon One Day" from their "Hearts of Fire" CD (GRP). Through the 1990s he toured and recorded with a trio led by experimental cellist Hank Roberts, documented on the disc "I'll Always Remember" (LevelGreen). Recently he recorded and toured the US with former Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio, appearing on his albums "Shine" (Sony, 2005), "Bar 17" and "18 Steps" (Rubber Jungle, 2006).

Peter is active as an educator. He is a lecturer in the Jazz Studies Department at Ithaca College, and a lesson instructor affiliated with Cornell University.

Notes

Program note

Jazz musicians are all expected to have learned a significantly long list of "standards." These standards are songs culled from a fairly wide range of sources, including Broadway shows and Tin Pan Alley, as well as others written by great jazz players and singers over the past 80 years. While there may not be complete consensus amongst musicians about what makes a song a standard, the fact remains that all jazz musicians agree that some songs ARE standards, and should be learned thoroughly by any aspiring jazz musician.

Therefore, we have selected ten standards that all jazz students at IC must learn this year, and will be performing them all tonight.