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University Jazz Ensemble (April 30, 2023)

John J. Cali School of Music

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MONTCLAIR STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Oscar Perez, *Director*

WITH VOCAMOTION

Aubrey Johnson, *Director*

FEATURING

Mike Lee, *tenor saxophone*

Bruce Williams, *alto saxophone*

SUNDAY | **APRIL 30** | **3PM**

ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Daniel Gurskis

Dean, College of the Arts

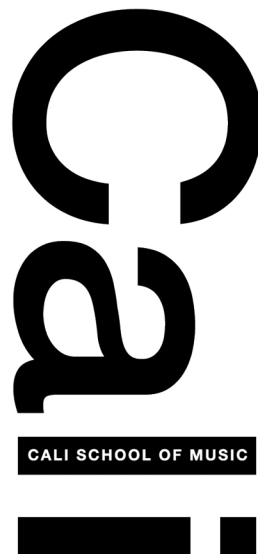
Anthony Mazzocchi

Director

John J. Cali School of Music

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John J. Cali School of Music



MONTCLAIR STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Oscar Perez, *Director*

PROGRAM

Stablemates	Composed and Arranged by Benny Golson
Places	Composed and Arranged by Neil Slater
No Moon At All	Composed by Redd Evans and David Mann Arranged by Darmon Meader and Peter Eldridge
A Quiet Place	Words and Music by Ralph Carmichael Arranged by Mervyn Warren
I Can't Believe You're in Love With Me	Words and Music by Clarence Gaskill and Jimmy McHugh Arranged by Darmon Meader
Movin' Out, Movin' In from "The Journey Suite"	Composed and Arranged by Marcus Printup
Inner Urge	Composed by Joe Henderson Arranged by Slide Hampton
Isfahan from "The Far East Suite"	Composed and Arranged by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn

Clarity

Composed and Arranged by
Gavin Ard

Nighttown

Composed by Mike Lee
Arranged by Will Gorman

Snake Charm

Composed and Arranged by
Oscar Perez

MONTCLAIR STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

Saxophones

Nico Martin
Andrew Morrison
Alex De Lazzari
Rodrigo Romero
Ryan Huston

Trumpets

Gavin Ard
Adrienne Bazile
Dorian Wylde
Manny Reyes
John Rivas

Trombones

Ryan Haupt
Dan Harkins
Kathryn Giordano
Paul Ferrera
Matthew Veal

Rhythm Section

Pierce "Sparni" Sparnroft, *vibraphone*
Galo Inga, *piano*
Will Gorman, *piano*
Felipe Orozco, *bass*
Matt Vera-Corcoran, *drums*

VOCAMOTION PERSONNEL

Anastasia Baker
Nathalia Caro
Josefina Chicas
Marcello Fois
Will Gorman
Donyelle Hayes
Asia Johnson
Julia Krempasky
Matty Lavallee
Elizabeth Legg
Vincent C. Means
Andrew Meister
Sofia Oro
Martin Pyda
Bryan Singer
Alexa Trabbacchino
Adrianna Viera

The **MONTCLAIR STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE**, under the direction of Jazz Studies coordinator **Oscar Perez**, is honored to present a varied program of music from Duke Ellington, Bob Brookmeyer, Bob Mintzer, Chick Corea, Michael Philip Mossman, Sy Johnson, Thad Jones, and on his centennial birthday, the inimitable Charles Mingus. The MSUJE, comprised of majors in Jazz Studies and other music majors, is dedicated to performing music representative of contemporary literature composed for the large jazz ensemble and music of historical importance to the genre. Last year, we featured new trumpet faculty Marcus Printup, well-known as a longtime member of the Jazz Lincoln Center Orchestra, along with vocal professor Aubrey Johnson and long-standing guitar faculty member Dave Stryker in our Spring '22 concert.

Last spring also saw the MSUJE, Cali's Wind Symphony, and the University Singers performing at the Metropolitan Museum's Grace Rainey Rogers Concert Hall. Our December 2021 Crawford Concert featured Vertical Voices alongside our vocal jazz ensemble, Vocamotion. In recent years, the MSU Jazz Ensemble has performed with a variety of guest soloists, including long-time friend and colleague David Bixler, the Grammy award-winning leader of the New York Voices, Darmon Meader, trumpeter/arranger Michael Philip Mossman, Grammy-nominated trombonist/composer Alan Ferber, trumpeter/composer John Daversa, trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, saxophonist/composer Ed Palermo, harmonica virtuoso Hendrik Meurkens, percussionist/composer Roland Vazquez, jazz guitar legend Bucky Pizzarelli, Grammy award-winning vocal group New York Voices (2006 Crawford Concert), trumpeters Terell Stafford and Tony Kadleck, saxophonists Don Braden, Dave Demsey, and Andy Fusco, trombonist Tom "Bones" Malone, guitarist Dave Stryker, vocalist Holli Ross, and drummer Steve Johns.

Along with a concert performance each semester on the MSU campus, the band served as the clinic ensemble for Dennis Mackrel at the 2016 NJAJE Conference, has performed at Cecil's Jazz Club in West Orange, Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair, the Villanova Jazz Festival, and The University of the Arts Jazz Festival, and has appeared locally as guests of the Bloomfield Youth Band and Belleville High School

Jazz Festival. Select students have also been chosen to participate in the NJAJE Intercollegiate Jazz Band since the inception of that ensemble twenty years ago.

VOCAMOTION vocal jazz ensemble directed by **Aubrey Johnson** focuses on rehearsing and recording traditional and modern vocal jazz repertoire. Artists covered may include Take 6, Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, The Manhattan Transfer, Singers Unlimited, and Moss, as well as music composed and arranged by modern jazz vocalists Theo Bleckmann, Sara Serpa, Dominique Eade, and Aubrey Johnson, and others. In addition to learning repertoire, solo singing, and improvisation, the main focuses of this ensemble are vocal technique, blend, vowel formation, tuning, ear training, sight-reading, and singing in jazz/popular styles.

BIOGRAPHIES

Oscar Perez, a New York City native, has played in the musical groups of **Phoebe Snow, Wycliffe Gordon, Christian McBride, Charenee Wade, Dave Stryker, Steve Turre, Eddie Allen, Ted Chubb, Abel Mireles LatiNext Project, Mingus Big Band, Charlie Porter, Roseanna Vitro, Bruce Williams and Don Braden.**

Oscar is Coordinator of Jazz Studies at the Cali School of Music at Montclair State University. He has been an educator through Carnegie Hall, the Kupferberg Center at Queens College, Jazz House Kids in Montclair, Jazz at Lincoln Center and has held faculty positions at Drew University and the Manhattan School of Music.

He is currently enrolled in the Manhattan School of Music Jazz Arts Doctoral program under the tutelage of **Jim McNeely and Stefon Harris**. Previous studies at the New England Conservatory, University of North Florida and the Aaron Copland School of Music, gave him the opportunity to serve under the guidance of **Danilo Perez, Michael Mossman, and Sir Roland Hanna**, respectively. During his formative years he shared the stage with jazz legends **Bunky Green, George Russell, Dianne Reeves and Curtis Fuller.**

He is the recipient of the **2006 ASCAP/IAJE Commission** in honor of **Billy Strayhorn**. Oscar's group featuring **Antonio Hart** premiered the work at the 2007 International Association of Jazz Education

Convention. He has also been commissioned to arrange music for **Chick Corea, Regina Carter** and **the MSM Jazz Orchestra featuring Sean Jones**. His critically acclaimed CD **Afropean Affair**, is the result of a New Works Grant by **Chamber Music America** for his septet **Oscar Perez Nuevo Comienzo**. He placed 2nd in the 2014 Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition. His latest endeavor, **Prepare a Place for Me**, is available through all media outlets.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, saxophonist **Mike Lee** has established himself in the New York City/Northern New Jersey area for many years. He balances a thriving performing career with a distinguished teaching resume. He performs regularly in New York City as a member of a wide array of jazz ensembles. His recent associations include The Roy Hargrove Legacy Big Band, Loston Harris Trio, The Steve Turre Sextet, The Mingus Big Band, The Jimmy Heath Orchestra, The Dizzy Gillespie Orchestra, Wallace Roney's Universe Orchestra, The Oliver Lake Big Band, The Nat Adderley Jr. Quartet, Josh Evans Big Band, Dave Stryker, Frank Lacy, and TS Monk. He performs regularly at venues such as The Bluenote, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Smalls, The Jazz Gallery, Fat Cat, and Bemelmans Bar at the Carlyle Hotel. Recent tours have taken him up and down the East Coast, to Italy, France, Switzerland, California, The Mid East, Australia and Beijing, China.

Bruce Williams is a powerful jazz saxophonist who hails from Washington, D.C. He has made his presence known on the jazz scene by garnering critical attention with his own enthusiastically received CD releases — "Brotherhood" and "Altoicity" — and has made an indelible impression as a sideman on over 20 other CD and video recordings. Bruce has performed, toured, and recorded with a long roster of jazz legends including Little Jimmy Scott, Frank Foster, The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Stanley Cowell, Louis Smith, Cecil Brooks III, The Count Basie Orchestra, The World Saxophone Quartet, Russell Gunn, Curtis Fuller, and Roy Hargrove. A versatile stylist in a variety of settings, from traditional to

hip-hop to the avant-garde, Williams has been an honored recipient of awards from DownBeat magazine and The Charlie Parker Music and More Foundation. His ability to perform masterfully in a range of jazz styles has placed him on two Grammy-nominated recordings and sent him to numerous cities throughout the US and abroad. He is currently the newest and youngest member of the internationally recognized World Saxophone Quartet and a member of a newly founded group by legendary drummer Ben Riley, the Thelonious Monk Legacy Septet. Bruce also leads four bands of his own.

Aubrey Johnson is a New York-based vocalist, composer, and educator specializing in jazz, Brazilian, and creative contemporary music. Aubrey teaches in the jazz programs at Montclair State University, Queens College, and in the voice department at Berklee College of Music. She has performed and/or recorded with Billy Childs, Jimmy Cobb, John Patitucci, Janis Siegel (ManhattanTransfer), John Zorn's Mycale Vocal Quartet, Fred Hersch, among many others. Aubrey recorded on Bobby McFerrin's 2010 Grammy-nominated release, *VOCABuLaries*, Arturo O'Farrill's 2020 Grammy Award-winning album *Four Questions*, and on Lyle Mays' 2021 Grammy-nominated recording *Eberhard*. Her performing and teaching has taken her throughout the US and Canada and to Central and South America, Europe, and Asia. Aubrey's debut record, *Unraveled*, featuring her original music and arrangements and produced by Steve Rodby of the Pat Metheny Group, was released on Outside In Music in March of 2020.

The Cali School of Music
at Montclair State University
aims to create dynamic and
comprehensive pathways
to higher education
and careers in music

Cali pathways project

for talented
student
musicians
from **under-
represented
backgrounds.**

Goal

Identify young motivated students and assist them in breaking down the barriers that may otherwise preclude them from achieving their full musical potential.

Through the generosity of our donors, the Cali School will ensure that these students have the educational and musical resources to advance their goals. This support may include:

- Acquisition of a musical instrument
- Private instruction
- Master classes and workshops
- Mentoring
- Tuition aid to summer camps
- On-campus activities at MSU
- Travel expenses to and from instruction
- Full tuition remission to the Cali School of Music

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For more information or to nominate a student:
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