

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Oscar Perez, *Director*



FRIDAY | DECEMBER 8 | 7:30PM
ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Daniel Gurskis
Dean, College of the Arts

Anthony Mazzocchi
Director
John J. Cali School of Music

John J. Cali
School of Music

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

MONTCLAIR STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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PROGRAM

SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

The Blues Walk

composed by Clifford Brown
and arranged by Michael Mossman

La Fiesta

composed by Chick Corea
and arranged by Michael Mossman

Funky Cha Cha

composed by Arturo Sandoval
and arranged by Mike Eddy

Weekend in Tunisia

composed by Dizzy Gillespie
and arranged by Wally Minko

Mambo Caliente

composed and arranged by Arturo Sandoval

Don't Git Sassy

composed and arranged by Thad Jones

A Child is Born

composed and arranged by Thad Jones

The Nearness of You

composed by Hoagy Carmichael
and arranged by John Clayton

Portrait of Louis Armstrong
(from the New Orleans Suite)

composed and arranged by Duke Ellington

Down by the Riverside

Traditional; Arranged by Oliver Nelson

PERFORMERS

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, Shanghai Jazz in Madison, 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.

BIOGRAPHY

OSCAR PEREZ, a New York City native, has performed, traveled and recorded in the musical groups of **Phoebe Snow, Wycliffe Gordon, Christian McBride, Charenee Wade, Dave Stryker, Steve Turre, Eddie Allen, Ted Chubb, the Mingus Big Band, Abel Mireles LatíNext Project, 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.

Perez earned a Doctorate in Jazz Arts Advancement from the Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of **Stefon Harris, Ingrid Jensen, and Jim McNeely**. Previous studies at the New England Conservatory, University of North Florida and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, 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, Arturo Sandoval**, R&B vocalist **Jon B**, 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.

MONTCLAIR STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

SAXOPHONES

Rodrigo Romero, Jazz Studies, Lima, Peru
Ryan Huston, Jazz Education, Tom's River, NJ
Alex De Lazzari, Jazz Studies, Arlington, VA
Mario Hernandez, Jazz Education, Staten Island, NY
Tristan Shafran, Woodwind Doubling, Saddle Brook, NJ

TRUMPETS

Adrienne Bazile, Jazz Studies, Newark, NJ
Gabriel Matthew Leal, Jazz Studies, Nogales, AZ
John Rivas, Jazz Studies, Clifton, NJ
Will Schetelich, Jazz Education, Scotch Plains, NJ
Dorian Wylde, Jazz Studies, Brooklyn, NY

TROMBONES

Ryan Haupt, Jazz Studies, Kinnelon, NJ
Dan Harkins, Jazz Education, Mount Olive, NJ
Paul Ferrera, Composition, Staten Island, NY
Matthew Veal, Jazz Studies, West Orange, NJ

RHYTHM SECTION

Pierce "Sparni" Sparnroft, Jazz Studies, Staten Island, NY - *Vibraphone*
Galo Inga, Jazz Studies, Newark, NJ - *Piano*
Diego Mamani, Jazz Studies, Lima, Peru - *Guitar*
Thomas Horner, Jazz Studies, Trenton, NJ - *Bass*
Matt Vera-Corcoran, Jazz Studies, Pompton Lakes, NJ - *Drums*
Nick Barbuto, Jazz Studies, Hampstead, NH - *Drums*