

**MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

Dr. Oscar Perez, *Director*  
AND

**VOCAMOTION**

Aubrey Johnson, *Director*

**SUNDAY | APRIL 28 | 3PM**  
**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**

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**MONTCLAIR**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# PROGRAM

Program to be selected from the following:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Esy                                   | composed and arranged by Tito Puente  |
| Katy – Do                             | composed and arranged by Benny Carter<br>for the Count Basie Orchestra              |
| North Rampart                         | composed and arranged by Alan Ferber  |
| Li'l Darlin                           | composed and arranged by Neal Hefti f<br>or the Count Basie Orchestra               |
| Farewell to Dogma                     | composed by Mulgrew and arranged by Bill Mobley                                     |
| Release the Albatross                 | composed and arranged by Oscar Perez  |
| Thermo                                | composed by Freddie Hubbard<br>and arranged by Christian McBride                    |
| I Could Write a Book                  | Music by Richard Rodgers;<br>Lyrics by Lorenz Hart;<br>arranged by Darmon Meader    |
| A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square | Music by Manning Sherwin;<br>Lyrics by Eric Maschwitz;<br>arranged by Gene Peurling |
| Desafinado                            | composed by Antonio Carlos Jobim and<br>arranged by Darmon Meader                   |

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 Terrell 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.

**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, 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 performed, traveled and recorded in the musical groups of **Phoebe Snow, Lakecia Benjamin, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Wycliffe Gordon, Christian McBride, Charenee Wade, Dave Stryker, Steve Turre, Eddie Allen, Ted Chubb, the Mingus Big Band, Abel Mireles LatiNext 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 Kupperberg 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 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2014 Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition. His latest endeavor, **Prepare a Place for Me**, is available through all media outlets.

**Aubrey Johnson** is a New York-based vocalist, composer, and educator who specializes 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 (Manhattan Transfer), John Zorn's Mycale Vocal Quartet, Fred Hersch, among many others. Aubrey recorded on Bobby McFerrin's 2010 Grammy-nominated release, *VOCAbuLaries*, Arturo O'Farrell'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.

## MONTCLAIR STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

### Saxophones

Rodrigo Romero, Jazz Studies, Lima, Peru  
Luke Caruana, Jazz Studies, Staten Island, NY  
Ryan Huston, Jazz Education, Tom's River, NJ  
Tristan Shafran, Woodwind Doubling, Saddle  
Brook, NJ  
Maria Vincelette, Woodwind Doubling, Peru, NY

### 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  
*Eric Dupont, Jazz Studies, Nashua, NH - Drums*  
*Nick Barbuto, Jazz Studies, Hampstead,*  
*NH-Drums*

## VOCAMOTION

Cristina Clare  
Marcello Fois  
Will Gorman  
Mia Grizzuti  
Asia Johnson  
Julia Krempasky  
Matty LaVallee  
Elizabeth Legg  
Andrew Meister  
Sofia Oro  
Jason Pritchett  
Amber Ruffin  
Alexa Trabbacchino

## VOCAMOTION QUARTET

Elizabeth Legg  
Asia Johnson  
Andrew Meister  
Bryan Singer