

Montclair State University
JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

PRESENTS

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Dr. Oscar Perez, *Director*

WITH THE

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Dr. Jeffrey Kunkel, *Director*



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8PM

ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Daniel Gurskis

Dean, College of the Arts

Shea Scruggs

Director

John J. Cali School of Music

John J. Cali
School of Music

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM

Program to be selected from the following:

<i>Windows</i>	Composed by Chick Corea and arranged by Mike Tomaro
<i>Moten Swing</i>	Composed by Buster and Benny Moten and arranged by Ernie Wilkens
<i>Cubauza</i>	Composed and arranged by Michael Philip Mossman
<i>The Monster and the Flower</i>	Composed by Claudio Roditi and Ricardo Silveira and arranged by Darmon Meader
<i>Ya Gotta Try</i>	Composed and arranged by Sammy Nestico
<i>First Love Song</i>	Composed and arranged by Bob Brookmeyer
<i>Blues for the Sake of Art</i>	Composed and arranged by Jeffrey Kunkel
<i>Big Bruiser</i>	Composed and arranged by John Fedchock
<i>Rosewood</i>	Composed by Woody Shaw and arranged by Tony Kadleck
<i>Absolution</i>	Composed and arranged by Jim McNeely
<i>The Opener</i>	Composed and arranged by Duke Ellington
<i>Hyperballad</i>	Composed by Bjork and arranged by Alan Ferber
<i>Little Pixie II</i>	Composed and arranged by Thad Jones
<i>Riot</i>	Composed Hugh Masakela and arranged by Oscar Perez
<i>Carnegie Hall 100</i>	Composed and arranged by Chico O'Farrill Special Guest: Jasmine Ritter, flute

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Dr. Oscar Perez, *Director*

The **Montclair State University Jazz Ensemble**, under the direction of Jazz Studies coordinator Oscar Perez, is honored to present a varied program of music from Duke Ellington, Alan Ferber, Tony Kadleck, Thad Jones, Chico O'Farrill, Jim McNeely and Oscar Perez. 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.

Since its founding, 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, and vocalist Holli Ross. 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.

Our December 2021 Crawford Concert featured Vertical Voices alongside our vocal jazz ensemble, Vocamotion. In 2022, the MSUJE, Cali's Wind Symphony, and the University Singers performed at the Metropolitan Museum's Grace Rainey Rogers Concert Hall. In 2023, the MSUJE, along with the MSU Wind Symphony accompanied trumpet legend Arturo Sandoval. Last year we welcomed trumpet giant Randy Brecker to play alongside our University Jazz Ensemble. Through the Cali School's Immersive Residency Program, our students have had the opportunity to play alongside Pat Metheny, Bela Fleck, Christian McBride, and Wynton Marsalis. We have also featured our amazing 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. Since then, we have showcased faculty members Bruce Williams, Mike Lee, Steve Nelson, Billy Hart, Bill Moring and Steve Johns in concerts at Kasser Theatre, the Montclair Jazz Festival and Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola. The Cali School is very much looking forward to the Crawford Concert on Dec 14th which will feature Grammy-nominated vocalist, Jazzmeia Horn alongside this exemplary group of student musicians.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Jeffrey Kunkel | Following his retirement after twenty-three years as a faculty member of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, where he served as the Coordinator of Jazz Studies and Founding Director of the MSU Jazz Ensemble, composer, pianist, and trumpeter Dr. Jeffrey Kunkel was recently honored with the rank of Professor Emeritus. Dr. Kunkel is currently an adjunct jazz faculty member at Penn State University, serves as the College Coordinator for the National Jazz Festival, and is very active as an adjudicator and clinician. During his time at the Cali School, guests artists performing with the MSUJE included the Grammy Award winning New York Voices, Brazilian composer/arranger and Latin Grammy winner Mario Adnet, UK based composer/trumpeter Neil Yates, Canadian composer Andrew Jones, and the groundbreaking Vertical Voices, among many others. Jeff previously served as the Associate Director for Faculty of the Cali School, and as Coordinator of Undergraduate Music Education. In 2008, Jeff was presented with the prestigious *New Jersey Jazz Education Achievement Award*, given annually to an educator who has excelled in the field of jazz education. Beginning with a sabbatical in 2007, he has focused his personal musical endeavors on the unique music styles of Brazil. He has presented a two-day workshop at the Federal University of Parana (Curitiba), jazz trio masterclasses at UNIRIO (Rio de Janeiro), and has returned to Rio on multiple occasions – the latest being for a series of concerts in Fall 2019 – to perform and work on compositions. In summer 2014, Jeff's group performed at the ISME World Conference in Porto Alegre. In 2015, Jeff was pleased to announce the independent release of his second recording as a leader, *Many Happy Returns*, which was again recorded in Rio de Janeiro with the same core of musicians who played on *Meu Coração Brasileiro*, his 2013 debut release for the Brazilian label Delira Música: Vika Barcellos, (vocals), Mauro Senise (flute/sax), Alex Rocha (bass), Haroldo Mauro (drums and co-producer), plus other guests. First performed at Montclair State in September 2015, music from *Many Happy Returns* had its Rio de Janeiro debut in April 2016. Lyrics for this project were contributed by Ms. Barcellos, and by longtime friend and colleague Patti Begg, while lyrics from *Meu Coração* were authored by Ms. Barcellos as well as the late New York vocalist and MSU colleague Holli Ross. Along with those already mentioned, Jeff is often joined by Leala Cyr (vocals/trumpet) and Kevin Bene (woodwinds), and has performed with many other musicians both in the US and in Brazil. Jeff is currently playing in the Pittsburgh area with woodwind player Mike Tomaro as well as the Pittsburgh Jazz Legends Big Band, and in State College with the Zeropoint Big Band. A long time board member and four term president of the New Jersey Association for Jazz Education (www.njaje.org), Jeff directed numerous Region and All-State groups. Jeff is an alumnus of Penn State University (1982 and 1995), and of New England Conservatory (1984). Jeff and his spouse of thirty-one years, Mauria, who was a teacher for the Bridgewater-Raritan (NJ) school district, currently reside in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Oscar Perez | Oscar Perez, a New York City native, has performed, traveled and recorded in the musical groups of Phoebe Snow, Lakecia Benjamin, Wycliffe Gordon, Christian McBride, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Charenee Wade, the Mingus Big Band, Dave Stryker, Steve Turre, Eddie Allen, Ted Chubb, Abel Mireles LatiNext Project, Charlie Porter, Roseanna Vitro, Bruce Williams and Don Braden. During his formative years, he shared the bandstand with jazz legends Bunky Green, George Russell, Dianne Reeves, and Curtis Fuller. He has performed on many of the world's famous stages, including the Kennedy Center, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the Blue Note, the Jazz Standard, Detroit, Monterey, and Newport Jazz Festivals, and the festival circuit throughout Europe, Asia, South America, and Australia.

He is the recipient of the 2006 ASCAP/IAJE Composition 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, Bela Fleck, Arturo Sandoval, R&B vocalist Jon B, and the MSM Jazz Orchestra featuring Sean Jones. He has been a member of the BMI Composer's Workshop, writing for Studio Orchestra, Big Band, and performing concerts of original compositions for large ensembles. 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.

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. Perez has served on adjudication panels for ASCAP and Chamber Music America. He has been an educator through Carnegie Hall, the Kupferberg Center at Queens College, Jazz House Kids in Montclair, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and the New Jersey Association for Jazz Education. In 2023, he directed the NJ All-State Jazz Ensemble with a culminating concert at NJPAC. He has held faculty positions at Drew University and the Manhattan School of Music. Dr. Perez is Coordinator of Jazz Studies at the Cali School of Music at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ.

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Saxophones

Meredith Foreman, alto, 2005, *Keyport, NJ*
Vinnie Sorensen, alto, 2003, *East Brunswick, NJ*
Nora Boccuti, alto, 2011, *Flemington, NJ*
Rodrigo Romero, tenor, 2022, MM 2024, *Newark, NJ*
Amanda Murro, tenor, 2020, MM 2024, *Cranford, NJ*
João Gonçalves, baritone, 2003, *Rockaway, NJ*

Trumpets

Dennis Johnson, 1999, *Boonton, NJ*
Nick Afflitto, 2002, *Cranford, NJ*
Deshaun Hinson, 2019, Artist Diploma 2021, *Bloomfield, NJ*
Joe Stella, 1999, *Parsippany, NJ*

Trombones

Vito Çakaroğlu, 2024, *New York, NY*
Jon Roth, 2012, *Nanuet, NY*
Mike Mulligan, 2014, *Brooklyn, NY*
Federico Perez Trasante, 2020, MM 2026, *Wallington, NJ*

Rhythm Section

Jon Ware, piano, 2009, *Franklin Park, NJ*
Raul Huaman, guitar, 2008, *Hillside, NJ*
Justin Lee, bass, 2004, *Bordentown, NJ*
Pete Abazia, drums, 2011, *Butler, NJ*
Rob McNamara, drums, 2018, *Voorhees, NJ*

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Saxophones

Ryan Huston, Jazz Studies, *Tom's River, NJ*
Kyle Gentile, Jazz Studies, *Ho Ho Kus, NJ*
Adam Alvarez, Jazz Studies, *Bronx, NY*
Will Travis, Jazz Studies, *Hollis, ME*
Theo Parrott, Jazz Studies, *Brisbane, Australia*

Trumpets

John Rivas, Jazz Studies, *Clifton, NJ*
Myles Twitty, Jazz Studies, *Cincinnati, OH*
Gabriel Chalick, Jazz Studies, *Naples, FL*
Matthew Gabriel Leal, Jazz Studies, *Nogales, AZ*
Gianna Ciaburri, Performance, *Staten Island, NY*

Trombones

Dean Scarlett, Education, *East Rutherford, NJ*
Aidan Andreoli, Woodwind Doubling, *Tulsa, OK*
Dayla Spencer, Music Theory /Composition, *Nashville, TN*
Dan Harkins, Jazz Education, *Mount Olive, NJ*
Matt Veal, Jazz Education, *West Orange, NJ*

Rhythm Section

Karen Xie, Jazz Studies, *Brooklyn, NY* – Piano
Daniel Sokolski, Jazz Studies, *Hawthorne, NJ* - Piano
Alan Cantillo, Jazz Studies *Staten Island, NY* - Guitar
Dominic Carnival, Jazz Studies, *New York, NY* – Bass
Lawrence Davis, Jazz Studies, *New Milford, CT* - Drums
Benjamin Barham-Weise, Jazz Studies, *New York, NY* – Drums

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

Cali name a seat project

goal

An opportunity for
School of Music
patrons **to name one
or more of the 180
permanent seats** in the
Leshowitz Recital Hall.



help fund
scholarships for
**under-resourced
backgrounds**



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