

**Montclair State University**  
JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
PRESENTS

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

**Alan Ferber**, *guest conductor*

WITH THE  
**RED HAWK BIG BAND**  
**Bill Moring**, *director*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**  
**3 PM**  
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**  

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**MONTCLAIR**  
STATE UNIVERSITY



# PROGRAM

Program to be selected from the following:

<i>Mean What You Say</i>	Composed and arranged by Thad Jones
<i>Tip Toe</i>	Composed and arranged by Thad Jones
<i>To You</i>	Composed and arranged by Thad Jones
<i>Hayburner</i>	Composed and arranged by Sammy Nestico
<i>The Compass</i>	Composed and arranged by Alan Ferber
<i>Angel's Landing</i>	Composed and arranged by Alan Ferber
<i>If Ever I would Leave You</i> - featuring vocalist Chloe Stavis	Composed by Frederick Lowe and Alan Jay Lerner; Arranged by Alan Ferber
<i>The Sweet Time Suite</i> – featuring vocalist Chloe Stavis	
Part 1 – Opening	
Part 2 – Kind Folk	
Part 3 – For Jan	Composed and arranged by Kenny Wheeler
<i>Thermo</i>	Composed by Freddie Hubbard and arranged by Christian McBride

# **MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

## **Saxophones**

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

## **Trumpets**

John Rivas, Performance, *Clifton, NJ*  
Myles Twitty, Jazz Studies, *Cincinnati, OH*  
Gabriel Chalick, Jazz Studies, *Naples, FL*  
Matthew Gabriel Leal, Jazz Studies, *Nogales, AZ*  
Jameson Klinsky, Business, *Paris, FR*

## **Trombones**

Dean Scarlett, Education, *East Rutherford, NJ*  
Aidan Andreoli, Performance, *Tulsa, OK*  
David Laird, Performance, *Milleville, NJ*  
James Quinn, Performance, *Brooklyn, NY*

## **Rhythm Section**

Karen Xie, Jazz Studies, *Brooklyn, NY – Piano*  
Daniel Sokolski, Jazz Studies, *Hawthorne, NJ - Piano*  
Dominic Carnival, *Jazz Studies, New York, NY – Bass*  
Lawrence Davis, *Jazz Studies, New Milford, CT - Drums*  
Jon Schneider, *Jazz Studies, Staten Island, NY – Drums*

# 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 have faculty member Professor of Trombone and Composition **Alan Ferber** present a varied program of music from Kenny Wheeler, Thad Jones, and his own wonderful compositions. 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 recent Immersive Residencies featured clarinet and saxophone legend Paquito D’Rivera in concert at Merkin Hall as well as our 2025 Crawford Concert, which featured Grammy-nominated vocalist Jazzmeia Horn alongside Jazz Ensemble. In 2023, the MSUJE, along with the MSU Wind Symphony accompanied trumpet legend Arturo Sandoval. In 2022, the MSUJE, Cali’s Wind Symphony, and the University Singers performed at the Metropolitan Museum’s Grace Rainey Rogers Concert Hall. In 2021 Crawford Concert featured Vertical Voices alongside our vocal jazz ensemble, Vocamotion. 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.

# RED HAWK BIG BAND

## **Saxophones**

Frank Dibari  
Jasmine Ritter  
Jackson Pellegrino  
Matthew Flechas  
Ely Katz

## **Trombones**

Hairo Cesar  
Hayley Opitz  
David Laird  
Aidan Andreoli

## **Trumpets**

Gianna Ciaburri  
Giancarlo Arcieri  
Aiden Carr  
Paul Whalen

## **Rhythm Section**

Lucy Allen, Jeremy Sweet – *piano*  
A.J. Moreira - *guitar*  
Emek Tasdemir – *bass*  
Alexander Kavlakian, Wes Brown – *drums*

**The Red Hawk Big Band** is one of three large jazz ensembles at Montclair State University's John J. Cali School of Music, directed by acclaimed jazz bassist and faculty member **Bill Moring**. The ensemble serves as a vital training ground for students to develop advanced skills in improvisation and performance, focusing on a wide range of classic jazz standards and contemporary large-ensemble works. While it acts as a preparatory bridge for the university's top-tier Jazz Ensemble, the Red Hawk Big Band maintains its own distinct identity and performance schedule.

The band is primarily composed of music majors, though it is open by audition to any talented student on campus, fostering a collaborative environment of "exciting young performers". Their repertoire often includes complex arrangements by legendary figures such as Sammy Nestico, Thad Jones, and Charles Mingus, as well as modern compositions by artists like Bill Mobley and Christian McBride. They frequently share the stage with other Cali School ensembles, such as the Vocamotion Vocal Jazz Ensemble, for high-profile performances at venues like the Kasser Theater and Leshowitz Recital Hall.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Alan Ferber** is a three-time Grammy-nominated trombonist, composer, and arranger who has been a vital force in the New York jazz scene since 1999. Raised in a musical family, Ferber has released nine albums as a leader, earning acclaim for his distinctive orchestration, and has collaborated with a diverse range of artists from Esperanza Spalding, Miguel Zenon, Toshiko Akiyoshi and the Village Vanguard Orchestra to Paul Simon, Peter Gabriel and Harry Connick, Jr. Recognized as one of the leading trombonists of his generation by *Down Beat* magazine, his work is characterized by a “mastery” of large-ensemble orchestration that blends traditional jazz roots with modern innovation. Currently, he contributes to the jazz community as an educator at NYU Steinhardt and the Montclair State University John J. Cali School of Music. He also serves as the Associate Director of the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop.

**Bill Moring** is a distinguished jazz bassist, composer, and educator who has been a mainstay of the New York City jazz scene for over 40 years. Early in his career, he secured high-profile opportunities touring with the Woody Herman Thundering Herd and the Count Basie Orchestra, and he received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to study with the legendary Rufus Reid. As an in-demand sideman, he has performed and recorded with a vast array of jazz icons, including Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, Mel Tormé, and John Abercrombie. Moring is equally recognized for his extensive work in music education and his long-standing affiliation with Montclair State University, where he serves as Professor of Bass at the Cali School of Music. Beyond his university role, he is a faculty member for the NJPAC Jazz for Teens program and has taught at numerous institutions, including Sarah Lawrence College, Rutgers University, and the New School.

## THE HOLLI ROSS FUND FOR JAZZ STUDIES

**The Holli Ross Fund for Jazz Studies** has been established to promote professionalism in jazz studies and is inspired by Holli Ross' unwavering dedication to the next generation of jazz artists. Donations will directly fund scholarships and endeavors to help our students realize their full potential.

Holli Ross was the consummate student with a vision and found ways to learn what was required to bring that vision to fruition - even if in nontraditional ways. When Holli was earning her Bachelor's degree in bassoon performance from The Mannes College of Music, the field of jazz vocal studies did not formally exist. Following her interests, she asked if she could join an instrumental jazz class run by pianist Jack Reilly. He agreed and warned her that he'd treat her like any other instrumentalist. Later, she was tutored by saxophonist Warne Marsh, who also pushed her beyond the usual vocal requirements.

For thirteen years, Holli brought that same rigor and heart to her work as a faculty member of Montclair State University's John J. Cali School of Music, and it is a befitting channel through which her legacy will inspire the making of jazz by generations to come. Holli taught applied jazz voice and directed the jazz vocal ensemble, Vocamotion.

Words from the late **Holli Ross**:

"To be a singer is a special gift, because the voice reaches out to the most primal musical instincts in people. I don't just get to sing the beautiful melody, I get to tell the beautiful story...or sometimes, a story that ain't so pretty. My reward will always be the coming together of musical minds on the bandstand and the feeling that I am touching the heart of a listener."



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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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