

# RUTGERS

Mason Gross School  
of the Arts

## **Rutgers Jazz Ensemble I**

Conrad Herwig, Director

A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald  
and Dinah Washington

with Guest Artist Champion Fulton

also featuring  
Stephen Fulton

and

John P. Stevens High School Jazz Ensemble

Andrew DeNicola, Director

Friday, March 6, 2015 | 7:30 p.m.  
Nicholas Music Center  
Mason Gross Performing Arts Center  
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

# Program

John P. Stevens High School

Body and Soul

Edward Heyman  
(1907–1981)  
Robert Sour  
(1906–1985)  
Frank Eyton  
(1894–1962)  
Johnny Green  
(1908–1989)  
arr. Bob Florence

Georgia On My Mind

Hoagy Carmichael  
(1899–1981)  
Stuart Gorrell  
(1901–1963)  
arr. Sammy Nestico

Back to Bayview,  
Second Movement,  
from *Suite Baby Ray*

Vince Norman

Rutgers Jazz Ensemble I

*(Order of selections to be announced)*

Tee Pee Time

Clark Terry  
(1920–2015)  
arr. Hal Crook

Is You Is or Is You Ain't  
My Baby

Louis Jordan  
(1908–1975)  
arr. David Berger

They Didn't Believe Me

Jerome Kern  
(1885–1945)  
Herbert Reynolds  
(1867–1933)  
arr. David Berger

Deed I Do

Fred Rose  
(1897–1954)  
Walter Hirsch  
(1891–1967)

A Kiss to Build a Dream On

Bert Kalmar  
(1884–1947)  
Harry Ruby  
(1895–1974)  
Oscar Hammerstein II  
(1895–1960)  
arr. David Berger

Let's Do It

Cole Porter  
(1891–1964)

The Song Is You

Jerome Kern  
Oscar Hammerstein II  
arr. Gerald Wilson

Easy Living

Ralph Rainger  
(1901–1942)  
Leo Robin  
(1900–1984)  
arr. Marc J. Stasio

What a Difference a Day Makes

María Grever  
(1885–1951)  
arr. David Berger

How High the Moon

Nancy Hamilton  
(1908–1985)  
Morgan Lewis  
(1906–1968)  
arr. Marc J. Stasio

They Can't Take That Away  
From Me: *Finale with John P.  
Stevens High School*

George Gershwin  
(1898–1937)  
arr. Pete Korey

# Personnel

## Rutgers Jazz Ensemble I

### Saxophone

Oliver Santana, Alto I  
James Merchant, Alto II  
Abe Burton, Tenor I  
John Tyler Donathan, Tenor II  
Sam Tobias, Baritone

### Trumpet

Shawn Edmonds  
Anthony Fazio  
Yi-Jiun Kao  
Joshua Orr  
Devenny Bennett

### Trombone

Matt Echols  
Greg DeAngelis  
Ben Weisiger  
Tim Rechen, Bass

### Guitar

John Morrison  
John Nunez

## John P. Stevens High School

### Saxophone

Pratik Pradhan, Alto I  
Heidy Shi, Alto II  
Shravan Hariharan, Tenor I  
Philip Ha, Tenor II  
Dennis Nguyen, Baritone

### Trumpet

David Tian  
Leela Hegde  
Shaun Ren  
Zack Kibel  
Akshat Mehta

### Trombone

Nikil Thomas  
Monika Gurnani  
Helen Kwak  
Haadi Munshi

**Rutgers Jazz  
Ensemble I (cont.)**

**Piano**

Michael Bernabe  
Luciano Minetti

**Bass**

Chris Smith  
Ross Garlow

**Drums**

Kyle Duppstadt  
Dan Giannone

**John P. Stevens  
High School (cont.)**

**Piano**

Sohil Shah

**Bass**

Ethan Melamed

**Drums**

Eric Zhang  
Varun Das

## Program Notes

**Ella Fitzgerald** (1917–1996) is one of the most renowned jazz vocalists of her generation. As a young woman she won an amateur contest at Harlem’s Apollo Theater, which led to performance opportunities with Chick Webb’s band during the mid-1930s. Fitzgerald later became a featured vocalist in supper clubs and theaters, further establishing herself as a jazz and blues singer with an effortless flair. She is known for her refined interpretations of George Gershwin and Cole Porter songs and for her unique scat vocal style. Fitzgerald’s outstanding voice, broad repertoire, and clear singing style attracted jazz and pop listeners, who dubbed her the “first lady of song.” Her first recorded composition, “A-Tisket A-Tasket” (1938), immediately topped the charts, which led to a luminous career that featured hits such as “I’m Making Believe” (1944), “Flying Home” (1945), and “Oh, Lady Be Good!” (1947). Fitzgerald composed music, and she toured the United States, Europe, and Asia. She appeared in films such as *Pete Kelly’s Blues* (1955) and *St. Louis Blues* (1958). Despite failing health, Fitzgerald continued to perform and delight audiences well into her 70s.

The gospel-rooted, Billie Holiday-influenced **Dinah Washington** (1924–1963) was born Ruth Lee Jones in Alabama. She moved to Chicago as a youngster and secured her first nightclub gig in the early 1940s, christening her career. This led to performances with Lionel Hampton from 1943 to 1946 and a recording debut during that time, prompted by jazz critic Leonard Feather. Throughout the 1950s, Washington collaborated with top artists such as Max Roach, Eddie “Lockjaw” Davis, “Cannonball” Adderley, Clifford Brown, and Clark Terry. By 1959 the “queen of the blues” had already earned a Grammy Award for her rendition of “What a

Difference a Day Makes,” marking a shift from primarily blues and jazz vocals to torch ballads. Washington’s notable hits, some of which have been entered into the Grammy Hall of Fame, include “Unforgettable,” “This Bitter Earth,” “September in the Rain,” and “Where Are You?”

## About the Artists

**Champion Fulton** grew up in a musical household. Her father (jazz trumpeter and educator Stephen Fulton) and mother recognized her early fascination with jazz. That fascination was also prompted by Stephen Fulton’s musician friends, including Clark Terry and Major Holley. Since then, Champion Fulton’s piano and vocal skills have been deemed distinctive and sophisticated by peers and critics. She has performed with Lou Donaldson, Frank Wess, Eric Alexander, Buster Williams, and Louis Hayes and become a guardian of the legacy of Red Garland, Erroll Garner, Count Basie, Sarah Vaughan, and Dinah Washington. Fulton has five recordings as leader to her credit, including her debut album, *Champion with David Berger & the Sultans of Swing* (2007). The album *Champion Sings and Swings* (2013) was deemed one of the top 10 jazz releases of the year by the *New York Observer*. Fulton has been recognized as a Rising Jazz Star by the *Downbeat Magazine* Critic’s Poll (2013 and 2014). Her “galvanizing presence” (*New Yorker*) and alluring musical presentation have made her “a charming young steward of the mainstream jazz tradition” (*New York Times*).



Jazz trumpeter, flügelhornist, and drummer **Stephen Fulton** has devoted more than 30 years of his career as a performer, educator, and advocate to studying the legacy of jazz. He is well known for his association with jazz great Clark Terry, having comanaged that musician's jazz camps, workshops, and festivals. As a featured soloist, Fulton has performed with Woody Herman and the Glenn Miller Orchestra while leading his own groups. He was later chosen by Terry as program director and artist-in-residence for the Clark Terry International Institute of Jazz Studies. Fulton's musical associations remain rich in a tradition that includes Sonny Stitt, Al Grey, Clark Terry, Frank Wess, Lou Donaldson, and Jimmy Ford, among many others.

**Conrad Herwig**, director of Rutgers Jazz Ensemble I and artistic director of jazz studies at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, is a leading trombonist on today's jazz scene. He began his career in 1980 with Clark Terry's Big Band and later performed with Slide Hampton and World of Trombones, Mario Bauzá and his Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Mel Lewis, Bob Mintzer, the Mingus Big Band, Eddie Palmieri, Red Garland, Dave Liebman, Max Roach, Danilo Pérez, and Brian Lynch. Herwig has recorded 21 albums as a leader and been voted No. 1 Jazz Trombone (Talent Deserving of Wider Recognition) in the DownBeat International Jazz Critics Poll. In 2011 he was nominated for the Trombonist of the Year award by the Jazz Journalists Association.

Directed by Conrad Herwig, **Rutgers Jazz Ensemble I** is the top student jazz ensemble at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. The group has played in commercials with Ray Charles; performed at the fifth-anniversary celebration of Harmony Hall in Fukui, Japan; and had several gigs at New York's legendary Blue Note Jazz Club.

A product of the Edison, New Jersey, school system, **Andrew DeNicola** has been teaching in that district for 41 years. After graduating from Montclair State University, he began teaching at Edison's Woodrow Wilson Middle School and later transferred to **John P. Stevens High School (JPHS)**. DeNicola was recently named one of nine finalists for the Grammy Foundation's first Music Educator Award. The JPHS instrumental music program provides its young musicians a variety of opportunities. The 225-member band program boasts a diverse assortment of musical groups.

## **Upcoming Rutgers University Jazz Performances**

- Monday, March 9, 2015: Jazz Ensemble II. A tribute to Wes Montgomery, featuring guest guitarist Vic Juris. Directed by Marc Stasio.
- Monday, March 30, 2015: Rutgers Faculty Jazz Septet and University Jazz Ensemble at the Blue Note Jazz Club, New York City. Tickets: 212-475-8592 or [bluenotejazz.com/newyork](http://bluenotejazz.com/newyork).
- Monday, April 20, 2015: Jazz Ensemble II. A tribute to Joe Henderson, featuring guest artists Conrad Herwig and Ralph Bowen. Directed by Marc Stasio.
- Friday, April 24, 2015: Jazz Ensemble I, featuring guest artist Jeff “Tain” Watts. Directed by Conrad Herwig.

## **About the Music Department**

The Music Department at the Mason Gross School of the Arts has a faculty of 34 full-time and approximately 70 part-time members. There are approximately 455 students enrolled in its seven degree programs: bachelor of music, bachelor of arts, master of music, master of arts, artist diploma, doctor of philosophy, and doctor of musical arts. The mission of all music degree programs is to develop well-educated professional musicians who have a deep historical and theoretical understanding of all aspects of music. The program provides students with traditional, well-grounded conservatory training while preparing them for the changing world of the arts in the 21st century.

## **About Nicholas Music Center**

- Fire regulations strictly prohibit smoking in Nicholas Music Center. Smoking is permitted outside the building only.
- FIRE NOTICE: The nearest exits are located by the red signs; exits are located to the right and left of the stage and lobby.
- Please turn off all phones and pagers before entering the performance area.
- Latecomers may have to wait to be seated until an appropriate pause in the program.
- The taking of photographs and the possession or use of audio or video recorders during performances are prohibited.
- The Lost and Found is located at the Mason Gross School of the Arts ticket office, next to the Philip J. Levin Theater, across Bettenbender Plaza.
- Water fountains are located on both sides of the lobby.

### **Ticket Office Hours**

Weekdays: Mondays to Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Weekends: Saturdays, noon to 5:30 p.m.

Performances: one hour before curtain

*Hours will vary during university holidays.*