

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Rutgers University Jazz Ensemble I

Conrad Herwig, director

Remembering Jaco Pastorius

with special guests

Alex Foster, Kenny Davis, and Robby Ameen

Friday, March 1, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center
Elizabeth Ross Johnson Theater
New Brunswick, New Jersey

PROGRAM

*All compositions by Jaco Pastorius (1951-1987), and all
arrangements by Gil Goldstein, unless noted*

Domingo

3 Views of a Secret

Donna Lee

Charlie Parker
(1920-1955)

Portrait of Tracy

71+

Liberty City

Continuum

Dania

Teen Town

RUTGERS JAZZ ENSEMBLE I PERSONNEL

Saxophone

Ginger Meyer – Alto Sax 1
Kristin Field – Alto Sax 2
Jeremy Leon – Tenor Sax 1
Chris McCrum – Tenor Sax 2
Tristan Voitcu – Baritone Sax

Trumpet

Carlos Hernandez
Liam Sutcliffe
Tahj Walsh
Bryan McNaughton
Anthony Fazio

Trombone

Ian Young
Kyle Courter
Mal Malone
Kunyu Ruan
Justin Farquhar

Guitar

Josh Friedman

Piano

Andrew Rosenkilde
Peter Rushing

Bass

John Hebert

Drums

Donald Solomon
Matthew Nelson

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Growing up in Fort Lauderdale, **Jaco Pastorius** played with visiting R&B and pop acts and quickly became a local legend. He later joined forces with Pat Metheny in the early 70s and, by 1976, was invited to join Weather Report, where he remained until 1981 along with Joe Zawinul and Wayne Shorter. In constant demand, Pastorius also performed on Joni Mitchell, Blood Sweat and Tears, Paul Bley, Bireli Lagrene, and Ira Sullivan albums, leading to his solo album for Epic Records. He also toured and recorded with his band, Word of Mouth, in the early 80s. Pastorius became overwhelmed by health issues in the mid-'80s leading to his untimely death in 1987. He is remembered for his flamboyant strutting and dancing style, brilliant technique, fertile melodic imagination, and remarkable talent as a composer, arranger, and producer. He and Stanley Clarke were the soaring influences on their instruments throughout the 1970s, inspiring Marcus Miller's composition in his honor, "Mr. Pastorius."

Known for his regular work with Saturday Night Live, saxophonist **Alex Foster** is the ultimate in versatility. His role as a founding member of Jack DeJohnette's "Directions" project led to work with McCoy Tyner on *Inner Voices* and tours with Nat Adderley, Freddy Hubbard, and Don Sebesky. By 1982, Foster was called to work with Jaco Pastorius alongside Don Alias, Othello Molineaux, and Mike Stern. After joining SNL in 1985, Foster performed with Michael Franks, Paul Simon, and Paul McCartney, leading up to his first album *Beginnings... Goodbye*. He later toured with the Gil Evans Orchestra and Mingus Dynasty band, including the Mingus Epitaph tour of Europe and the U.S. and later joined the "Steps Ahead" band with Mike Manieri in 1993. His album, *Alex Foster's Condition* displays the evolution of Foster's passionate and imaginative playing.

After moving to New York in 1986, bassist **Kenny Davis** played with Out of the Blue and quickly adapted to the New York scene. While there, he also made a living by doing sessions and jingles. Davis began appearing with artists including Freddie Hubbard, Cassandra Wilson, Abbey Lincoln, Diane Reeves, and Art Farmer, while studying music with Ron Carter. Davis was the bassist of The Tonight Show Band from 1999 to 2002. He was the bass teacher at the University of Connecticut from 2003 to 2009. In 2006, Davis received his Master of Music degree from Mason Gross and has since served as a professor. In 2009, he released *Kenny Davis*, his first CD as a leader, on Daken Records.

Drummer **Robby Ameen** has lived in New York City since the early eighties and compiled a recording career stretching from Dizzy Gillespie to Paul Simon. Although he is of Lebanese origin, Ameen is best known for the unique and powerful Afro-Cuban jazz style he has developed. Upon moving to New York, Robby began recording with flutist Dave Valentin and, soon afterward, Ruben Blades. Ameen also has toured and recorded extensively with Jack Bruce's "Cuicoland Express" band and is a longtime member of Conrad Herwig's oft Grammy-nominated "Latin Side of ..." band. His various TV appearances include The Tonight Show, 60 Minutes, Amnesty International Concerts, Cinemax's "A Latino Special: feat. Jerry Garcia," "The Return of Ruben Blades" film, Good Morning America, PBS's Legends of Jazz, Europe's Rockpalast and Later with Jools Holland. Ameen currently serves as a professor at Mason Gross.

New York jazz trombonist **Conrad Herwig** has recorded 25 albums as a leader, receiving four Grammy nominations. He's been voted #1 Jazz Trombonist three times in the *DownBeat* "Jazz Critic's Poll" and nominated "Trombonist of the Year" by the Jazz Journalists Association on numerous occasions. In constant demand as a sideman, Herwig has performed with Joe Henderson, Horace Silver, McCoy Tyner, Joe Lovano, Eddie Palmieri, Tito Puente, Paquito D'Rivera, and Michel Camilo. He is a longtime member of the Mingus Big Band, having served as musical director and arranger including the 2011 GRAMMY-winning *Live at the Jazz Standard* CD. Herwig has also performed and/or recorded with Clark Terry, Buddy Rich, Frank Sinatra, Miles Davis & Quincy Jones, and the Gil Evans Orchestra. All told Herwig has appeared on more than 200 albums in what is now a 40-plus-year career. Herwig performs exclusively on Michael Rath Trombones, England. He serves as chair of jazz studies at Mason Gross.

ABOUT JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

The Rutgers Jazz Ensemble I is the top student jazz ensemble at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. The group has played commercials with Ray Charles, the fifth-anniversary celebration of Harmony Hall in Fukui, Japan, and is featured frequently at the legendary Blue Note jazz club in New York City.

UPCOMING JAZZ PERFORMANCES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 | 7:30pm, NBPAC

Rutgers University Jazz Lab Band, Dr. Anthony Branker, director, featuring many of his own works.

Friday, April 19, 2024 | 7:30pm, NBPAC

Rutgers University Jazz Ensemble I, Conrad Herwig director, featuring guest pianist, Helen Sung

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 2:00 | 7:00pm, Shindell Hall

Rutgers University Jazz Recitals featuring various smaller Chamber Jazz and Themed ensembles

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