

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Rutgers University Jazz Ensemble I

Conrad Herwig, director

Remembering Count Basie

With special guest,

Helen Sung

Friday, April 19, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

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

PROGRAM

Groovy Encounters	Chico O’Farrill (1921-2001)
Flight of the Foo Birds	Neal Hefti (1922-2008)
Sunset Glow	Benny Carter (1907-2003)
The Kid From Red Bank	Neal Hefti
Way Out Basie	Ernie Wilkins (1922-1999)
Moten Swing	Buster Moten (1903-1965) Benny Moten (1893-1935) Arr. by Ernie Wilkins
Plain Brown Wrapper	Bill Holman
Positively CT	Helen Sung
Festival of Pianos <i>Movement #2</i> <i>dedicated to Kenny Barron</i>	Helen Sung
Convergence	Helen Sung

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

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

PROGRAM NOTES

Jazz icon **Count Basie** was born William James Basie on August 21, 1904, in Red Bank, NJ. Basie is considered one of the greatest bandleaders of all time. Around 1924, Basie moved to Harlem, a hotbed for jazz, where his career quickly took off. He was introduced to the big-band sound when he joined Walter Page's Blue Devils in 1928, calling Kansas City his home. Over the years, his band of fame, the Count Basie Orchestra, had a slew of hits that helped to define the big-band sound of the 1930s and '40s. Some of their notable chart toppers included "Jumpin' at the Woodside," "April in Paris," and Basie's own composition, "One O'Clock Jump," which became the orchestra's signature piece. Some argue that Basie made some of his best work during the 1960s and '70s, such as "Shiny Stocking," "L'il Darlin'," "Corner Pocket," and even a hit single, "Everyday I Have the Blues," with Joe Williams. During this period, he also recorded with music greats Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Jackie Wilson, Dizzy Gillespie and Oscar Peterson. Basie was a true innovator, leading the band for almost 50 years and recording over 480 albums.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Helen Sung is an acclaimed jazz pianist, composer, and a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow. A native of Houston, Texas, Sung eschewed her classical piano upbringing after a jazz epiphany during undergraduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She became part of the inaugural class of the Thelonious Monk Institute (now the Herbie Hancock Institute) at the New England Conservatory of Music. In addition to her own band, Sung has performed with such luminaries as the late Clark Terry, Wayne Shorter, Ron Carter, Wynton Marsalis, Regina Carter, Terri Lyne Carrington, Cecile McLorin Salvant, and the Mingus Big Band. Sung has served on the jazz faculties of the Berklee College of Music and The Juilliard School. Recent activities of note include *Re-Orientation: Asian American Artists Out Loud*, provoked by anti-Asian violence, through which she teamed her quartet with a poet, a hip-hop artist/rapper, and an installation artist in a series of events to celebrate the range and diversity of Asian American artistry. Sung is a visiting faculty member at the San Francisco Conservatory and an associate professor at Columbia University.

New York jazz trombonist **Conrad Herwig** has recorded 25 albums as a leader, receiving four Grammy nominations. He has 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 on 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. Herwig has appeared on more than 200 albums in what is now a 40+-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

Saturday, April 20, 2024

2:00 | 7:00pm

Shindell Choral Hall

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

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