



**HANCHER AUDITORIUM**

**JAZZ AT LINCOLN  
CENTER ORCHESTRA  
WITH  
WYNTON MARSALIS**  
*DUKE IN AFRICA*

Thursday, January 29, 2026  
7:30 p.m.

**IOWA**

# THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS OF THIS EVENING'S PERFORMANCE

## HANCHER EVENT PARTNERS

Bruce Gantz

Leonard & Marlene Hadley

Nancy J. Sereduck

# JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH WYNTON MARSALIS

## *DUKE IN AFRICA*

Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.  
Hancher Auditorium, the University of Iowa

### **JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA**

WYNTON MARSALIS, Music Director, Trumpet

RYAN KISOR, Trumpet

KENNY RAMPTON, Trumpet

MARCUS PRINTUP, Trumpet

VINCENT GARDNER, Trombone

CHRIS CRENSHAW, Trombone

ELLIOT MASON, Trombone

SHERMAN IRBY, Alto and Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Clarinet

ALEXA TARANTINO, Alto and Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Clarinet

CHRIS LEWIS, Tenor and Soprano Saxophones, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet

ABDIAS ARMENTEROS, Tenor and Soprano Saxophones, Clarinet,  
*The Zou Family Chair in Saxophone*

PAUL NEDZELA, Baritone and Soprano Saxophones, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet

DAN NIMMER, Piano, *The Zou Family Chair in Piano*

CARLOS HENRIQUEZ, Bass, *The Mandel Family Chair  
in honor of Kathleen B. Mandel*

OBED CALVAIRE, Drums

### **PROGRAM**

*Program to be announced from the stage.*

Visit us at [jazz.org](http://jazz.org)

Become our fan on Facebook: [facebook.com/jazzatlincolncenter](https://facebook.com/jazzatlincolncenter)

Follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/jazzdotorg](https://twitter.com/jazzdotorg)

Watch us on YouTube: [youtube.com/jazzatlincolncenter](https://youtube.com/jazzatlincolncenter)

*Artists subject to change.*

# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

*Duke in Africa* is a powerful tribute to Duke Ellington's profound connection to the African continent. This concert explores how the legendary composer's works drew inspiration from African rhythms and cultural themes.

Co-music directors, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's own Chris Lewis and Alexa Tarantino, lead the JLCO in a dynamic program featuring selections from Ellington's works: *Afro-Bossa* (1963), a lively blend of Afro-Cuban and Brazilian rhythms; *Liberian Suite* (1947), written for Liberia's centennial; and *Togo Brava Suite* (1971), a Grammy Award-winning composition.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

With the world-renowned **JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA** and guest artists spanning genres and generations, Jazz at Lincoln Center produces thousands of performances, education, and broadcast events each season in its home in New York City (Frederick P. Rose Hall, “The House of Swing”) and around the world, for people of all ages. Jazz at Lincoln Center is led by Chairman Clarence Otis, Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, and Executive Director Greg Scholl. Please visit us at [jazz.org](http://jazz.org).

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO), comprising 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today, has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1988 and spends over a third of the year on tour across the world. Featured in all aspects of Jazz at Lincoln Center’s programming, this remarkably versatile orchestra performs and leads educational events in New York, across the U.S. and around the globe; in concert halls; dance venues; jazz clubs; public parks; and with symphony orchestras; ballet troupes; local students; and an ever-expanding roster of guest artists. Under Music Director Wynton Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performs a vast repertoire, from rare historic compositions to Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works, including compositions and arrangements by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, and current and former Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra members Wynton Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Ted Nash, Victor Goines, Sherman Irby, Chris Crenshaw, and Carlos Henriquez.

Throughout the last decade, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra has performed with many of the world’s leading symphony orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and many others. Marsalis’ three major works for full symphony orchestra and jazz orchestra, *All Rise* – Symphony No. 1 (1999), *Swing Symphony* – Symphony No. 3 (2010), and *The Jungle* – Symphony No. 4 (2016), continue to be the focal point of Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra’s symphonic collaborations.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra has also been featured in several education and performance residencies in the last few years, including those in Melbourne, Australia; Sydney, Australia; Chautauqua, New York; Prague, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; London, England; São Paulo, Brazil; and many others.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Education is a major part of Jazz at Lincoln Center's mission; its educational activities are coordinated with concert and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra tour programming. These programs, many of which feature Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra members, include the celebrated Jazz for Young People™ family concert series; the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival; the Jazz for Young People™ Curriculum; Let Freedom Swing, educational residencies; workshops; and concerts for students and adults worldwide. Jazz at Lincoln Center educational programs reach over 110,000 students, teachers and general audience members.

Jazz at Lincoln Center, NPR Music, and WBGO have partnered to create the next generation of jazz programming in public radio: *Jazz Night in America*. The series showcases today's vital jazz scene while also underscoring the genre's storied history. Hosted by bassist Christian McBride, the program features hand-picked performances from across the country, woven with the colorful stories of the artists behind them. *Jazz Night in America* and Jazz at Lincoln Center's radio archive can be found at [jazz.org/radio](http://jazz.org/radio).

In 2015, Jazz at Lincoln Center launched Blue Engine Records ([www.jazz.org/blueengine](http://www.jazz.org/blueengine)), a new platform to make its vast archive of recorded concerts available to jazz audiences everywhere. The label is dedicated to releasing new studio and live recordings as well as archival recordings from past Jazz at Lincoln Center performances, and its first record—*Live in Cuba*, recorded on a historic 2010 trip to Havana by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis—was released in October 2015. *Big Band Holidays* was released in December 2015, *The Abyssinian Mass* came out in March 2016, *The Music of John Lewis* was released in March 2017, and the JLCO's *Handful of Keys* came out in September 2017. Blue Engine's *United We Swing: Best of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Galas* features the Wynton Marsalis Septet and an array of special guests, with all proceeds going toward Jazz at Lincoln Center's education initiatives. Blue Engine's most recent album releases include 2020's *A Swingin' Sesame Street Celebration* and 2021's *The Democracy Suite* featuring the JLCO Septet with Wynton Marsalis.

For more information on Jazz at Lincoln Center, please visit [www.jazz.org](http://www.jazz.org).

**WYNTON MARSALIS** (*Music Director, Trumpet*)

is the Managing and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC). Born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1961, he is the son of renowned jazz pianist and music educator, Ellis Marsalis, Jr. Marsalis was gifted his first trumpet at age six by Al Hirt; soon thereafter, he began playing in New Orleans' famed Fairview Baptist Church Band led by banjoist Danny Barker. However, it wasn't until he turned twelve that Marsalis began to formally train on the trumpet and perform in bands throughout the city, from the New Orleans Philharmonic and New Orleans Youth Orchestra to funk bands, concert bands, and small jazz ensembles. As a teenager, his passion for music rapidly escalated.



In 1979, at the age of seventeen, Marsalis moved to New York City to study classical trumpet at The Juilliard School. Yet he quickly entrenched himself in New York's effervescent jazz scene, launching his career with the legendary Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers. At just nineteen, Marsalis hit the road with his own band—he has been touring the world ever since. From 1981 to the time of this writing, he has performed 5,328 concerts in 856 distinct cities and 66 countries around the world.

Marsalis made his recording debut in 1982 and has since recorded over 110 jazz and classical albums, four alternative records, and released five DVDs. Marsalis is the winner of nine Grammy awards, and his jazz oratorio *Blood on the Fields* was the first jazz composition to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. He remains the only musician to win a Grammy award in two categories—jazz and classical— during the same year (1983, 1984).

Marsalis has solidified himself as an internationally acclaimed musician, composer, bandleader, and advocate of American culture. As a composer, his body of work includes over 600 original songs, 11 dance scores, 13 suites, 4 symphonies, 2 chamber pieces, 2 string quartets, a jazz oratorio, a fanfare, and concertos for violin, tuba, trumpet, and most recently, for orchestra. Included in this rich body of compositions is a multitude of works written specifically to feature the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO): *The Democracy! Suite* (2021); *The Ever Fonky Lowdown* (2020); *The Jungle- Symphony No. 4* (2016); *Swing Symphony- Symphony No. 3* (2010); *The Abyssinian Mass* (2008); *Congo Square* (2006); *Suite for Human Nature* (2004); *All Rise- Symphony No. 1* (1999). To date, Marsalis has released 29 full-length albums and nine singles with the JLCO on Jazz at Lincoln Center's in-house label, Blue Engine Records.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Marsalis is also a globally respected teacher and spokesperson for music education. He led the effort to construct Jazz at Lincoln Center's home—Frederick P. Rose Hall—the first education, performance, and broadcast facility devoted specifically to jazz. At JALC, Marsalis spearheads educational programs for students of all ages, including Jazz for Young People™ concerts and the annual Essentially Ellington jazz band competition, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2025. Marsalis is the Founding Director of Jazz Studies at The Juilliard School, and President of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation.

Marsalis has produced several educational series for public broadcast. He was the writer and host of the video series *Marsalis on Music*, the radio series *Making the Music*, and the weekly conversation series *Skain's Domain*. He has written and co-written 10 books, including two children's books: *Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!* and *Jazz ABZ: An A to Z Collection of Jazz Portraits*. Between 2011 and 2014, he delivered six groundbreaking lectures at Harvard University entitled *Hidden in Plain View: Meanings in American Music*. And in 2023, he delivered the highly esteemed Nexus Lecture in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Marsalis was appointed Messenger of Peace by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2001 and awarded The National Medal of Arts (2005), The National Medal of Humanities (2016), and the Praemium Imperiale for Music from the Japan Art Association (2023)—Japan's highest honor for the arts. In December 2021, Marsalis and JALC were awarded the Key to New York City by Mayor Bill de Blasio. Marsalis has received honorary doctorates from 44 top universities around the world, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and Tulane University in his hometown of New Orleans.

Wynton Marsalis' core beliefs and foundation for living are based on the principles of jazz. He promotes individual creativity (improvisation), collective cooperation (swing), gratitude and good manners (sophistication), and facing adversity with persistent optimism (the blues).

**ABDIAS ARMENTEROS** (*Tenor and Soprano Saxophones, Clarinet, JLCO*) is a native of Miami, Florida, where he attended New World School of the Arts High School. He began to play the saxophone at the age of eight and began to play jazz in the ninth grade. After getting into New World, he was able to travel to places like New York City to compete in events like Essentially Ellington with the jazz band (which the school won in 2016), and Kagoshima, Japan, representing the city of Miami and the United States by being the only non-Asian group to perform in the Kagoshima Asian Arts Youth Festival. He has also done various summer programs such as the Brubeck, Summer Jazz Colony, and the Summer Jazz Academy with Jazz at Lincoln Center. Abdias is currently in his first year of his master's degree at Juilliard as a jazz studies major after completing his undergraduate degree at the prestigious school. Since being in New York, he has shared the bandstand with world-renowned artists like Wynton Marsalis, Ben Vereen, Aloe Blacc, Victor Lewis, Arlo Parks, and performs regularly at different clubs and venues in the city with other well-known musicians in the city while continuing his studies at school. Abdias is a firm believer that music is healing, and we're living in a time where we need healing the most.



**OBED CALVAIRE** (*Drums, JLCO*), a native of Miami and of Haitian descent, is a graduate with both a master and bachelor's degree of music from one of America's premiere private music conservatories in the nation, Manhattan School of Music. He received a bachelor's degree in 2003, completing the undergraduate degree requirements in three years and receiving a master's in 2005. Calvaire has performed and recorded with artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Seal, Eddie Palmieri, Vanessa Williams, Richard Bona, SFJazz Collective, David Foster, Mary J. Blige, Stefon Harris, The Clayton Brothers Quintet, Mike Stern, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Peter Cincotti, Monty Alexander, Music Soulchild, Nellie McKay, Yellow Jackets, Joshua Redman, Steve Turre, and Lizz Wright. He has also performed with large ensembles such as the Village Vanguard Orchestra, Metropole Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, Maria Schneider, Roy Hargrove big band, and the Bob Mintzer Big Band. Currently, Obed Calvaire can be found playing with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Dave Holland, Sean Jones, Yosvany Terry, among others.



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**CHRIS CRENSHAW** (*Trombone, JLCO*) was born in Thomson, Georgia on December 20, 1982. Since birth, he has been driven by and surrounded by music. Playing piano since age three, his love for piano led to his first gig with Echoes of Joy, his father Casper's gospel quartet group. He started playing the trombone at 11 eventually studying with Steve Pruitt, Dr. Douglas Farwell, and Wycliffe Gordon. He attended Thomson High School, Valdosta State University, and the Juilliard School earning a master's degree in jazz studies in 2007. In 2006, after a year at Juilliard, Crenshaw joined the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and has contributed to the JLCO as a trombonist, composer, arranger, transcriber, and conductor. He has appeared as a sideman on fellow JLCO trumpeter Marcus Printup's *Ballads All Night*. In 2012 he composed *God's Trombones*, a spiritually focused work which was premiered by the orchestra at Jazz at Lincoln Center. In 2017, Crenshaw was commissioned to write an original suite called *The Fifties: A Prism* based on jazz in the 1950s. Along with *The Fifties...*, he also has an album with his own group, The Georgia Horns, entitled *Live at Dizzy's Club*.



**VINCENT GARDNER** (*Trombone, JLCO*) was born in Chicago in 1972 and was raised in Hampton, Virginia. After singing, playing piano, violin, saxophone, and French horn at an early age, he decided on the trombone at age 12. He attended Florida A&M University and the University of North Florida. He soon caught the ear of Mercer Ellington, who hired Gardner for his first professional job. He moved to Brooklyn, New York after graduating from college, completed a world tour with Lauryn Hill in 2000, and then joined the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Gardner has served as Instructor at The Juilliard School, as Visiting Instructor at Florida State University and Michigan State University, and as Adjunct Instructor at The New School. He is currently the Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra, and he has contributed many arrangements to the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and other ensembles. In 2009 he was commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center to write *The Jesse B. Semple Suite*, a 60 minute suite inspired by the short stories of Langston Hughes. In addition, Gardner is a popular instructor at Jazz at Lincoln Center's ongoing jazz education program, Swing University, teaching courses on bebop and more. Gardner is featured on a number of notable recordings and has recorded five CDs as a leader for Steeplechase Records. He has performed



with The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Bobby McFerrin, Harry Connick, Jr., The Saturday Night Live Band, Chaka Khan, A Tribe Called Quest, and many others. Gardner was chosen as the #1 Rising Star Trombonist in the 2014 *DownBeat* Critics Poll.

**CARLOS HENRIQUEZ** (*Bass, JLCO*) was born in 1979 in the Bronx, New York. He studied music at a young age, played guitar through junior high school and took up the bass while enrolled in The Juilliard School's Music Advancement Program. He entered LaGuardia High School of Music & Arts and Performing Arts and was involved with the LaGuardia Concert Jazz Ensemble which went on to win first place in Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival in 1996. In 1998, swiftly after high school, Henriquez joined the Wynton Marsalis Septet and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, touring the world and featured on more than 25 albums. Henriquez has performed with artists including Chucho Valdés, Paco De Lucía, Tito Puente, the Marsalis Family, Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Lenny Kravitz, Marc Anthony, and many others. He has been a member of the music faculty at Northwestern University School of Music since 2008 and was music director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's cultural exchange with the Cuban Institute of Music with Chucho Valdés in 2010. His debut album as a bandleader, *The Bronx Pyramid*, came out in September 2015 on Jazz at Lincoln Center's Blue Engine Records and his most recent album, *The South Bronx Story*, was nominated for a Grammy.



**SHERMAN IRBY** (*Alto and Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Clarinet, JLCO*) was born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Sherman began playing music at the age of 12, almost immediately recognizing that it was his life's calling. Upon graduating high school—during which he had the opportunity to play and record with Gospel immortal James Cleveland—Sherman attended Clark Atlanta University, graduating with a BA in music education. He joined Atlanta-based piano legend Johnny O'Neal's quintet in 1991. After moving to New York in 1994, Sherman quickly connected with the fertile and vital scene at Smalls, where he was a regular until 1997. Here Sherman caught the attention of Blue Note Records, for which he recorded his first two albums, *Full Circle* and *Big Mama's Biscuits*, released in 1996 and 1998 respectively. During



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

the Smalls period, Sherman also toured the U.S. and the Caribbean with the Boys Choir of Harlem in 1995; was a member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra from 1995 to 1997 and then rejoined again; recorded and toured with Marcus Roberts and participated in the incomparable Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead Program during those same years; and began his four-year stint with Roy Hargrove in 1997. After departing Roy Hargrove's ensemble, Sherman shifted his primary focus to his own group. Although this was his primary commitment, Irby took the opportunity to join the final ensemble of the peerless Elvin Jones in 2004, and after Elvin's passing, joined Papo Vazquez's Pirates Troubadours. From 2003–2011, Sherman was the regional director for JazzMasters Workshop, a mentoring program for young children. He has served as Artist-in-Residence for Jazz Camp West, and an instructor for the Monterey Jazz Festival Band Camp. He is also a former board member for CubaNOLA Collective. Recognizing the shift in economics of the record industry, Sherman left Blue Note to form Black Warrior Records, releasing *Black Warrior*, *Faith*, *Organ Starter*, *Live at The Otto Club*, *Cerulean Canvas*, and Andy Farber's *This Could Be the Start of Something Big*. Sherman, along with most members of the JLCO, has arranged much of the vast library of music that they have performed over the past 16 years. He has also been commissioned to compose new works, including *Twilight Sounds*, his Dante-inspired ballet, *Inferno*, and *Musings of Cosmic Stuff*. Even with the orchestra's busy schedule, Sherman was a regular member of the McCoy Tyner Quartet, and continues to perform with his own group, Momentum.

**RYAN KISOR** (*Trumpet, JLCO*) was born on April 12, 1973 in Sioux City, Iowa, and began playing trumpet at age four. In 1990, he won first prize at the Thelonious Monk Institute's first annual Louis Armstrong Trumpet Competition. Kisor enrolled in Manhattan School of Music in 1991 where he studied with trumpeter Lew Soloff. He has performed and/or recorded with the Mingus Big Band, the Gil Evans Orchestra, Horace Silver, Gerry Mulligan and Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, the Philip Morris Jazz All-Stars, and others. In addition to being an active sideman, Kisor has recorded several albums as a leader, including *Battle Cry* (1997), *The Usual Suspects* (1998), and *Point of Arrival* (2000). He has been a member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra since 1994.



**CHRIS LEWIS** (*Tenor and Soprano Saxophone, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, JLCO*) has been a member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra since 2025.

Lewis has performed with luminaries including Herbie Hancock, Eric Reed, Terell Stafford, Ben Wolfe, Jeff “Tain” Watts, and Michael Bubl , and is regularly called upon by his contemporaries Julius Rodriguez, Aaron Diehl & Sean Mason.

He has appeared with many of today’s premiere large ensembles, including the Maria Schneider Orchestra, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, the Count Basie Orchestra, John Beasley’s MONK’estra, and The Gil Evans Project. Additionally, Lewis is often featured in Broadway productions and televised performances, including *Just in Time* and The Tony Awards. A dedicated educator, Lewis teaches students of all ages. He is on faculty with Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Summer Jazz Academy and the Litchfield Jazz Camp, offering his expertise in saxophone, improvisation, and ensemble performance. Lewis continues to help shape the next generation of jazz artists as a guest artist, clinician, adjudicator, and private instructor with students worldwide. Chris Lewis holds a Bachelor of Music in jazz studies from Temple University and a Master of Music in jazz studies from the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz. He is proud to be a Vandoren Artist.



**ELLIOT MASON** (*Trombone, JLCO*) was born in England into a family of jazz musicians. Mr. Mason began studying trumpet at age four with his father, who was a trumpet and trombone player/educator. At age seven, struck with an overwhelming curiosity in his father’s trombone, young Mason soon switched his focus from the trumpet. Mr. Mason received a full tuition scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music at age sixteen. After graduating from Berklee at nineteen, Mr. Mason moved to

New York City where he distinguished himself as a respected and highly in demand trombone/bass trumpet player. In 2007, Elliot Mason was invited to become a member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, directed by Wynton Marsalis. While continuing to perform with the JLCO, Mr. Mason co-leads the Mason Brothers Quintet with his brother Brad, and leads his own band, Cre8tion. Since 2016, Mr. Mason has been a faculty member at the Juilliard School of Music. He also runs his own private music studio in NYC. Mr. Mason is endorsed by B.A.C. musical instruments, and currently plays on his own signature series line of custom trombones that he co-designed.



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**PAUL NEDEZELA** (*Baritone and Soprano Saxophones, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, JLCO*) was born and raised in New York City. He joined the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in 2014 and has also played with many renowned artists and ensembles, including (in alphabetical order) Ruben Blades, Bill Charlap, Chick Corea, Paquito D’Rivera, Kenny Garrett, Benny Golson, Branford Marsalis, Christian McBride, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Wayne Shorter, Frank Sinatra Jr., and The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra.



Paul released his debut album, *Introducing Paul Nedzela*, in 2019. He has performed in Twyla Tharp’s Broadway show, *Come Fly Away*, as well as in major festivals around the world, including but not limited to, The Monterey Jazz Festival, The Newport Jazz Festival, The Detroit Jazz Festival, The Banff Music Festival, The International Montreal Jazz Festival, The iLove Jazz Festival in Brazil, The Valencia Jazz Festival in Spain, The Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy, and The American Festival of the Arts in Doha, Qatar. While still pursuing music, Paul graduated with honors in 2006 from McGill University in Montreal with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. A recipient of the Samuel L. Jackson scholarship award, he continued his musical education at The Juilliard School and graduated with a Master of Music degree in 2008.

**DAN NIMMER** (*Piano, JLCO*) was born in 1982 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As a young man, Nimmer’s family inherited a piano and he started playing by ear. He studied classical piano and eventually became interested in jazz. At the same time, he began playing gigs around Milwaukee. Upon graduation from high school, Nimmer left Milwaukee to study music at Northern Illinois University. It didn’t take him long to become one of Chicago’s busiest piano players. Working a lot in the Chicago scene, Nimmer decided to leave school and make the big move to New York City where he immediately emerged in the New York scene. In 2005, a year after moving to New York City, he became a member of both the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and the Wynton Marsalis Quintet. Nimmer has performed and recorded with Jimmy Cobb, Norah Jones, Willie Nelson, Renée Fleming, Houston Person, Fareed Haque, George Benson, Lewis Nash, and many more. He has released six of his own trio albums on the Venus label (Japan).



**MARCUS PRINTUP** (*Trumpet, JLCO*) was born and raised in Conyers, Georgia. His first musical experiences were hearing the sanctified and soulful Gospel music his parents (Ann and Bobby), grandparents (J.C.) and older sister (Angela) sang in church. While attending the University of North Florida on a music scholarship, he won the International Trumpet Guild Jazz Trumpet competition. In 1991, Printup's life changed when he met his mentor, the great pianist Marcus Roberts, who introduced him to Wynton Marsalis. He subsequently joined Roberts as his road manager/understudy for two years. 1993 was a banner year for Printup. He performed for the first time with Marsalis in the latter's collaboration with the New York City Ballet, *Jazz in Six Syncopated Movements* which led to Printup's induction into the then Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Also, during this time, Printup was noticed by jazz legend, Betty Carter. Ms. Carter invited Printup to be in her inaugural and prestigious "Betty Carter Jazz Ahead" group, performing in a series of concerts at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Printup has performed and or recorded with Marcus Roberts, Betty Carter, Dianne Reeves, Guru, Madeline Peyroux, Ted Nash, Dianne Schuur, Cyrus Chestnut, and Wycliffe Gordon, among many others. He has recorded over 15 records as a leader, including his most recent *Gentle Rain* (2020) featuring his wife, Riza Printup, on the harp. He made a big screen appearance in the 1999 movie *Playing by Heart* and recorded on the film's soundtrack. Education is extremely important to Printup, as he is an in-demand clinician teaching middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the U.S. and abroad. He also holds the position of Adjunct Professor of Music at Montclair State University. August 22nd has been declared "Marcus Printup Day" in his hometown of Conyers, Georgia.



**KENNY RAMPTON** (*Trumpet, JLCO*) is a New York City-based trumpet player, arranger, and composer, a full-time member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and is the man behind the sound of the trumpet on the iconic television show *Sesame Street*. With over three decades of experience as a successful recording and performing artist, Rampton is deeply committed to sharing his passion and knowledge of music with students from around the world. In addition to his role as an education instructor for Jazz at Lincoln Center, Rampton is the founder and artistic director of his own nonprofit



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

educational organization Jazz Outreach Initiative, based in his hometown of Las Vegas, NV. Throughout his long and illustrious career, his signature style and versatility has led to many prestigious engagements, including touring as a member of the Ray Charles Orchestra, performing with notable jazz artists and ensembles such as Illinois Jacquet, Lionel Hampton, Gunther Schuller, The Christian McBride Big Band, The Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, Bebo Valdes' Afro-Cuban All-Stars, and The Mingus Big Band, and playing in a multitude of Broadway shows, including *Anything Goes*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *The Wiz*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Color Purple*, *Spamalot*, *The Producers*, *In the Heights*, and *Chicago*. Rampton has also worked with several pop artists and groups, including Katy Perry, Matchbox Twenty, and Chaka Khan. In addition to his trumpet playing, Rampton is an accomplished composer and bandleader in his own right. "Until Next Time," an original composition from his first solo album, *Moon Over Babylon*, was featured in the 2017 Broadway revival of *Six Degrees of Separation*. In 2015, Rampton collaborated with NYC Blues Hall of Fame artist Bill Sims, Jr. on the music for *Paradise Blue*, a play written by award-winning playwright Dominique Morisseau and directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson. In 2018, Rampton expanded his music for the play into *The Paradise Blue Suite*, which he premiered with the Kenny Rampton Octet at Dizzy's Club at JALC. He enjoys teaching private students from all over the world and has taught trumpet as an adjunct faculty member at The New School in New York City.

**ALEXA TARANTINO** (*Alto and Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Clarinet, JLCO*), in the words of Wynton Marsalis, is a "one-woman wrecking crew, [...] an indomitable force for expression, education, and absolute excellence." The vibrant and versatile jazz saxophone & woodwind artist has been triple-nominated as a Rising Star Alto Saxophonist by *Downbeat Magazine's* Critics' Poll from 2020–2022, was named one of the Top 5 Alto Saxophonists of 2019 by the *JazzTimes* Critics' Poll, and was one of 100 alumni to receive The Centennial Award from the Eastman School of Music (2022). Alexa "lights up rooms when she [plays]" (*JazzTimes*). Her radiant spirit and artistry uplift and inspire her audiences one performance at a time. Alexa tours worldwide with Cécile McLorin Salvant, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and the Alexa Tarantino Quartet. Her records (*Firefly*, *Clarity*, *Winds of Change*) and compositions have consistently topped jazz radio charts, and her discography includes 25+ released recordings as a leader and sidewoman. Tarantino is in-demand internationally as an energetic and impactful clinician, mentor, and



coach and also represents Jazz at Lincoln Center as a visiting educator for various programs with students of all ages and levels. She holds a master's degree in jazz studies from The Juilliard School and bachelor's degrees in jazz saxophone performance and music education with a certificate in arts leadership from the Eastman School of Music. Alexa is founder and artistic director of the Cape Ann Jazz Workshop in Rockport, Massachusetts (est. 2014). Alexa Tarantino is a Vandoren Artist, a Yamaha Performing Artist, and endorses BAM Instrument Cases.

# 2025-2026 HANCHER PARTNERS

## *Thank you.*

We thank our 2025–2026 Partners for their unwavering loyalty and crucial support. Their generosity enables us to bring the world’s finest performing artists to university students, staff, our community, and the region.

François M. & Doris E. Abboud

Terry & Johanna Abernathy  
in honor of Chuck Swanson

Kent & Kay Ackerson

Lee & Kazi Alward

Barrie Anderson

Drs. Michael & Carryn Anderson

Chad D. Andrews &  
Monica L. Boechenstedt/Pilot Wealth

Anonymous Donors

Artemus Bush-Helen Jones Trust

Dale & Linda (1946–2023) Baker

Jo Ann Bell in memory of Jim Bell

Kim Bergen-Jackson & family  
in memory of Rhoda Vernon

John & Carrie Bernat

Kay Birnbaum & Rick Martin

Loanna & Orville Bloethe/  
HLV Community School Fund

Warren (1938–2025) & Maryellen Boe

Paula O. Brandt

Natasha Wendt & Henry Olson  
in memory of Kay Braverman

Amy Kristof-Brown & Ken Brown

Carolyn Brown & Jerry Zimmermann

John & Ellen Buchanan

Richard & Ann Burton

Wendy Carter & Don Heistad  
in honor of the Preucil School

Karen H. Chappell  
in memory of Wallace K. Chappell

Joe & Rachel Christopher

City of Iowa City

Charles Richard & Barbara S. Clark

Dale & Cyndy Crider

Brad & Peggy Davis

William Dickinson

Mr. Ben & Dr. Dena Dillon

Peggy Doerge

Mary & Patrick Dreckman

Edward & Linda Dykstra

Susan Enzle & Gene Savin

Jack & Nancy Evans

Everybody’s Whole Foods

Michael S. & Renee Favo

John & Randee Fieselmann

Ed & Patricia Folsom

Bruce Gantz

The Gazette



CITY OF IOWA CITY  
UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE



Whole Foods Store

**The Gazette**  
thegazette.com

Miriam Gilbert  
Shaun & Jessica Glick  
Graduate Iowa City  
Luke & Hillary Granfield  
GreenState Credit Union  
George A. & Barbara J. Grilley  
Mitchell & Melanie Gross  
Brent Hadder  
Leonard & Marlene Hadley  
Kelly D. Hall/Live L.A.R.G.E. LLC.  
Stephen & JoAnne Hammes  
Hancher Showcase/Hancher Guild  
Kevin & Pat Hanick  
John Harper  
Karen & Greg Harper  
Bruce & Melanie Hauptert  
Vernon Hein Fund  
Donald W. Heineking (1935–2025)  
Emily Hill & Brad Manning  
Hills Bank  
Albert B. & Jean M. (1931–2022) Hood  
H. Dee & Myrene Hoover  
Jim & Judy Houghton  
Michael & Jennifer Hummel  
Richard & Judith Hurtig

Dr. Denise Jamieson & Tracee Treadwell  
Terry & Jone Johnson  
Larry G. & Ann Howard Jones  
Vocal Residency  
Kris Jones  
William & Susan Jones  
Will & Wendy Keen  
Kids Go to Hancher Fund  
Kenneth K. Kinsey Family Foundation  
Larry & Sandy Klosterman  
Jean Koch  
John (1945–2024) & Patricia Koza  
Tim & Sarah Krumm  
Jon & Carma Kuhl  
Karl Kundel & Allison Kundel  
Mary Jo & John Langhorne  
Robert J. & Sue B. Latham  
Bryan & Jan Lawler  
Michael & Chelle Lehman  
Valdean (1935–2024) & Lois Lembke  
Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service  
Russ Lenth & Jane DeWitt  
Jones Lewis Charitable Fund  
Little Village  
Jerry & Carol Litton



Ed & Ann Lorson  
Mark & Fran Lundy  
Nancy Lynch  
Lynette Marshall & Jeffery Ford  
Peter & Anne Matthes  
Yvonne McCabe  
David McCartney & James Petersen  
Jane McCune  
in memory of Robert Wachal  
McGrath Family of Dealerships  
The McIntyre Foundation  
John R. Menninger  
Mary & Jim Merchant  
In Memory of Mary Mixdorf  
Kevin & Julie Monson  
Frank & Jill Morriss  
Jerry & Judy Musser  
Alan & Kris Nagel  
in honor of Wally & Karen Chappell  
Margaret Neumann  
Neumann Monson Architects, Inc.  
Jeffrey & Kristine Nielsen  
Leslie and Mark Nolte / Nolte Academy  
Arthur & Ginger Nowak  
Oaknoll Retirement Residence  
Gregg Oden & Lola Lopes

Michael W. O'Hara & Jane Engeldinger  
Bertha Olin & the Olin Family  
OPN Architects, Inc.  
Gary & Nancy Pacha  
Dave Parsons & Carolyn Johnson  
Linda Paul  
in memory of Doug Paul (1952–2025)  
Chuck Peters  
Mary Ann Peters  
John Raley/American Family Insurance  
W. Christine Rauscher  
Robert & Cheryl Reardon  
Alan & Amy Reed  
Mark & Sheila Reed  
Chip & Michelle Reeves  
Dr. Ronald & Sue Reider  
Herm & L. Dianne Reininga  
David & Noreen Revier  
The Rice & Terry Family  
in memory of Tim Terry  
Jean E. & Renée Robillard  
Tom Rocklin & Barbara McFadden  
Gerald & Nancy Rose  
Jo Ellen Ross  
Bill Rubright in loving memory  
of Karen G. Rubright & Emilie J. Rubright



NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS



Jeff & Jan Rudolph  
Jeff & Susan Sailors  
Frank & Mary Scamman  
Steve & Janie Schomberg  
Ralph Schultz Family Foundation  
Charlotte & Rudy Schulz Director's Fund  
Marvin & Helen Schumacher  
Thomas R. Scott  
Hazel H. Seaba  
Nancy J. Sereduck  
Aaron & Lisa Shileny  
Shive-Hattery Architecture + Engineering  
Richard & Vicki Siefers  
Jonathan Simmons  
John & Dyan Smith  
Elliott & Caroline Sohn  
Jim Spevak  
Daniel R. & Beth Holden Stence  
Anna & Jeff Stone  
Edwin & Mary Stone  
Strauss Family  
Lyse Strnad & Tom Leavenworth  
Kristin E. Summerwill  
Suzanne Summerwill & James Flitz  
W. Richard (1935–2025) & Joyce Summerwill  
Melvin and Diane (1943–2025) Sunshine  
Alan & Liz Swanson

The Chuck Swanson Executive  
Directorship of Hancher Auditorium Fund  
Think Iowa City  
James & Robin Torner  
Dick & Buffie Tucker  
Douglas & Vance Van Daele  
The Rhoda Vernon Endowment  
Bill Waldie & Pat Heiden  
Anne Wallace & William Gay  
Stuart & Lynn Weinstein  
Paul Weller & Sara Rynes-Weller  
Stephen & Victoria West  
West Music  
Ryan & Amanda West  
LaDonna & Gary Wicklund  
Ellen M. Widiss  
Candace Wiebener  
Derek & Pamela Willard  
Barbara Wilson & John Lammers  
in memory of Wally Chappell  
James & Lena Wockenfuss  
Sara & Sherwood Wolfson  
Educational Fund  
Steve Wolken & Sue Montgomery Wolken  
George & Carrol Woodworth  
Catherine Zaharis & Robert Michael  
Deborah & Rodney Zeitler

# COMING SOON

## FEBRUARY

BROADWAY SERIES

### **Clue**

Friday, February 6 / 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 7 / 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 8 / 2:00 p.m.

HANCHER UP CLOSE

### **Gabriel Kahane**

***Magnificent Bird & Book of Travelers***

**with community dinner**

Sunday, February 22 / 4:00 p.m.

### **Isidore String Quartet at the Iowa Writers' Workshop**

Tuesday, February 24 / 1:00 p.m.

Iowa Writers' Workshop / Dey House / Frank Conroy Reading Room

FREE

HANCHER UP CLOSE

### **Isidore String Quartet - SOLD OUT!**

Thursday, February 26 / 7:30 p.m.

### **VOCES8 - SOLD OUT!**

**featuring the University of Iowa's Kantorei**

Saturday, February 28 / 7:30 p.m.

Voxman Music Building / Concert Hall / Auditorium Seating

## MARCH

BROADWAY SERIES

### **Rent in Concert**

Sunday, March 1 / 7:00 p.m.

### **An Evening with Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit**

Wednesday, March 4 / 7:30 p.m.

### **The Joffrey Ballet**

***American Icons***

Saturday, March 7 / 7:30 p.m.

## **Joshua Bell and The Academy of St Martin in the Fields**

*Joshua Bell, Music Director & Violin*

Wednesday, March 11 / 7:30 p.m.

CLUB HANCHER

### **Camila Fernández**

Thursday, March 12 / 7:30 p.m.

### **Bob Dylan - SOLD OUT!**

#### ***Rough and Rowdy Ways***

Wednesday, March 25 / 8:00 p.m.

BROADWAY SERIES

#### ***The Music Man***

Friday, March 27 / 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 28 / 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 29 / 2:00 p.m.

## **APRIL**

CLUB HANCHER

### **Dobet Gnahoré**

Friday, April 10 / 7:30 p.m.

CLUB HANCHER

### **Beth Stelling**

Friday, April 10 / 7:30 p.m.

### **Manual Cinema's *The 4th Witch***

Friday, April 17 / 7:30 p.m.

The Englert Theatre / Auditorium Seating

## **MAY**

BROADWAY SERIES

#### ***Beetlejuice***

Friday, May 1 / 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 2 / 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 3 / 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

CLUB HANCHER

### **Brad Mehldau Trio - SOLD OUT!**

Sunday, May 10 / 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.



HANCHER'S 2025-2026 SEASON IS DEDICATED TO

# WALLY CHAPPELL



Above: Robert Joffrey (left) with Wally Chappell (right) backstage at the original Hancher Auditorium in 1986.

We recently lost a major member of our Hancher family. Former executive director and forever friend Wally Chappell peacefully passed away in April of 2025 in Iowa City at the age of 83. His incredible wife Karen was by his side. Wally was a leader at Hancher Auditorium and the University of Iowa, a force within the field of the arts, and an unmatched champion for culture in Iowa City. He was full of love for people, passion for experiencing the world (art, food, adventure!), and always advocating for his community.

Our giants cannot be replaced, but they can be remembered with awe, joy, and sadness all at once. We can carry forward the values and inspiration they left behind. Our Hancher family will always build upon the incredible legacy left for us by Wally. He is a hero in our minds and his spirit is forever in our hearts.