

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

JAZZ ENSEMBLES I AND II PRESENT

DIRECTED BY WIL SWINDLER AND SHILO STROMAN

GUEST ARTIST

Jon Gordon

APRIL 23, 7:30 P.M.
GRIFFIN CONCERT HALL



COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SEASON SPONSOR:



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JAZZ ENSEMBLES CONCERT

APRIL 23, 2024, 7:30 P.M. | GRIFFIN CONCERT HALL

JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST, JON GORDON, ALTO SAXOPHONE

***Second Thoughts* / Bill Mobley**

Dylan Leftwich, trombone

Anthony Sacheli, alto saxophone

***Off the Cuff* / Jim McNeely**

Damian Lesperance-Young, tenor saxophone

Mason Siders, piano

***Walkin' About* / Thad Jones**

Charles Gamble, tenor saxophone

Mason Siders, piano

***Zedtro-Therinika* (world premiere) / Wil Swindler**

***Skylark* / Hoagy Carmichael, arr by Bob Brookmeyer**

***Dance, You Monster to my Soft Song* / Maria Schneider**

Jack Kaskela, guitar

PERSONNEL

Wil Swindler, director

Saxophones

Ethan Dunkerton

Anthony Sacheli

Damian Lesperance-Young

Charles Gamble

James Mephram

Trumpets

Will Hiatt

Kris Usrey

Drew Bradley

Dylan Crabill

Trombones

Joseph Raby

Dylan Leftwich

Bryce Medlyn

Shae Mitchell, bass

Guitar

Jack Kaskela

Piano

Mason Siders

Bass

Isacc Hermanson

Drums

Colin Ferry

JAZZ ENSEMBLE II

Out of Nowhere / Johnny Green, arr by Michael Sweeney

Aiden Flanagan, piano

Riley Meadows, trumpet

Elena Crooks, trombone

Benjamin Lieber, trombone

Alexa Hudson, trumpet

April in Paris / Vernon Duke, arr by Bob Mintzer

Aiden Flanagan, piano

Ethyn Bazzeghin, trumpet

William Edmundson, tenor saxophone

Groovin' High / Dizzy Gillespie, arr by Mark Taylor

Aiden Flanagan, piano

Glass Tiger / by Charles Gamble

William Edmundson, tenor saxophone

Sidewinder / by Lee Morgan, arr by Mark Taylor

Andrew Zimbelman, trombone

Alex Gregory, trumpet

William Edmundson, tenor saxophone

Ethan Barker, trombone

Alexa Hudson, trumpet

Riley Meadows, trumpet

PERSONAL:

Shilo Stroman, director

Saxophones

Al I Johanna Merkel

Al II Mason Wignall

Tn I William Edmundson

Tn II Riley Busch

Bari Isaiah Allen

Trumpets

Tpt I Riley Meadows

Tpt II Alexa Hudson

Tpt III Alex Gregory

Tpt IV Ethyn Bazzeghin

Trombones

Tbn I Elena Crooks

Tbn II Benjamin Lieber

Tbn III Ethan Barker

Tbn III Brenna Hudson

Bass Andrew Zimbelman

Rhythm Section

Piano Aiden Flanagan

Bass Delany Wolinski

Drums Ed Willett



A native New Yorker, saxophonist and composer **JON GORDON** was born into a musical family and began playing at age ten. In addition to private saxophone studies he attended Performing Arts High School and won numerous competitions, including the Performing Arts Concerto competition. This led to performances as a soloist with the Julius Grossman orchestra, Goldman Band and the Performing Arts Orchestra.

In his mid-teens Jon's love for Jazz was sparked after a friend played him a Phil Woods record. He began sitting in regularly with Eddie Chamblee at Sweet Basil and started lessons with Phil Woods. From 1984-88 he attended Manhattan School of Music. During this time Jon began sitting in with Charles McPherson, Doc Cheatham, Phil Woods, Mike Stern, Jacky Terrason, and others, as well as working professionally with Red Rodney, Roy Eldridge, Barney Kessel, Al Grey, Eddie Locke, Mike LeDonne, Mel Lewis, Doc Cheatham, Larry Goldings, Ben Monder, Peter Bernstein, Leon Parker, et al.

In November of 1996, Jon won the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition. Judges for this important event were Wayne Shorter, Jackie McLean, Joe Lovano, Jimmy Heath and Joshua Redman.

Since the early 1990's, Jon has worked with Maria Schneider, Ron McClure, Clark Terry, Benny Carter, Phil Woods, T.S. Monk, Rufus Reid, Aretha Franklin, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Bill Charlap, Ray Barreto, Mark Turner, George Colligan, Chico Hamilton, Jimmy Cobb, Ben Riley, Harry Connick jr., Bob Mintzer, Bill Mobley, Tony Bennett, Bruce Springsteen, Max Weinberg, The N.Y. Pops Orchestra, The Carolina Philharmonic, The Winnipeg Symphony orchestra, among many others. Jon also appears regularly as a member of the Jazz Nativity, whose other featured artists have included Tito Puente, Ron Carter, Clark Terry, Dave Brubeck, Savion Glover, Slide Hampton, Harold Nicholas and others.

Jon has led his own groups at various European, Canadian and U.S. jazz festivals and clubs including Ronnie Scott's and The Pizza Express, (London), The Sunside, The Sunset, and Le Bal Blomet, (Paris), The Brecon Jazz Festival (Wales), The Oslo Jazz Festival, The Torino Jazz Festival, The Ottawa Jazz Festival, The Winnipeg Jazz Festival, The Royal Caribbean Floating Jazz Festival, Savannah on Stage, The Savannah Jazz Festival, The Wolftrap Festival, and others. He has performed as a sideman at dozens of other festivals, clubs and concert halls around the world, including Carnegie Hall, L'Olympia (Paris), The Royal Albert Hall (London), The Beacon Theater, Radio City Music Hall, Alice Tully Theater, Lincoln Center, Damrausch Park, The Allen Room, et al.

Recent N.Y. appearances include Dizzy's, The Kitano, Smalls, Birdland, The Iridum, The Jazz Standard, Jazz in July at the 92nd Street Y, the JVC Jazz Festival, the Village Vanguard, Fat Cat, The Charlie Parker Festival, and others. He has been mentioned in many Down Beat polls in multiple saxophone categories and the composition category since the late 90s.

His 1997 release, "Along The Way", was selected by Peter Watrous of the NY times as the 2nd best jazz release of 1997. Jon's 2008 CD, "Within Worlds" was selected by *Down Beat* as one of the top jazz recordings of the decade. His 2009 recording, "Evolution", was selected by several jazz journalists and publications as one of the best CDs of the year, as was his 2021 CD, "Stranger Than Fiction". It was also nominated for a JUNO award for best jazz release of 2021. His next recording, "7th Ave South", will be released in May of 2024.

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