

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

CSU JAZZ ENSEMBLE I  
DIRECTED BY WIL SWINDLER

JAZZ ENSEMBLE II  
DIRECTED BY DARREN KRAMER

**JAZZ ENSEMBLES CONCERT**  
**WITH SPECIAL GUEST**

**MICHAEL  
DEASE**

*March 6, 2025, 7:30 p.m.*

*Griffin Concert Hall*



COLORADO STATE  
UNIVERSITY



## **JAZZ ENSEMBLE II**

### **Phat 2's Day**

Darren Kramer

Charles Sommer, drums  
Caelan Herk, trombone  
Mateo Novoa, guitar  
Hannes Spiller, trumpet  
Ben Giese, trumpet  
Ethan Barker, trombone  
Ryan Starr, trombone  
Andrew Farris, alto sax  
Mason Wignall, alto sax  
Melody Mills-Honstein, sousaphone

### **Basie Straight Ahead**

Sammy Nestico

Aidan Flanagan, piano  
William Edmundson, tenor  
Caelan Herk, trombone

### **My Funny Valentine**

Composed by Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart

Arranged by Dave Barduhn

Aidan Flanagan, piano  
Bryce Wicks, trumpet

### **Sing Sing Sing**

Composed by Louis Prima

Transcribed & Adapted by Myles Collins

Charles Sommer, drums  
Melody Mills-Honstein, clarinet  
William Edmundson, clarinet

## **Spin Cycle**

Alan Baylock

William Edmundson, soprano sax

Aidan Flanagan, piano

Melody Mills-Honstein, bari sax

Mateo Novoa, guitar

James Bryce, electric bass

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Darren Kramer, director**

Alto 1 Andrew Farris

Alto 2 Mason Wignall

Tenor 1 William Edmundson

Tenor 2 Isaiah Allen

Baritone Melody Mills-Honstein

Trumpet 1 Drew Bradley

Trumpet 2 Hannes Spiller

Trumpet 3 Ben Giese

Trumpet 4 Alex Gregory

Trumpet 5 Bryce Wicks

Trombone 1 Amber Minich

Trombone 2 Caelan Herk

Trombone 3 Ryan Starr

Trombone 4 Ethan Barker

Trombone 5 Andre Ranis

Guitar Mateo Novoa

Piano Aidan Flanagan

Bass James Bryce

Drums Charles Sommer

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE I FEATURING MICHAEL DEASE, TROMBONE**

**What is This Thing Called Love?**

Composed by Cole Porter

Arranged by Wil Swindler

**Once Forgotten**

Composed by Roy Hargrove

Arranged by Jason Hainsworth

David Mesquitic, piano

Will Hiatt, flugelhorn

Jack Kaskela, guitar

**In a Mellow Tone**

Composed by Duke Ellington

Arranged by Oliver Nelson

Dylan Leftwich, tbn

Sam Lumsden, alto

**Shortcake**

Composed by J.J. Johnson

Arranged by Jason Hainsworth

Isaac Hermanson, bass

**I'm Glad There is You**

Composed by Jimmy Dorsey

Arranged by Michael Dease

**Horse Trading**

Composed by Michael Dease

Arranged by Jakob Hartz

Damian Lesperance-Young, tenor

Anthony Sacheli, alto

## **JAZZ I PERSONNEL:**

**Wil Swindler, director**

### **Saxophones**

Sam Lumsden, alto 1  
Anthony Sacheli, alto 2  
Damian Lesperance-Young, tenor 1  
KC Flanagan, tenor 2  
Ayla Kohnke, baritone  
CJ Buttermann, flute

### **Trumpets**

Will Hiatt  
Dylan Crabill  
Riley Meadows  
Lauren Smith  
Sam Helgerson

### **Trombones**

Dylan Leftwich  
Elena Crooks  
Silas Riep  
Andrew Zimbelman

### **Rhythm Section**

Jack Kaskela, guitar  
Dr. David Mesquitic, piano (faculty guest)  
Isaac Hermanson, bass  
Eddie Willett, drums



**MICHAEL DEASE** is one of the world's eminent trombonists, lending his versatile sound and signature improvisations to over 200 recordings and groups as diverse as Grammy winning artists David Sanborn, Christian McBride, Michel Camilo, and Alicia Keys. Born in Augusta, GA, he played the saxophone and trumpet before choosing the trombone at age 17. In 2001, Dease moved to New York City to become part of the historic first class of jazz students at The Juilliard School, earning both Bachelors and Masters degrees, and quickly established a reputation as a brilliant soloist, sideperson, and bandleader.

Dease, the winner of the 69th Annual DownBeat Magazine Poll for Trombonist of the Year and multi-Grammy award winner, is also a sought-after lead, section and bass trombonist with today's leading jazz orchestras. His experiences include bands led by Christian McBride, Roy Hargrove, Nicholas Payton, Charles Tolliver, Rufus Reid, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band. However, it is on the frontline of quintets and sextets led by master musicians like The Heath Brothers, Winard Harper, Renee Rosnes, Bill Charlap, Claudio Roditi, and Lewis Nash, where Dease has revitalized the trombone's image. Not content to simply improvise, Dease arranges and composes for many different bands, constantly adjusting his tone and timbre to add just the right flavor to the music.

Dease's unique blend of curiosity, hard work and optimism has helped him earn worldwide recognition, including awards from ASCAP, The International Trombone Association, Yamaha, Eastern Trombone Workshop, New York Youth Symphony, Hot House Magazine, Michigan State University, among others. Dease was profiled in Cicily Janus' book, *The New Face of Jazz: An Intimate Look at Today's Living Legends* (Random House). His experience in the studio has led him to produce several recording sessions for emerging artists, often composing and writing liner notes for the releases.

Dease's singular talent has made him an effective and prolific teacher, resulting in invitations, master classes and residencies at University of North Texas, Scranton University, University of Iowa, Florida State College, Broward College, and many institutions abroad. He serves as Professor of Jazz Trombone at the renowned Michigan State University jazz program and has also been on faculty at Queens College - CUNY, The New School and North-eastern University. Many of Dease's current and former students are enjoying successful careers in the music world.

Always an informed, but forward-thinking musician, Dease learned the craft from trombone legends Wycliffe Gordon and Joseph Alessi. His associations have run the entire spectrum of musical experience: Alicia Keys, Paul Simon, Paul Schaffer and the CBS Orchestra, Elton John, Neal Diamond, Illinois Jacquet, Slide Hampton & The World of Trombones, Fred Wesley, Maceo Parker, WDR Big Band, George Gruntz, Billy Harper, and numerous others.

Dease enjoys spending every possible minute with his extraordinary wife and Professor of Percussion at MSU, Gwendolyn Dease, and their daughters Brooklyn & Charley. Michael Dease is a Yamaha Performing Artist and uses Pickett Brass and Vandoren mouthpieces exclusively.



**DARREN KRAMER** is a professional trombonist, composer, educator, music producer, and motivational speaker who has performed throughout the world as a trombonist with diverse artists Matchbox Twenty, Garth Brooks, Marc Anthony, Tom Jones, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies with Mercer Ellington*. Kramer is a prolific composer having recorded six original CDs and has arranged more than 400 songs, which feature Grammy

Award-winning artists such as Michael Brecker and Jerry Hey. Kramer grew up in a musical family in Colorado, graduated from the University of Miami, and is an XO Brass Artist and Ableton Certified Trainer who now creatively combines live acoustic instruments with music technology. Kramer shares his vast knowledge from 40 years of extensive performing and teaching experience via his 2023 TEDx Talk and online course "Trombonology", his ultramodern group ElektroHornz, as well as his music and wellness podcast Sonic Tonic Experience.



Composer and saxophonist, **WIL SWINDLER** currently resides near Denver, Colorado, where he leads Wil Swindler's Elevenet, the modern bop quintet GoodRattle, and the Wil Swindler Quartet. In addition to his own bands, he is an active performer with the Peter Sommer Septet, The Annie Booth Big Band, Remy LeBouf's Assembly of Shadows, Al Hood's H2 Big Band, Colorado Symphony, the Ben Markley Big Band, and the Dallas Symphony. After receiving IAJE's Gil Evans Fellowship for

2008, Wil has completed numerous commissions from military bands, symphony orchestras, and big bands around the world. Wil has four albums available under his own name, *Space Bugs* (OA2 Records 2022), *Universe B* (OA2 Records 2010), *The Right Riot* (2014), and *Chamber Jazz Ensemble* (NohJoh Music 2006), and can be heard on numerous other

albums including Ingrid Michaelson's *Songs for the Season*, Ben Markley's Ari's *Funhouse* and *Clockwise*, Steve Owen's *Stand Up Eight*, Peter Sommer's *Happy-Go-Lucky-Locals*, Ted Piltzecker's *Vibes on a Breath*, Tom Amend's *Bishop's Lair*, Al Hood/Dave Hansen's *Jazz Muses* and *You're It*, Bob Washut's *Journey to Knowhere*, and David Caffey's *Enter Autumn* and *All in One*. Mr. Swindler's most recent project is the premiere of his concerto for Jazz Trio with Symphony Orchestra, "The Point," which premieres on Oct 5, 2023.

As an educator, Wil is in demand as a saxophone and jazz clinician and joined the music faculty at Colorado State University as a jazz instructor in 2009. He is currently the coordinator of Jazz Studies and director of Jazz Bands at CSU. He is a frequent adjudicator for high school and college jazz festivals around the country and maintains a private saxophone/composition studio in the Denver area. Wil has served as an adjunct saxophone teacher and Jazz Ensemble director at Denver University, instructor at the University of Northern Colorado, and composition teacher for the Colorado Conservatory of the Jazz Arts. He is also the camp director for the CSU Jazz Summer Workshop.

Originally from Central Texas, Wil began studying music at age five and picked up the saxophone at age nine. He earned a B.M. in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas in 2001 where he played in, composed for, and recorded with the 1:00 Lab Band. In 2000 he attended the Henry Mancini Institute on a full scholarship from BMI and received a commission the following year from HMI for a piece premiered at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. In 2001, Wil relocated to New York City, where he played with Toshiko Akiyoshi and Bill Warfield's NY Fusion Ensemble, among others. During his time in N.Y., Wil studied saxophone with Dave Pietro and composition with Michael Abene and Jim McNeely as a member of the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop. In 2003, he returned to his hometown of Austin, Texas, where he co-founded the 10-pc Chamber Jazz Ensemble and served as musical director for vocalist Kevin Ahart. Mr. Swindler has lived in Colorado since 2006 with his wife April Johannesen, and daughter Anna.

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