

MSM JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Miguel Zenón (MM '01), Conductor and Solo Alto Saxophone

Identities Are Changeable: The Music of Miguel Zenón (MM '01)

All music composed and arranged by Miguel Zenón

Through Culture

Same Flight

My Home

First Language

A NOTE ON THE MUSIC

The music of Miguel Zenón's album *Identities Are Changeable* (Miel Music, 2014) was inspired by the idea of national identity as experienced by the Puerto Rican community in the United States, specifically in the New York area. All of the music on the album was written around a series of interviews with several individuals, all of them New Yorkers of Puerto Rican descent. The narrative created by these conversations gave birth to the compositions on the record, with audio excerpts from the interviews weaving in and out of each piece. Nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album, and named one of the best recordings of the year by NBC News, NPR, the *Boston Globe*, *Rhapsody*, *All About Jazz*, and *Jazz News*, the album features Zenón's longstanding quartet, with Luis Perdomo, Hans Glawischnig, and Henry Cole, and a twelve-piece large ensemble of some of the best musicians in jazz today.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Multiple Grammy nominee and Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow Miguel Zenón represents a select group of musicians who have masterfully balanced and blended the often-contradictory poles of innovation and tradition. Widely considered one of the most groundbreaking and influential saxophonists of his generation, he has also developed a unique voice as a composer and as a conceptualist, concentrating his efforts on perfecting a fine mix between jazz and his many musical influences.

Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Zenón has released 14 recordings as a leader, including the Grammy nominated *Sonero: The Music of Ismael Rivera* (2019), *Yo Soy La Tradición* (2018), and *Típico* (2017). As a sideman he has worked with luminaries such as the SFJAZZ Collective, Charlie Haden, Fred Hersch, Kenny Werner, David Sánchez, Danilo Pérez, the Village Vanguard Orchestra, Kurt Elling, Guillermo Klein & Los Guachos, the Jeff Ballard Trio, Antonio Sánchez, David Gilmore, Paoli Mejías, Brian Lynch, Jason Lindner, Miles Okazaki, Ray Barreto, Andy Montañez, Jerry Gonzalez & the Fort Apache Band, the Mingus Big Band, Bobby Hutcherson, and Steve Coleman.

Zenón has been featured in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. He topped both the Jazz Artist of the Year and Alto Saxophonist of the Year categories in the 2014 Jazz Times Critics Poll and was selected as Alto Saxophonist of the Year by the Jazz Journalist Association in 2015, 2018, 2019, and 2020 (when he was also recognized as Arranger of the Year).

As a composer he has been commissioned by SFJAZZ, NYO Jazz, the New York State Council for the Arts, Chamber Music America, Logan Center for the Arts, the Hyde Park Jazz Festival, the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, MIT, New Music USA, Jazz Reach, Peak Performances, PRISM Quartet, and many of his peers.

Zenón has given hundreds of lectures and master classes at institutions all over the world and is a permanent faculty member at the New England Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music. He also serves as Artist-in-Residence for the Zuckerman Institute at Columbia University. In 2011 he founded Caravana Cultural, a program that presents jazz concerts free-of-charge in rural areas of Puerto Rico. In April 2008 Zenón received a fellowship from the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. Later that year he was one of 25 distinguished individuals chosen to receive the coveted MacArthur Fellowship, also known as the "Genius Grant." www.miguelzenon.com

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PIANO

Sam Towse
Halesite, New York

BASS

Hamish Smith
Christchurch, New Zealand

DRUMS

Varun Das
Edison, New Jersey

TRUMPET

Brandon Choi
Camarillo, California

Camerahn Alfourque
San Diego, California

Geoffrey Galante
Alexandria, Virginia

TROMBONE

Joe Giordano
Albany, New York

Jack (John) Kotze
Frankfurt, Illinois

Evan Amaroso
Harrisonburg, Virginia

SAXOPHONE

Joe Miller, alto
Miami, Florida

Nicola Camineti, alto
Messina, Italy

Bernell Jones, tenor
Memphis, Tennessee

Austin Zhang,
baritone
Plano, Texas

ABOUT MSM JAZZ ARTS

Manhattan School of Music was one of the first conservatories in the United States to acknowledge the importance of jazz as an art form by establishing undergraduate and graduate degree programs in jazz. The program is one of the richest of its kind, combining systematic and rigorous conservatory training with a myriad of performance and networking opportunities in New York City. In addition to a variety of small combos, student ensembles include the LatinX Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, and the Jazz Philharmonic. The program is under the leadership of Interim Associate Dean and Director of Jazz Arts and jazz trumpet faculty member Ingrid Jensen.

In addition to studies with a faculty drawn from the highest ranks of the jazz world, students are provided opportunities to play for and observe world-renowned guest artists. Master classes in recent years have been presented by Terrence Blanchard (trumpet), Billy Childs (piano, composition), Buster Williams (bass), Ron Carter (bass), Christian Scott (trumpet), Barry Harris (piano), Stefan Harris (vibraphone), Maria Schneider (composition), Vijay Iyer (piano), Jason Moran (MM '97) (piano), Christian McBride (bass), Jimmy Heath (tenor saxophone), Jon Faddis (trumpet), Gary Burton (vibraphone), and Wycliffe Gordon (trombone).

Every concert season, prominent guest artists are featured with our large ensembles, providing enriched performance experiences for students. Guest artists have included Omar Thomas, Jim McNeely, Jane Monheit, Candido, Dave Liebman, Randy Weston, Joe Lovano, Bob Mintzer, Randy Brecker, Jon Faddis, Paquito D'Rivera, and Miguel Zenón (MM '01).

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 960 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege program continues to offer superior music instruction to 475 young musicians between the ages of 5 and 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit msmnyc.edu/support