

MSM JAZZ ORCHESTRA

John Beasley, Conductor and Arranger

Duke, Monk, and Bird

Thursday, February 3, 2022 | 7:30 PM
Livestreamed from Neidorff-Karpati Hall

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Welcome

Joyce Griggs, Executive Vice President and Provost

The music for this evening's concert will be chosen from the following tunes:

Duke Ellington

African Lace (aka Silk Lace)

The Feeling of Jazz

Come Sunday

Charlie Parker

I'll Remember April

Koko

Thelonious Monk

Rhythm-A-Ning

Crepuscle with Nelly

Ask Me Now

John Beasley

Steve-o

ROSTER

TRUMPET

Grace Fox
Ian Cleaver
Alex Ridout
Elijah Goldstein
Jonathan Shillingford

TROMBONE

Armando Vergara
Remee Ashley
Aidan Doyle
Evan Amoroso,
bass trombone

SAXOPHONE

Nicola Caminiti,
alto and doubles
Connor MacLeod,
alto and doubles
Adam Lamoureux,
tenor and doubles
Maxwell Barnes,
tenor and doubles
Bryan Cowan,
baritone and doubles

DOUBLE BASS

Shuji Watanabe
Hamish Smith

DRUMS

Quinton Cain
Kabelo Mohkatla

GUITAR

Alon Finkelstein
Tim Johnson

PIANO/KEYBOARD

Gabriel Chakarji
Sterling Cozza

VIBES

Juan Diego
Villa Lobos

VOCALS

Daniella Pruitt,
Come Sunday
April Varner, *Koko*
Yuko Kawasaki,
Crepuscule with Nellie
Larissa Jones, *I'll*
Remember April
Jillian Willis, *Ask Me*
Now

ABOUT THE ARTIST

John Beasley, Conductor

John Beasley, winner of a 2021 Grammy Award winner for Best Arrangement, is a versatile pianist, composer, arranger who began his career in his 20s backing jazz icons Miles Davis and Freddie Hubbard. Since then, Beasley has performed with a wide range of artists, including Dianne Reeves, Ivan Lins, John Patitucci, Chaka Khan, Christian McBride, Carly Simon, Steely Dan, Lee Ritenour, and A. R. Rahman.

He is the Music Director for the International Jazz Day global gala concerts hosted by the Herbie Hancock Jazz Institute, which earned him an Emmy nomination in 2016 for *Jazz at the White House*, hosted by President Obama. He has been Music Director for international tours with Steely Dan, A. R. Rahman, and Queen Latifah and co-MD for Chucho Valdes.

Beasley's extensive work as a composer-arranger extends beyond jazz, with many credits in television, such as *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Cheers*, and *Fame*, and in films scored by 15-time Oscar nominee Thomas Newman, including *1917*, the James Bond films *Spectre* and *Skyfall*, *Finding Dory*, *He Named Me Malala*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, and *Let Them All Talk*.

As a recording artist Beasley has a dozen albums and has earned nine Grammy nominations. Six of his nine nominations are for *MONKestra*, his 3-album series that captures the spirit of Thelonious Monk's singular music in fresh arrangements. Awarded five stars by *Downbeat* and *Jazz Journal UK*, it has been called "some of the most mesmerizing big band music of recent memory." His third album in the series, *MONKestra Plays John Beasley*, showcases his own compositions and more unique arrangements of Monk, Ellington, and Bird songs.

Beasley has taken his *MONKestra* charts to various schools and rehearsed and conducted student big bands in the U.S. and Europe, including MSM, Rutgers, Frost, and Julliard and the Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and Maastrich conservatories in Holland.

Beasley also earned a 2021 Grammy nomination for Best Arrangement and a 2020 Latin Grammy nomination for *Close to Me*, an album he produced with Portuguese singer Maria Mendes with the Metropole Orchestra, on which he also plays piano and was the arranger, conductor, and orchestrator. He earned another Grammy nomination in 2021 for conducting and arranging vocalist Somi's new album *Holy Room*, which also won the NCAAP Outstanding Jazz Vocal Album Award. His latest album is a Charlie Parker project, *Bird Lives*, which he co-conducts/arranges and produced for ACT Music with Stuttgart's SWR Big Band.

Students in this performance are supported by scholarships provided by the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, the ASCAP Foundation, the ELMA Music Foundation, and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

We are grateful to the generous donors who made these scholarships possible. For information on establishing a named scholarship at Manhattan School of Music, please contact Susan Madden, Vice President for Advancement, at 917-493-4115 or smadden@msmny.edu.

Beasley has also worked as Music Director for TV specials and series such as *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit: 50 Years of Beautiful*, *Sing Your Face Off*, and the musical competition Duets with John Legend. Lead Arranger on *American Idol* for ten years, Beasley was Associate MD when Carrie Underwood won during his first year with the show.

Recently, Beasley has been working with youth and professional big bands. He was commissioned by Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra to write the song *Fête dans la Tête* for its 2020 program. He wrote a commission for the LA Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles called *A History of Jazz*. Presently, he is working with both Frankfurt's and Stuttgart's radio big bands on programs featuring the music of Chick Corea, Duke Ellington, Wayne Shorter, Weather Report, and Charlie Parker.

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), Stefon 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 985 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 Division is a highly competitive and professionally oriented Saturday music program, dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 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

Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.

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