

M Manhattan
School of Music

MSM JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Jim McNeely, Conductor

A Celebration of Jim McNeely

With Special Guests

Mike Holober, Guest Conductor

Ingrid Jensen, trumpet

Scott Wendholt, trumpet

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023 | 7:30 PM
NEIDORFF-KARPATI HALL

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PROGRAM

Jim McNeely

Thad (1995)

Tightrope Walker (2005)

Lost (2001)

Group Therapy (2001)

In This Moment (2002)

Big Red Thing (2007)

Dayna Stephens/ Gretchen Parlato
(arr. Jim McNeely)

The Lost and Found (2011)

Jim McNeely

Tbrenody (2022)

Extra Credit (1993)

MSM JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Jim McNeely, Conductor

TRUMPET

Kellin Hanas

Wheaton, Illinois

Alexandra Ridout

Aylesbury, United Kingdom

Daphnis Moglia

Paris, France

Evan Dalling

Toronto, Canada

Grace Fox

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

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trombone

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trombone

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trombone

Freeport, New York

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trombone

VOCALS

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(The Lost and Found)

Forest Knolls, California

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drums

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* *In This Moment, Big Red Thing*

** *Lost, Group Therapy*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jim McNeely

Born in Chicago, Jim McNeely received his B.Mus. in composition from the University of Illinois in 1975 and moved to New York City. He joined the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra in 1978 and spent six years as a featured soloist with that band and its successor, Mel Lewis and the Jazz Orchestra (now the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra). In 1981 Jim began his four-year tenure as pianist/composer with the Stan Getz Quartet. From 1990 until 1995 he held the piano chair in the Phil Woods Quintet. At the present time, he leads his own tentet and trio and appears as soloist at concerts and festivals worldwide.

As composer/arranger and conductor for large jazz bands, Jim has earned 12 Grammy nominations; his reputation continues to flourish. In 1996 he re-joined the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra as pianist and composer-in residence. He is the former chief conductor, and current composer-in-residence, with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band, where he has collaborated on projects with artists such as Dave Holland, John Scofield, Luciana Souza, Branford Marsalis, Dave Douglas, Ambrose Akinmusire, and many others. Other recent work includes projects with the Danish Radio Big Band, where he was chief conductor for five years, the Metropole Orchestra (Netherlands), the Swiss Jazz Orchestra, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw. The *New York Times* has called his writing “exhilarating”; *DownBeat* has said that his music is “eloquent enough to be profound.” He won a Grammy for his work on the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra’s *Monday Night Live at the Village Vanguard* on Planet Arts Records.

Jim has appeared as sideman on numerous recordings led by major artists such as Thad Jones, Mel Lewis, Stan Getz, Bob Brookmeyer, and Phil Woods. The latest of his numerous albums under his own name is *Rituals*, with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band and Chris Potter, “a fascinating listen” given five stars by *DownBeat*. Ed Enright lauded it in his review as “a dramatic homage of breathtaking breadth and sophistication that succeeds on every level.”

Teaching is also an important part of Jim’s work. Now professor emeritus of jazz composition at Manhattan School of Music, he joined the faculty in 2008. He has held positions at William Paterson University and New York University and for 24 years was involved with the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop, including 16 as musical director. He has appeared at numerous college jazz festivals in the U.S. as performer and clinician and has done clinics and major residencies at dozens of institutions in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and Egypt.

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Manhattan School of Music's Centennial Project was an ambitious program of improvements to the School's architecturally distinguished campus coinciding with MSM's 100th anniversary. The centerpiece of the Project was the renovation of Neidorff-Karpati Hall, MSM's principal performance space, which has been transformed into a state-of-the-art venue to showcase our talented students. Built in 1931 and designed by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, the architects of the Empire State Building, the hall has been called "one of the Art Deco treats in the city" by the *New York Times*. The Project also included a dramatic and welcoming new campus entrance on Claremont Avenue, new practice rooms, and an expansion of the main entryway and lobby.

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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.

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