

M Manhattan
School of Music

FACULTY RECITAL

**Dayna Stephens,
saxophone**

Scott Wendholt, trumpet

John Benitez, bass

Kendrick Scott, drums and cymbals

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024 | 7:30 PM
WILLIAM R. AND IRENE D. MILLER RECITAL HALL

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PROGRAM

Ron Blake *Re: Evaluation*
(b. 1965)

Billy Mohler *Perseverance*
(b. 1975)

Dayna Stephens *Jump Start*
(b. 1978)

Trust

Rhyming History

Scott Wendholt *Lipso*
(b. 1965)

Dayna Stephens *Why Can't You See Them*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Dayna Stephens

Dayna Stephens is globally recognized as a saxophonist, composer, arranger, and educator. His new quartet with Emmanuel Michael, Kanoa Mendenhall, and Jongkuk Kim has a new recording set to be released on Cellar Live in early 2024.

A graduate of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, where he studied under artistic icons Terence Blanchard, Wayne Shorter, and Herbie Hancock, Dayna began his formal studies with a full scholarship at Berklee College of Music in Boston. He currently teaches at Manhattan School of Music and William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey.

He was the first-place recipient of the 2019 *DownBeat* Critics Poll in the category Rising Star-Tenor Saxophone. His 10th album, *Right Now! Live at the Village Vanguard*, was released on October 3, 2020, and features Aaron Parks, Ben Street, and Greg Hutchinson. Earlier that year he released his ninth album *Liberty* to critical acclaim. It was his first trio recording that features Ben Street and Eric Harland. Both 2020 albums were produced by Matt Pierson and released on Dayna's own label, Contagious Music. In collaboration with drummer and Toronto native Anthony Fung, the futuristic electronic band Pluto Juice was born and produced its self-titled first release in July 2021.

Scott Wendholt

Trumpeter Scott Wendholt has recorded and/or worked with artists including Vincent Herring, Jimmy Heath, Kenny Garrett, Cyrus Chestnut, Christian McBride, John Fedchock, and Alan Ferber. To his credit, Scott has been recorded on more than 120 jazz recordings. He has received critical acclaim as well and has released six recordings as a leader. Much in demand on the big band scene as well, his list of credits include: The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra (formerly Thad Jones/Mel Lewis), Manhattan Jazz Orchestra, The Carnegie Hall Jazz Band (led by Jon Faddis), John Fedchock NY Big Band, Gotham Jazz Orchestra (Mike Holober), Toshiko Akiyoshi Big Band, and the Bob Mintzer Big Band. Scott continues to be in demand on the playing scene as well as in the educational arena. He is currently on the faculty at Manhattan School of Music and is also in demand as a player/clinician in many colleges and various other learning institutions around the world.

John Benitez

John completed studies at the University of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Conservatory, where he apprenticed under Federico Silva. Yet his thirst for knowledge soon brought him to New York, where he continued his education under the tutelage of Ron Carter and later Graduated from MSM. He has performed with artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Willie Colon, Ray Barreto, Freddie Hubbard, Elvin Jones, Brad Mehldau, Donald Harrison, Bobby Watson, Mike Stern, the artist Joe, Mos Def, Hilton Ruiz, Michele Camilo, Oz Noy, Wayne Krantz, Buick's, Dave Valentin, Eddie Palmieri, Roy Hargrove, Luis Salinas, Danilo Perez, Chucho Valdéz, John Scofield, Mingus Big Band, Dave Samuels, and Mongo Santamaria, to name just a few. As a sideman and featured artist, John has performed at major festivals worldwide, from Canada to Jordan, where he played for the royal family.

Kendrick Scott

Kendrick A. D. Scott is a premier American jazz drummer, composer, and educator of his generation. Named "Rising Star - Drums" by *DownBeat* magazine's Critics Poll, he is best known for his music that renders acerbic commentary on daily life, inward contemplation, and evocative visions.

As a performer, Scott has toured worldwide and recorded with a wide array of artists, including Herbie Hancock, Terence Blanchard, Marcus Miller, Charles Lloyd, Wayne Shorter, Philip Bailey, Angélique Kidjo, Luciana Souza, Cassandra Wilson, The Crusaders, John Scofield, Joshua Redman, Robert Glasper, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Dianne Reeves, Kurt Elling, Gretchen Parlato, Blue Note All Stars, and the SFJAZZ Collective.

As a composer, Kendrick's pieces have been featured on Grammy-winning recordings. In addition Scott has received grants and commissions from Chamber Music of America – New Works funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Jazz Gallery NYC Artist Fellowship, and DaCamera of Houston. NPR calls his works, "Sprawling, cinematic compositions." He has released six albums as a bandleader (including four with his band Oracle): *The Source* (2007), *Reverence* (2011), *Conviction* (2013), *We Are The Drum* (2015), *A Wall Becomes A Bridge* (2019), and *Corridors* (2023). Scott lives in New York where he is on the faculty at Manhattan School of Music.