
Manhattan
School of Music
2026
2027
PERFORMANCE
SEASON

Manhattan School of Music

# MSM JAZZ CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

# *Jazz Composers' Concert*

**Matt Holman** (MM '10, DMA '18), Director
**Jim Saltzman** (DMA '18), Dean of Jazz Arts
**Featuring Guest Artists**
**Jaleel Shaw** (MM '02, College Faculty), saxophone
**Alan Ferber**, trombone

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 | 7:30 PM
WILLIAM R. AND IRENE D. MILLER RECITAL HALL

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PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| **Benjamin Nicholas** | *Water Strider*<br>Featuring **Marit Buffington**, voice |
| **Scott Robert** | *Buttons* |
| **William Xu** | *Moonrise* |
| **Cam Shave** | *Dry Soup Blues* |
| **Ismael Weber** | *Wayfarers* |
| **Louis Rivera-Gotay** | *Good Bye Voyager No. 1*<br>Featuring **Jaleel Shaw**, saxophone and **Alan Ferber**, trombone |
| **Sofia Will** | *Neu York, Neues Ich*<br>Featuring **Jaleel Shaw**, saxophone and **Alan Ferber**, trombone |
| **Ethan Dymit** | *Terrarium*<br>Featuring **Jaleel Shaw**, saxophone and **Alan Ferber**, trombone |

# MSM JAZZ ORCHESTRA

**Matt Holman** (MM '10, DMA '18), Director
**Jaleel Shaw** (MM '02), saxophone
**Alan Ferber**, trombone

### VOICE

**Marit Buffington**
*San Diego, California*

### WINDS

**Damon Poppleton**,
alto saxophone
*Sydney, Australia*

**Jean Strauss**,
tenor saxophone
*Cape Town, South Africa*

**Gabriel Proctor**,
baritone saxophone
*Winnetka, Illinois*

### BRASS

**Owen Chow**,
trumpet
*Victoria, Canada*

**Owen Ruszczyk**,
trumpet
*Oak Park, Illinois*

**William Kao**,
trombone
*Christchurch, New Zealand*

### RHYTHM SECTION

**Yutaro Okuda**,
guitar
*Sydney, Australia*

**Leandro Hernández Waber**[1],
piano
*Mainz, Germany*

**Austin Stoddard**[2],
piano
*St. Louis, Missouri*

**Dominic Carnival**[1],
bass
*New York, New York*

**Emile Berlinerblau**[2],
bass
*Washington, D.C.*

**EJ Li**[1],
drums
*Cangzhou, China*

**Noah Buckner**[2], drums
*Brooklyn, New York*

### RHYTHM SECTION ASSIGNMENTS

*1 NICHOLAS – WATER STRIDER*
1 ROBERT – *BUTTONS*
2 XU – *MOONRISE*
2 SHAVE – *DRY SOUP BLUES*
2 WEBER – *WAYFARERS*
2 RIVERA-GOTAY – *GOOD BYE VOYAGER NO. 1*
1 WILL – *NEU YORK, NEUES ICH*
1 DYMIT – *TERRARIUM*

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## **Matt Holman** (MM '10, DMA '18), Director

Hailed by the *New York Times* as a "conscientious" and "perceptive young trumpeter," and by the great Fred Hersch as "a creative and thoughtful improviser with a world-class sound," trumpeter Matt Holman has distinguished himself as a composer, conductor, bandleader, and top-tier soloist in many of the leading jazz ensembles of our time. Along with his adventurous chamber-jazz recordings, Holman has performed and/or recorded with Darcy James Argue's Secret Society, the John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, Fred Hersch's Leaves of Grass, Bang on a Can's Asphalt Orchestra, the Joel Harrison Large Ensemble, the JC Sanford Orchestra, New York Voices, Kenneth Salters Haven, the Anna Webber Quartet, Matt Ulery's Loom, Andrew Rathbun, and more. Holman has also composed and arranged works for Stefon Harris, Jane Monheit, Marvin Stamm, and university ensembles worldwide.

Holman's 2013 debut, *When Flooded* (Brooklyn Jazz Underground Records), an ambitious and evocative project with his five-piece Diversion Ensemble, was awarded four stars by *DownBeat*. The album's "richly orchestrated tapestries of sound and beautifully developed melodic ideas," noted *Hot House*, draw "inspiration from a large gamut of musical sources that stretch far beyond jazz." Not for nothing does the trumpeter cite Wayne Shorter, Shostakovich, and Sigur Rós as key influences. His 2017 follow-up, *The Tenth Muse* (*New Focus Recordings*), finds contemporary relevance in the ancient Greek love poetry of Sappho. The album features Holman in an inspired quartet with reedist Sam Sadigursky, vibraphonist Chris Dingman, and pianist Bobby Avey.

Holman has earned numerous awards, including the International Trumpet Guild's Jazz Improvisation Competition, the Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition, and the BMI Foundation's 13th annual Charlie Parker Jazz Composition Prize/Manny Albam Commission. An emerging scholar, he received the Institute of Jazz Studies' Morroe Berger–Benny Carter Jazz Research Fellowship in 2016 to research the work of composer/reedist Jimmy Giuffre. Holman served as Artistic Director of New York Youth Symphony Jazz for six seasons. He has taught as an adjunct faculty member at Hunter College and as the Director of Instrumental Music at The Spence School. He currently teaches at The Packer Collegiate Institute and serves on the Jazz Arts faculty at the Manhattan School of Music. Holman holds a BM from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and an MM and DMA from Manhattan School of Music.

## **Jaleel Shaw** (MM '02, College Faculty), alto saxophone

Alto and soprano saxophonist Jaleel Shaw is presently a member of the Roy Haynes Quartet, Tom Harrell's *Colors Of A Dream* and the Mingus Bing Band. He has also performed with Christian McBride, Jason Moran, Stefon Harris, Roy Hargrove, Chick Corea, Dave Holland and Jimmy Cobb among others.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Jaleel was constantly surrounded by music and picked up the alto saxophone at an early age. He immersed himself in the local jazz scene, studying and performing with many of the great musicians and educators that the city has historically produced.

After graduating from high school, he received a full tuition scholarship to attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts from which he received a dual degree in Music Education and Performance. While at Berklee, Jaleel received the Billboard Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Academic and Musical Achievement (1998), Woodwind Department Chair Awards (1998, 2000), The Boston Jazz Society Award (1999) and The Outstanding Student Teacher Award (2000). He then received a scholarship to Manhattan School of Music in New York where he obtained his Master's in Jazz Performance.

Jaleel's debut album, *Perspective* (2005), received rave reviews from the *New York Times* and *Jazzwise Magazine*. *All About Jazz* named the album one of the top five debut albums of 2005. His composition *The Heavyweight Champion* received the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award.

In 2006, Jaleel joined the Roy Haynes Quartet and was featured on the legendary drummer's Grammy-nominated album *Whereas*. In 2008 Jaleel founded his label Changu Records on which he released his second album, *Optimism*. This album received reviews from the *New York Times*, *Downbeat*, and *All About Jazz* among other publications. That same year he received a second ASCAP Young Composer Award for the composition *The Flipside* and was nominated for the Jazz Journalist Association's Up & Coming Jazz Artist award.

Jaleel was listed in *JazzTimes* magazine's 2011 Readers Poll for Alto Saxophonist of the Year, along with Phil Woods, Lee Konitz, Bunky Green and Kenny Garrett.

In March of 2013, Jaleel released a new album of original compositions titled *The Soundtrack Of Things To Come* from his label Changu Records. The album features a working quartet and has been well received by the *New York Times*, *New York City Jazz Record*, and *All About Jazz*.

## **Alan Ferber**, trombone

Multiple GRAMMY-nominated/winning trombonist-composer-arranger Alan Ferber has been called "one of the jazz world's premier composers and arrangers for larger groups" by *All About Jazz*. *JazzTimes* magazine describes Ferber's compositions as "inspired and meticulous" and the *L.A. Weekly* deems him "one of the premier modern jazz arrangers of our time." In 2022, he was deemed the top "Rising Star Trombonist" in *DownBeat* magazine's International Critic's Poll. Ferber has been the recipient of a 2013 & 2023 New Jazz Works grant from Chamber Music America, funded by the Doris Duke Foundation. He currently serves as the Associate Director of the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop and has been an Adjunct Professor of jazz studies at New York University's Steinhardt School since 2011.

Ferber's aesthetic prescribes a deep knowledge of the jazz tradition as a means toward meaningful innovation. Appropriately, the *Wall Street Journal* describes his music as "somehow both old school and cutting edge." He recently released his ninth album as a bandleader in July of 2023 titled *Alan Ferber Nonet: Up High, Down Low* on Sunnyside Records. In a review, *Stereophile* magazine describes Alan as being "born to the (nonet) format" and continues with, "Ferber the bandleader has one of the world's best trombonists in his nonet: himself."

Prior to this album, he released the album *Jigsaw* featuring his 17-piece big band on Sunnyside Records, which was nominated for a 2018 GRAMMY award for 'Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album.' *DownBeat* magazine listed it as one of the best CDs of 2017 and stated, "Ferber...demonstrates full mastery. His big band belongs in the idiom's current top tier." In 2016, Ferber released *Roots & Transitions*, an eight-movement original piece for his working nonet, from which his composition Flow was nominated for a 2017 GRAMMY award for 'Best Instrumental Composition.'

Ferber's 2013 release for his big band on the Sunnyside label, *March Sublime*, features original compositions and arrangements and was nominated for a 2014 GRAMMY award in the 'Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album' category. In 2010, Ferber released "Chamber Songs-Music For Nonet & Strings" (Sunnyside) which received a coveted 4 star review in Down Beat and was named one the magazine's "Best CDs of the Year."

He has collaborated extensively with Jazz giants as well as in other genres including Peter Gabriel (Live at the Ed Sullivan Theater), Paul Simon, Sufjan Stevens (Age of Adz & All Delighted People), The National (on Grammy-nominated Trouble Will Find Me), Dr. Dre, Harry Connick Jr, Michael Buble, and Beirut. His discography lists over 150 CDs on which he has played trombone and/or composed and arranged music.

Ferber's accomplishments as a writer and collaborator are equally diverse. He has composed multiple pieces for the popular video game, *Valorant*. He composed several arrangements for vocalist Sara Gazarek's GRAMMY-nominated album, *Thirsty Ghost* as well as for her most recent EP, *Vanity*. He wrote all of the big band arrangements for Broadway star Shoshana Bean's album, *Spectrum*; Two big band arrangements of Joni Mitchell compositions featuring vocalist Tutu Puoane with the Brussels Jazz Orchestra on their album, *We Have A Dream*.

Alan currently serves as the Associate Director of the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop in New York City, a reputable incubator for emerging big band composers. Since 2011, he has been an Adjunct Professor of jazz studies at New York University's Steinhardt School. Ferber also serves on the faculty at the John J Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, and has been a faculty member of the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University, the Eastman School of Music, and the New School for Jazz & Contemporary Music. He has worked regularly on the faculties of several summer jazz programs including the Taipei International Summer Jazz Academy, the Stanford Jazz Workshop, the Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop, Cal State University's Summer Arts Perspectives In Jazz program, and the Maine Jazz Camp. He is currently the coordinator of New England Music Camp's Jazz Intensive, held every summer in Maine. He has appeared as a clinician and soloist with numerous universities including the Eastman School of Music, Stanford University, the University of Oregon, Cal State Northridge, Kansas University, the University of Miami, the Lawrence Conservatory, Middle Tennessee State University, and the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

# ABOUT THE MSM JAZZ ARTS PROGRAM

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, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2024–25, is one of the richest of its kind, combining systematic and rigorous conservatory training witha myriad of performance and networking opportunities in New York City. In addition to a wide variety of more than 20 small combos, student ensembles include the Jazz Orchestra, the Jazz Composers' Big Band, and the Studio Orchestra. The program is under the leadership of Dean of Jazz Arts Jim Saltzman (DMA '18).

Students study with a faculty drawn from the highest ranks of the jazz world and are provided opportunities to play for and observe world-renowned guest artists. Master classes in recent years have been presented by Terence Blanchard (trumpet), Billy Childs (piano, composition), Buster Williams (bass), Ron Carter (bass), Christian Scott (trumpet), Barry Harris (piano), Stefon Harris (BM '95, MM '97) (vibraphone), Maria Schneider (composition), Vijay Iyer (piano), Jason Moran (MM '97) (piano), Christian McBride (bass), Jimmy Heath (tenor saxophone), 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 (BM '99), Candido, Dave Liebman, Randy Weston, Joe Lovano, Bob Mintzer, Randy Brecker, Paquito D'Rivera, and Miguel Zenón (MM '01).

**Jim Saltzman,** Dean of Jazz Arts
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# 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 1,000 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 professionally oriented Saturday music program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 8 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.

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## 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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