

#### 09.21.2024

#### curated by Stanley Clarke



Official Program



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BroadStage is located on the campus of Santa Monica College and is a part of the SMC Performing Arts Center. As we actively work to create a more equitable path as a cultural institution, we respectfully recognize that the land on which BroadStage currently stands is the ancestral unceded territory of the Tongva, Gabrielino, Kizh peoples. We honor the Indigenous caretakers of these lands and their elders, past, present, and future.

#### broadstage

#### Welcome to BroadStage

BroadStage is a contemporary performing arts presenter in Santa Monica that energizes audiences and community through bold performances and personal connection. A proud partner of Santa Monica College, BroadStage's primary venue is the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, which includes three venues: The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage, a 535- seat venue combining the warmth of a small theater with the acoustics and staging of a grand hall, The Edye, an intimate black box space, and The Plaza an indoor/outdoor space perfect for live music, dancing, and community building.

BroadStage is part of the SMC tradition of community service, providing educational programs for high school and college students, artist workshops, and special events. After a 15-year anniversary in 2023, we're expanding to meet a rapidly evolving set of needs for artists, audiences, and community.

Under the leadership of Artistic & Executive Director Rob Bailis, BroadStage is broadening its impact through a new artistic vision and expanded venue footprint, celebrating our shared humanity and expanding the role the arts play in the vitality of our diverse community. We believe that through the arts we can design the future we wish to see, evolving our work for a new day, and shaping a world in which we can all proudly live. To learn more about BroadStage visit www.BroadStage.org



To learn more visit: broadstage.org

future sounds of STIV Stanley Clarke The Gemini Project Judith nen Parlato SMC Jazz Combo Santa Monica High School Jazz Combo

Connie Han
Cameron Graves
Ruslan Sirota
Jahari Stampley

Instant Alter with Emilio Modeste and Natasha Agrama

Spiñorita

STAR MAGIC TAROT | CHESS AT THREE | ROCK & ROLL CANDLE CO. | PICO ROOTS | SIBYLLINE RECORDS | FAB HATTERS

■ broadstage 9.21.2024



# Future Sounds of Jazz Festival is sponsored in part by BMW.



BroadStage gratefully acknowledges the generous support of: Richard and Lisa Kendall, Barbara Herman, Ann Petersen & Leslie Pam, Garland and Angela Campbell, Elizabeth Kasimow, Evelyn and Granville Ward, and Third District, LA County Board of Supervisors.

Thank you to Santa Monica Brew Works, Sacred River Wines, and Boxed Water for providing refreshments.



SACRED RIVER



#### **Festival Schedule**

Box Office 1:00 pm

**Onsite Parking** 

(Premier tickets only) 1:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Parking Shuttles 1:00 pm - 10:00 pm

> Gates 1:30 pm

Food, Beverage, Vendors, & Merchandise

1:30 pm - 7:00pm

**Music** ALL DAY



#### The Plaza

2 PM

Santa Monica High School Jazz Combo w/ Stanley Clarke 2:00-2:35 PM

**3 PM** 

**Spiñorita** 

SMC Jazz Combo w/ Stanley Clarke 3:30-4:15 PM

4 PM

**Spiñorita** 

5 PM

**Gretchen Parlato** 

w/ Gerald Clayton, Alan Hampton, Clarence Penn 5:00-6:00 PM

6 PN

Spiñorita

7 PM

THE GEMINI PROJECT

w/ Isaiah Collier and Jeremiah Collier 6:30-7:30 PM

8 PM

Spiñorita

#### **Main Stage**

#### **INSTANT ALTER**

w/ Emilio Modeste and Natasha Agrama 2:30-3:20 PM

#### A Keith Jarrett Celebration

w/ Cameron Graves, Connie Han, Jahari Stampley, Ruslan Sirota 4:15-5:15 PM

**Judith Hill** 

7:30-8:45 PM

# Stanley Clarke



Four-time Grammy Award Winner Stanley Clarke has attained "living legend" status during his over 50-year career as a bass virtuoso. He is the first bassist in history who doubles on acoustic and electric bass with equal ferocity and the first jazzfusion bassist ever to headline tours, selling out shows worldwide. A veteran of over 40 albums, he won the 2011 Best Contemporary Jazz Album Grammy Award for The Stanley Clarke Band. Clarke co-founded the seminal fusion group Return to Forever with Chick Corea and Lenny White. In 2012 Return to Forever won a Grammy Award and Latin Grammy for Best Jazz Instrumental Album, Forever.

Clarke's creativity has been recognized and rewarded in every way imaginable: gold and platinum records, Grammy Awards, Emmy nominations, virtually every readers and critics poll in existence, and more.

In 2022 Clarke was selected by the National Endowment for the Arts as one of its four new Jazz Master honorees.

This is the highest honor that the United States bestows on jazz artists. He also was Rolling Stone's very first Jazzman of the Year and bassist winner of Playboy's Music Award for ten straight years. Clarke was honored with Bass Player Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award and is a member of Guitar Player Magazine's "Gallery of Greats." In 2004 he was featured in Los Angeles Magazine as one of the Top 50 Most Influential People. He was honored with the key to the city of Philadelphia and put his hands in cement as a 1999 inductee into Hollywood's "Rock Walk" on Sunset Boulevard. In 2011 he was honored with the highly prestigious Miles Davis Award at the Montreal Jazz Festival for his entire body of work. Clarke has won Downbeat Magazine's Reader's and Critics Poll for Best Electric Bass Player for many years. In September 2016 he became a part of the permanent collection displayed at the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington DC.

Clarke is touring domestically and internationally in 2023 with Stanley Clarke N•4EVER. Members of the band include Jahari Stampley (Piano / Keys), Emilio Modeste (Sax), Jeremiah Collier (Drums), Colin Cook (Guitar), Stanley Clarke (Bass).

Unable to tour most of 2020, Clarke's Pandemic work has involved developing his web series, Stanley Clarke's Bass Nation. The series premiered November 2020. The project is about the dynamics of the music industry, recording and performing, and includes Stanley's conversations with noted musicians, gear reviews, play-throughs and performances.

His most recent album release is music he composed for the 2019 documentary, Halston. Stanley's Halston soundtrack was release on Node Records.

# Stanley Clarke

In 2018 Clarke's band CD, The Message, was released on Mack Avenue Records.. Including compositions from his young band members, Beka Gochiashvili, Mike Mitchel and Cameron Graves, the album swells with an abundance of strength, soul and astounding musicianship.

An accomplished film and TV composer of well over 70 projects, his credits include Boyz N The Hood, the Tina Turner biopic What's Love Got To Do With It, Romeo Must Die, The Transporter, Best Man Holiday and most recently the 2019 documentary film score Halston. In 2020 he scores the music for the Hulu show Woke. He has garnered three Emmy nominations and a BMI Award for his scoring. In 2014 Clarke was invited to become a member of the exclusive Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

Born in Philadelphia, Clarke has been a constant force of nature in American music since the early 1970s with the success of the jazz-fusion group Return To Forever. That accomplishment gave way to a number of extremely successful solo albums for Clarke. Along the way, he has collaborated with Quincy Jones, Stan Getz, Art Blakey, Paul McCartney, Jeff Beck, Keith Richards, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan, The Police, Herbie Hancock and many more, and has shared the stage with Bob Marley and Miles Davis.

Clarke believes in giving back to help young musicians hone their skills. He and his wife Sofia established The Stanley Clarke Foundation seventeen years ago as a charitable organization, which offers scholarships to talented young musicians.

## Jazz Insider Offer 2024 BroadStage Gala

A night jazz lovers won't want to miss!

Just for you: Our 2024 Gala at a special rate!

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar NBA legend & Jazz Aficionado, and Hiromi, GRAMMY® Award-winning Pianist come together to honor Stanley Clarke with the inaugural BroadStage Trailblazer Award.

#### Friday, November 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, Santa Monica

Cocktail Reception | Dinner | Musical Tribute by Hiromi | Paddle Raise

Festive Cocktail Attire

We are creating a legacy for the next generation of artists and audiences by launching our inaugural International Jazz Festival in 2026—a star-studded festival in our destination city, under the direction of Stanley Clarke.

For one night only, icons, legends, innovators, and creatives will gather to share their vision with you to help make this dream a reality. We are not just imagining the future, we are building it.

Single Ticket: \$500

Table for 10: \$5,000

Offer Valid through Oct. 3, 2024

# Judith Hill



Anyone who's followed Judith Hill's story will recognize Letters from a Black Widow as one jaw-dropper of an album title. The tabloid-coined phrase "Black Widow" arose after the overdose deaths of her two star-making collaborators, Michael Jackson and Prince. It became a term of abuse that internet trolls hurled at the celebrated artist, driving conspiracy theories and shame campaigns – trauma that nearly ended a career that includes a Grammy for her role in the Oscar-winning documentary film "20 Feet from Stardom."

"For years the Black Widow was such a dark presence in my life that was too looming and intimidating to even talk about," Hill says. But a year into the pandemic, she had time and space for a momentous reckoning.

"Being forced to stop allowed me to reach a deeper place, to really marinate and figure out what's at my core, what I really needed to talk about. I found I had the courage and strength to face all this – to be authentic to my core, to dive into the whole experience, and turn an ocean of darkness into expressive fire".

If Hill's previous album, Baby, I'm Hollywood, was the rowdy coming-of-age tale of a mixed-race child of bohemian California, Letters from a Black Widow is a formidable battle cry – an album-length soul/funk/gospel passion play that's spectacularly written, arranged, and performed.

One signal moment in Hill's writing process came during a visit with friends to a hot spring outside of Los Angeles, where a communal psychedelic experience wound up shunting her off into a more private and terrifying realm. "An entire mountain appeared before my eyes," she recalls. "And I knew it represented all the trauma in my life that I hadn't realized was still there."

I could feel the mountain/I close my eyes and it appears... Hill chose that vision as the album opener in "One of the Bad Ones" because she wanted the first chapter of Letters from a Black Widow to acknowledge that which she is most afraid of – her own maleficence.

We're in a culture where we judge words and people on this binary of whether they're good or bad, when everyone is more complicated than that. I wanted to explore that question, and communicate it with music that was orchestral and expansive, yet filled with pain and yearning."

In a sense, "One of the Bad Ones" plays like a précis for the entire album. Letters from a Black Widow is a theatrical, soul-funk song-cycle a la Inner Visions or What's Goin' On, which takes listeners on a journey from private pain to communal transcendence.

Her antihero energy truly ignites on "Flame," a song that evokes the raw vocal power of a young Aretha Franklin, stabbing every syllable of the declaration, Give me chaos and give me pain/but you can never kill my flame. Hill says this is the kind

# Judith Hill

of power she could only access by moving through that mountain.

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"All the guilt, shame, and paranoia can get to be like a cancer growing in you," she shares. "You feel like nobody will understand, nobody will really care, and this becomes your whole reality. Making songs about it means giving yourself permission to even speak. It's a kindness to yourself to even pick up the paintbrush and draw it, and it can take on a momentum of its own."

Hill drew on conversations with her opera/theater director and friend Alexander Gedeon, which inspired the theatrical experimentation that runs throughout Letters from a Black Widow. Emotions reach their fullest expression in the titular song "Black Widow," where Hill confronts the malign figure that haunted her for years.

This album's new stories of discovery, resistance, and redemption all share the same unshakable soul and funk foundation Hill has enjoyed for most of her life.

Searing guitar solos are evermore impressive by the fact that the guitar is one more instrument the confoundingly talented musician recently "just sort of picked up," during the songwriting process. "To me, the guitar is like a new character, the wailing, screeching core of me, a voice that just wants to be heard," Hill explains.

While creating Letters from a Black Widow, Hill said she often changed up her writing style. "Some songs are about getting the story right, the tone, and the voice, almost like I'm writing a scene in a movie. Others begin with music... I'm with my guitar or bass just finding a groove, looking for what I need to drive the song," she says. All live in the imaginative, often surprising spaces Hill renders with prodigious composing and arranging skills.

"I trained in composition and always strive to figure out how to bring that exploration into my world as a blues-soul person."

Funk-riddled songs like "My Whole Life Is in the Wrong Key" and "Downtown Boogie" marry playful metaphor to sonic complexity and an unstoppable low-end groove. "Funk music is associated with sexy party vibes but it can also be ironic," Hill says. "Sometimes what makes it funky is the irony of it." Irony shades into righteousness with "We Are the Power," which recalls the neo-soul erudition of Meshell Ndegeocello - I see a river full of little green money flowing/It's running, running out of all the penitentiaries. "It's saying that, even if they cut the microphone cord, we still have power sources within us. I wanted the same sense of defiance and empowerment you hear in "Flame" to run through the album, because we're much stronger than we actually realize we are."

While the album often takes buoyant and playful turns, all the songs are deeply anchored in Hill's current reality, as a 39-year-old career artist grateful for the people who made her, and deftly aware of the bumpy path she's chosen, and the force she's becoming.

## **The Gemini Project**



He explains that he's never really hearing himself, he's hearing others play: some people have fire, others have air. "That's how I hear. There has to be a balance."

Isaiah Collier's sound is a dynamic flurry of metaphors, yet he can hold back when necessary. He plays his influences, which he describes as a "sonic time machine; you can't really put a time or destination on it." As far as he where he plans to take his music, Collier says, "I reach backwards, and forwards simultaneously when creating art and what is ahead of me is the past."

He has released four albums to date, Parallel Universe (Night Dreamer, 2023) I AM BEYOND (Division 81 Records, 2022), Cosmic Transitions (JAZZ, 2021), and Return of the Black Emperor (JAZZ, 2018).

#### **Isaiah Collier**

Twenty-five-year-old Isaiah Collier is a musical virtuoso in the truest sense of the phrase. He began playing saxophone at age 11, and his intuitive proficiency earned him attention early on. Ever since, his band Isaiah Collier and The Chosen Few has been turning ears.

There's a regal, elegant manner to Isaiah's stage presence: he's over 6 feet tall, thin, deep brown, with high cheekbones. When not playing, he is patiently waiting – not contemplating his next move, but listening to the musicians who accompany him, listening to their stories.

# The Gemini Project



#### Jeremiah Collier

Jeremiah Collier, has been playing a full set of drums since the early age of two. He is a born drummer. Jeremiah Collier has been turning heads in Chicago since his parents encouraged him to learn to read and play fluently. Jeremiah Collier attended Chi Arts High School, Ernest Dawkins and the Young Masters and the Jazz Institute of Chicago and has been playing around the Chicagoland and Internationally for the past 11 years

22-year-old Collier is a fierce drummer with a wide understanding of music genres. He combines technique with enthusiastic physical energy. Jeremiah Collier has played with a

plethora of artists such as Ernest Dawkins, Ari Brown, Robert Irving III, Bobby Watson, Denise Thimes, Antonio Hart, Don Braden, (the late great) Mr. Willie Pickens, Kamasi Washington and many more. Jeremiah has been performing with Stanley Clarke for several years and performed with him in concert when Clarke won the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master honor in Spring 2022.

Jeremiah Collier, who is also a band leader of his own collective called JCANDTHEREUPBAND which is known throughout the globe and are now working on an Album to present to the world as well. Jeremiah has been a member of the "Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz All Star Peer-to-Peer Group" which was composed of the five of the best high school student musicians around the country. This group had toured from State to state teaching and playing. Jeremiah Collier, has performed at the Kennedy Center with the Thelonious Monk Institute peer to peer group which is now known as the Hancock Institute for their fifty anniversary.

Jeremiah Collier, has performed in multiple Jazz Festivals throughout the Chicagoland area such as the Hyde Park Jazz Festivals, Chicago Jazz Festivals, Englewood Jazz Festivals and the 51st Jazz Festivals also including International Jazz Festivals.

# Gretchen Parlato



2024 GRAMMY NOMINEE FOR BEST JAZZ VOCAL ALBUM FOR LEAN IN WITH LIONEL LOUEKEPROJECTS:

Since the early 2000's award winning vocalist and songwriter Gretchen Parlato has justly earned a reputation as one of the most inventing and mesmerizing vocalists of her generation. In 2021 she released FLOR, a project honoring her love and admiration of Brazilian music and her first studio recording in nearly a decade. "This project is a reflection of a time of putting myself aside and being completely present as a mom," says Gretchen. "I'm finally able to find the balance between artistic creativity and nurturing motherhood. My purpose has both a higher and deeper meaning.

There is a story to tell, now...of who I am in this role, and how that is reflected in the music." The album has earned Gretchen her second Grammy Award nomination for Best Jazz Vocal Album.

Featured on over 85 albums, and four as a leader, Gretchen received her first Grammy Award nomination for Live in NYC (2013) and a coveted 4.5 star review from DownBeat Magazine with the DVD hitting No. 1 on the iTunes best music video list. The Lost and Found (2011) received more than 30 national and international awards, including the DownBeat Jazz Critics Poll No.1 Vocal Album of 2011 and iTunes Vocal Jazz Album of the Year. Her 2009 sophomore release, In a Dream, was JazzTimes Critics Poll Vocal Album of 2009 and hailed by Billboard as "the most alluring jazz vocal album of 2009."

# Gerald Clayton



Gerald Clayton searches for honest expression in every note he plays. With harmonic curiosity and critical awareness, he develops musical narratives that unfold as a result of both deliberate searching and chance uncovering. The four-time GRAMMYnominated pianist/composer formally began his musical journey at the prestigious Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, where he received the 2002 Presidential Scholar of the Arts Award. Continuing his scholarly pursuits, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance at USC's Thornton School of Music under the instruction of piano icon Billy Childs, after a year of intensive study with NEA Jazz Master Kenny Barron at The Manhattan School of Music.

Clayton won second place in the 2006 Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Piano Competition.

Expansion has become part of Clayton's artistic identity. His music is a celebration of the inherent differences in musical perspectives that promote true artistic synergy.

Inclusive sensibilities have allowed him to perform and record with such distinctive artists as Diana Krall, Roy Hargrove, Dianne Reeves, Ambrose Akinmusire, Dayna Stephens, Kendrick Scott, John Scofield Ben Williams, Terell Stafford & Dick Oatts, Michael Rodriguez, Terri Lyne Carrington, Avishai Cohen, Peter Bernstein and the Clayton Brothers Quintet. Clayton also has enjoyed an extended association since early 2013, touring and recording with saxophone legend Charles Lloyd.

Director of the Monterey Jazz Festival On Tour, a project that has featured his trio along with Ravi Coltrane, Nicholas Payton, Terence Blanchard and Raul Midón on guitar and vocals. Clayton's discography as a leader reflects his evolution as an artist. His debut recording, Two Shade (ArtistShare), earned a 2010 GRAMMY nomination for Best Improvised Jazz Solo for his arrangement of Cole Porter's "All of You." Battle Circle," his composition featured on The Clayton Brothers' recording The New Song and Dance (ArtistShare), received a GRAMMY nomination for Best Jazz Instrumental. Composition in 2011.

# Gerald Clayton

He received 2012 and 2013 GRAMMY nominations for Best Jazz Instrumental Album for Bond: The Paris Sessions (Concord) and Life Forum (Concord), his second and third album releases.

Capturing the truth in each moment's conception of sound comes naturally to Clayton. The son of beloved bass player and composer John Clayton, he enjoyed a familial apprenticeship from an early age. Clayton honors the legacy of his father and all his musical ancestors through a commitment to artistic exploration, innovation, and reinvention. In the 2016-17 year, Clayton turns his imaginative curiosity toward uncovering the essence of the Piedmont Blues experience and expression in early twentieth century Durham. A Duke University commission, Clayton's eveninglength composition will explore a mixed media performance that features some of the most resonating voices in contemporary music.

# Alan Hampton



Alan Hampton is a bassist/composer/singer who's toured, written, and recorded with several leading artists in a variety of genres. In 2023 he worked as Musical Director for Rufus Wainwright's Folkocracy Tour which included a star studded performance at Los Angeles's Disney Hall, featuring Chaka Khan, Van Dyke Parks, Susanna Hoffs, among others. He was recruited by Andrew Bird in 2011 and has since played on 7 of his albums, including Grammy Nominated "My Finest Work Yet" and "Hark," featuring Hampton original "Glad." Recently Hampton and Bird scored Chris Pine's highly anticipated directorial debut Poolman, staring Danny DeVito, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Annette Bening.

In 2021 they scored the Peabody Award Winning and Emmy Nominated documentary Storm Lake.

He performed regularly on Chris Thile's Live From Here, where he met I'm With Her, with whom he performed the Grammys in 2019.

His bass playing is featured on Larry Goldings's score for the Netflix series Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam CJ Walker. The title track from ERIMAJ's "Conflict of a Man," was featured on HBO's new series Insecure. "Still," one of many collaborations between Hampton and Grammy nominated vocalist Gretchen Parlato, was performed on French television in Manu Katche's One Shot Not. His vocals are featured on a Hexum/Hampton co-write entitled "This Time of Year" in the opening scene of A Cinderella Christmas.

In addition to writing and contributing dozens of songs for other artists, including "Places That the Mind Goes" recorded by 311 and "If It Was," recorded by Iceland's Silva & Steini, he has also released two albums under his own name: The Moving Sidewalk, and Origami For the Fire, which received critical acclaim from Ben Ratliff of the New York Times:

"Alan Hampton is a songwriter who makes you reach for platitudes about 'good music' — how people don't write adventurous or honest pop songs anymore, how it's all archness and monotony now, how our harmony-starved ears have shrunk....He does that because he's got loads of talent."

# Clarence Penn



"Clarence is the kind of musician who leaves his judgments of music and musicians aside to provide the best support and complement. He really cares that everyone on stage sound as good as they can. That explains why the results are so great with the extraordinary musicians he brings into his projects. Fireworks!"—Dave Douglas

"Clarence is a charismatic player, with great dynamic range and drama and musicality. He's an intricate and heady drummer who thinks compositionally, but uses his gut and instincts towards the end result of making something exciting, that feels alive, and is full of energy and passion. He doesn't have a limited conception of what the drummer is.

Of course, he drives the band and pushes the time, but he also knows how to stop and allow

things to happen—to be a colorist."—Maria Schneider

"I think Clarence is a natural leader. He listens like a producer. He has clarity and vision. He hears everything—the bass, the high voices, the middle. He understands harmony. He understands lyrics. He has the will to solve problems and figure them out. He doesn't stay traditional, but makes the music free and colorful. He understands that music is play. I'd play with him every day if I could."—Luciana Souza

Clarence Penn is one of the busiest jazz drummers in the world, a leader of multiple bands, a composer, a prolific producer, and an educator.

Penn's impressive discography includes several hundred studio albums (including the Grammy-winning recordings 34th and Lex by Randy Brecker and Concert in the Garden and Sky Blue by Maria Schneider) representing a 360-spectrum of jazz expression, and he's toured extensively throughout the United States, the Americas, Europe, Japan, and Southeast Asia. He's composed music for films and commercials, and produced tracks for numerous singers in the pop and alternative arenas. He earned a "Ten Best of 1997" accolade from the New York Times for his first leader recording, Penn's Landing.

A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, where he was a protégé of Ellis Marsalis, Penn is active as an educator and drum clinician. From 2004 to 2012, he taught on the faculty of the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music.

# Clarence Penn

He's also served on faculty at the Stanford Jazz Workshop, the Saint Louis College of Music in Rome, Italy, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Intensive Jazz Institute.

Penn currently leads several ensembles. His most recent "rhythmically intoxicating" recording is 2014's "Monk The Lost Files" arrangements of the music of Thelonious Monk. Released on the Origin record lable, an amazing quartet comprising saxophonist Chad Leftkowitz-Brown, Pianist Gerald Clayton/Donald Vega, and bassist Yasushi Nakamura performing the music of Thelonius Monk with today's modern jazz sensibility. Near completion is a "world music" studio project of songs and instrumentals that melds background voices—including his own—with a world class band.

Whether Penn is leading his own band or performing as a sideman, he brings to the table unfailing versatility and professionalism, an ability to find creative ways to interpret a global array of styles and idioms, and a stated intention "to play music that's warm and organic for the people and for myself."

His motto: "When people hear my name, I want them to think, 'I don't know what band he's playing with tonight or what he'll be doing, but it's going to be good, it's going to be musical."

# A Keith Jarrett Celebration: Cameron Graves



A member of the game-changing, genreblurring Los Angeles collective, the West Coast Get Down, pianist CAMERON GRAVES is taking the modern jazz scene by storm. Graves' style was described by his fellow West Coast Get Down member, Kamasi Washington, as an "almost unbelievable combination of modal jazz, romantic era European classical music, and mathematical death metal." Graves' debut record on Mack Avenue Records, Planetary Prince, which also serves as Graves' pseudonym, comes from The Urantia Book, a spiritual tome that emerged from Chicago in the first half of the 20th century and that purports to reveal the truth of humanity through a combination of spiritual and cosmological ideas, including radical retellings of familiar stories from the Bible.

This release marked a seismic shift in the jazz landscape and the game-changing arrival of the genre-blurring Los Angeles collective West Coast Get Down blending elements of Jazz, Classical, Rock and Hip-Hop. The core of the band on Planetary Prince is made up of fellow West Coast Get Down members, whose musical and personal relationships with Graves stretch back to their high school days: tenor saxophonist Kamasi Washington, trombonist Ryan Porter, bassist Stephen "Thundercat" Bruner, and drummer Ronald Bruner Jr. To their ranks are added trumpeter Philip Dizack and bassist Hadrien Feraud, both key members of the groundbreaking modern L.A. Jazz scene.

#### A Keith Jarrett Celebration:

#### **Connie Han**



Hailed by Downbeat Magazine "The Jazz Warrior-Goddess" with "a skill and ferocity unmatched by all but the most accomplished of pianists," 27-year-old piano wizard and composer Connie Han interprets the jazz piano pantheon with her own fiery, contemporary style.

Named a Steinway Artist in 2019, the pianist exhibits her charismatic playing style in its full emotional range on Secrets of Inanna, Han's third release on Mack Avenue Records — a dynamic musical portrait of the beguiling and mysterious Inanna, ancient Sumerian protogoddess of Love, Beauty, and War.

With an interpretation that belies her age, Han's expertise shines in the piano trio idiom. Paved by Chick Corea/Roy Haynes and McCoy Tyner/Elvin Jones, the timeless drum-piano tradition is explored in Han's interplay with longtime collaborator/drummer Bill Wysaske.

The two like minds and their combined chemistry has proven exceptionally fruitful in Han's career, as Wysaske's myriad contributions include concept development, production, composition, and arrangement on all three albums released by Mack Avenue Records.

Han's latest release Secrets of Inanna portrays the Sumerian mythos of the goddess's solitary descent into the abyss of her soul: the underworld. As told in the Sumerian legend The Descent of Inanna, the heroine's quest and prophetic evolution can only be completed with Inanna's commitment to endure immeasurable suffering — a metamorphosis in which she kills her prior self and is ultimately reborn as the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Han believes in the power of myth to lead a grounded existence as an artist and human being. The wisdom imparted by epics such as The Descent of Inanna is as meaningful to Han's work as her influences. Throughout Connie's own journey, music continues to prove itself as meditative sanctuary and a constant truth of life. It is part of her vision to embolden and inspire audiences of all ages with storytelling through the jazz piano idiom.

Gustav Mahler once said, "Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire." With each upcoming performance and recording date, Connie Han continues to fulfill this axiom with tenacity and identity — standing on the shoulders of giants who have so deeply impacted her artistry.

# A Keith Jarrett Celebration: Jahari Stampley



Jahari Stampley is a Chicago-born pianist who began playing the piano at the age of 14. Within two years of exploring the instrument, he began winning various competitions including Best High School Jazz Soloist Award and the National YoungArts Competition. By the age of 18 years old, he was recognized and followed by many world-renowned musicians including Yebba Smith, Jill Scott, Robert Glasper, Cory Henry, Jacob Collier, Stanley Clarke, and Derrick Hodge, among others. Jahari has toured with Stanley Clarke and is featured on Derrick Hodge's "Color of Noise" album.

Jahari has performed in venues such as Radio City Music Hall in NYC, The Met Philadelphia, Byline Bank Aragon in Chicago, Carnegie Hall in NY, San Francisco Jazz Center, and MANY others.

He's also headlined & performed solo piano tours in Berlin, Koethen & Magdeburg, Germany, Geneva, Switzerland, and Los Angeles, California.

He's conducted music workshops in Santa Ana, Costa Rica, and taught masterclasses in Spokane, Washington. Jahari is also the band leader & featured pianist playing the part of Bill Wither's keyboardist in the feature film "Spinning Gold". Many of Jahari's performances have garnered praise in various media outlets, articles & magazines throughout the world.

Jahari won first place in the 2023 Herbie Hancock Institute International Competition, 2023 Chicagoan of the Year in Jazz, 2023 Chicago Youth Symphony Alumni Award, the first non-classical musician to receive the honor; and awarded the 2023 Luminarts Fellowship for his debut album "Still Listening." Earlier in his life Jahari won the Bösendorfer prize for the international 2019 American Jazz Pianists Association Competition (for ages 18-25), the 2018 ASCAP Foundation Fran Morganstern Davis Scholarship, and the National Young Arts Foundation 2018 Young Arts Winner.

Alongside all of this, Jahari released his first Debut Album entitled "Still Listening" which rose to #1 on Apple iTunes in the first weeks of the Album's release. The music on "Still Listening" has also been set in an orchestral arrangement for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Jahari Also designed and wrote the music for a music Education mobile game, "Piano Chronicles". It is available as a mobile app for all mobile devices on Google Play Store and the Apple Store.

# A Keith Jarrett Celebration: Ruslan Sirota



Ruslan was born in Uman, Ukraine. His father, Yefim, who was an active local guitarist, had introduced him to music at an early age. Picking up guitar around the age of four, Ruslan had transitioned to piano around the age of seven. In 1990, his family moved to Israel, where he continued to study piano at the Bat-Yam music school. At approximately 14, Ruslan discovered jazz, instantly showing imminent interest. By the age of 16, he was the "wunderkind" keyboardist for the then-popular Israeli jazz fusion band, "Confusion". With Confusion, he toured Israel and made several appearances at the Red Sea Jazz Festival.

At 18, Ruslan auditioned for the Berklee College of Music, where he received full tuition scholarship, and moved to Boston in January 2000. During his studies at Berklee, Ruslan displayed growing interest in R&B, funk and soul music, playing with local artists and eventually becoming the resident keyboardist in a club called "Wally's Jazz Café". Circa 2004, Ruslan joined the Stanley Clarke band and moved to Los Angeles, thus marking the beginning of his professional career.

Since then, Ruslan has been touring, performing and recording with major artists (in addition to Clarke), such as Black Eyed Peas, Kamasi Washington, Seal, Josh Groban, Ne-Yo, Thundercat, Chick Corea, George Duke, Marcus Miller, Al Jarreau, Victor Wooten, Eric Benét, Rachelle Ferrell, Larry Carlton, Los Angeles Philharmonic and countless others. Ruslan released his self-titled debut album, featuring Clarke, Corea and George Duke as special guests, on October 24, 2011. The album was produced by Ruslan and Clarke. Ruslan released the album "Ruslan" in 2011, in 2019 he released the album "A Lifetime Away" and in August 2023 he released the album "Fruits Of The Midi".

Currently Ruslan is recording and performing with a new project featuring various vocalists. In the program - original music and unique arrangements of known songs.

## INSTANT ALTER



INSTANT ALTER is a new project formed by saxophonist Emilio Modeste and vocalist Natasha Agrama, featuring drummer Miguel Russell and bassist Ryo Takenaga.

INSTANT ALTER is a reorientation into a new way of being. A new aesthetic and a new story. These four virtuosic artists band together in service of the art of storytelling, creating an expansive sonic landscape as super-bands of the past have done – such as Return to Forever – while integrating grounded Earth Songs that evoke vibrations of the Brazilian Tropicália movement. Within this musical vessel lies an engine fueled by a powerful and inimitable Bassand-Drum connection.

INSTANT ALTER follows in the spirit of the storytellers that have graced our journeys, offering a fresh sense of melody and rhythm, leading the way to deep feeling, healing and consciousness.

INSTANT ALTER's debut record is produced by Lenny White and Stanley Clarke, and features guest performances by some of the most legendary, sound-defining artists in music.

INSTANT ALTER is the point of change between vulnerable sensitivity and earthshaking calls for reflection; between expansion and deep dives into learning and unlearning; between a global sentiment and an individual experience.

INSTANT ALTER is happening in every living moment.

# INSTANT ALTER

#### **Emilio Modeste**

Emilio Modeste (@EmilioLModeste) is a saxophonist and composer from New York City. Perhaps best known for his time performing with the late trumpet great Wallace Roney, he is currently touring with the bands of Stanley Clarke, Cindy Blackman Santana, and Dezron Douglas. Equally as adept on tenor or soprano, Modeste's singular shining tone and sense of melody creates a gravitational field that pulls in even the most reluctant of listeners. This can be most recently heard on Steve Turre's Generations (Smoke Records) and Dezron Douglas' Atalaya (International Anthem) from 2022, and he is featured on Stanley Clarke's upcoming album as well. A student of the great drummer and producer Lenny White, Modeste explores endless styles of musical expression in his artistry. He has shared the bandstand as a soloist and collaborator with greats from all genres, including DJ Premier (Gang Starr), Carlos Santana, Jon Batiste, Patrice Rushen, Will Calhoun (Living Colour) and many more.

#### Natasha Agrama

Natasha Agrama (@natashalovesit) is a vocalist, composer and multi-disciplinary artist from Los Angeles, California. Agrama graduated from SFAI with a degree in New Genres, and since 2013 has been traveling the world with her music and also as a special guest in the great Stanley Clarke's band.

The granddaughter of Chilean crooner Antonio Prieto, her velvet-fire voice carries forth the victories of humanity, the journey to truth from illusion, and the history of finding and belonging in a new world that jazz embodies.

Her 2017 release, The Heart of Infinite Change (Alphapup) features Thundercat, George Duke, Vinnie Colaiuta...legends of all generations. In 2019, Agrama was awarded the Montreux Jazz Talent award and participated in the Montreux Jazz Academy, an annual residency that selects six of the leading up-and-coming artists to perform at the world famous Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. Agrama's most recent release is 2023's "WOU v2", a single about how a state of interbeing flourishes triumphantly from the madness of our world.

#### **Miguel Russel**

At just 21 years old, Miguel Russell (@jeanmarcelbasquiat) stands as a dynamic force in the world of music, wielding his drumsticks with precision and passion. Miguel has seamlessly woven his talent into the tapestry of contemporary jazz, leaving an indelible mark on the industry. From the Bronx, Miguel's journey into the realm of music began at the ripe age of 2.

His innate connection to rhythm and melody quickly set him on a trajectory toward becoming a formidable drummer and artist.

# INSTANT ALTER

Miguel creates sonic landscapes that captivate audiences and fellow musicians alike. Miguel Russell has become a sought-after collaborator; touring with renowned artists such as trumpeter Theo Croker, pianist Jahari Stampley, Isaiah Thompson, and Anthony Hervey, to name a few, has become the heartbeat of many unforgettable performances.

Miguel's drumming prowess serves as the backbone, elevating every composition and leaving audiences in awe. Miguel's musical journey has also been enriched by collaborations with some of the most esteemed artists in the industry. Working and studying alongside powerful musical forces such as Kendrick Scott, John Riley, saxophonist Dayna Stephens, vocalist Melanie Charles, bassist Harish Raghavan, guitarist Charles Altura, and more, he has not only contributed his rhythm but has also absorbed the invaluable lessons from these maestros.

Currently pursuing his music education at New York University, Ryoma is a nineteen year old rising musician in the city's bustling music scene. His journey has been punctuated by performances with some of the most legendary names in the industry such as Jack DeJohnette, Lenny White, Chief Adjuah (Formerly known as Christian Scott), Keyon Harrold, Ulysses Owens Jr., Sean Jones, Marcus Gilmore, Melissa Aldana, Ravi Coltrane, and Antoine Roney. He has additionally been guided by mentors including Dezron Douglas, Harish Raghavan, and Mimi Jones.

#### Ryoma Takenaga

Born in New York City, Ryoma Takenaga's (@ryomatakenaga) journey into the world of music began at the age of five, when he started learning to play the piano. At nine, he began studying the upright bass. Ryoma's discovery of jazz was a turning point in his artistic evolution, and it was at the Jazz House Kids program where his first introduction to jazz was the artistic director, Christian McBride.

# Samohi Jazz Combo



#### Samohi Jazz Combo

The Santa Monica High School (Samohi) Jazz Combo is an award-winning group of accomplished high school musicians that play a range of jazz standards, blues, Latin and funk music. The Combo showcases the talents of these young players and allows them to get real life experience by performing at a wide range of concerts and special events.

#### Directed by Tom Whaley

Tom Whaley has been the Santa Monica-Malibu USD Visual and Performing Arts
Coordinator since 2001 and the Samohi Jazz
Band 1 Director since 2004. Under his
leadership, the visual and performing arts
program in SMMUSD has expanded and
flourished and has been recognized nationally
and internationally.

Before coming to the district, he directed middle and high school bands in Burbank and Morro Bay, and his ensembles have won many awards in band festivals throughout the state and nation. He has been featured in the Los Angeles Times and has received both the Burbank Mayor's Commendation and the Crystal Apple Award sponsored by NBC. He earned a B.A. in Music Education (Full Scholarship) from Boston's Berklee College of Music, a M.A. from the University of Miami in Traditional Performance (Full Scholarship), and a M.A. in Educational Administration from CSULA. He is also a professional trombonist and has performed in numerous motion picture, television, and recording sessions. He has performed live with numerous artists including Boy George, Chaka Khan and Matchbox Twenty.

# **SMC Jazz Combo**



Since 2001, the Applied Music Program has provided music students with affordable private instruction in preparation for transfer as music majors to four-year universities or conservatories. Program participants receive instruction in various stylistic/historical musical traditions in voice, an instrument, or composition. This program is in high demand and by audition. Santa Monica College is one of the most successful transfer institutions to the University of California, California State University, Loyola Marymount University, and many other four-year schools, universities, and music conservatories.

#### Fredrick "Keith" Fidmont

Jazz Ensemble Director Educator and woodwind specialist Frederick (Keith) Fiddmont began his performance career as a saxophonist for legendary vibraphonist Lionel Hampton. After moving to Los Angeles in 1991, he almost immediately began a two-year stint with singer Rickie Lee Jones. He has recorded or performed live with such legends as Stevie Wonder, Lady Gaga, Justin Timberlake, Luis Miguel, Diana Krall, Christian McBride, Marcus Miller, James Brown, The Temptations, Jennifer Holliday, Natalie Cole, Nancy Wilson, and B.B. King, as well as gifted artists like Wayne Brady, Billy Childs, Queen Latifah, Michael Bublé, and John Pizzarelli. As a freelancer, he has performed with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Bob Mintzer Big Band, the Ed Neumeister Big Band, Frank Capp's Juggernaut, the Luckman Jazz Orchestra, and John Beasley's Monkestra.

Keith has been a member of the award-winning Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra for the past twenty-four years. The group's credits include nearly 20 albums, and live performances like "The Big Band Bash" with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Wynton Marsalis, and the Benny Golson 80th Birthday Celebration at the Kennedy Center. Keith joined the music faculty of Santa Monica College as an adjunct in 1996 and became a full-time faculty member in the Fall of 2010.

# SMC Jazz Combo

Keith has directed the Santa Monica College Jazz Ensemble since 1998. Notable guest artists have included Snooky Young, Oscar Brashear, Barbara Morrison, Ralph Moore, Bob Sheppard, John, Jeff, and Gerald Clayton. Additionally, the Santa Monica College jazz ensemble has presented coordinated concerts with the Santa Monica College Symphony Orchestra, including an arrangement for orchestra and jazz band of Gershwin's "Concerto in F" arranged and performed by pianist, orchestrator, educator, Bill Cunliffe

#### **Jimmy Cheeseman**

**Applied Music Program Coordinator** 

Southern Californian native Jimmy
Cheesman is a musician and educator
specializing in seven-string guitar. He earned his
Master of Music from the University of Southern
California, and a Bachelor of Music from
California State University of Long Beach. He
began at Santa Monica College in 2007 and
became full-time faculty in the fall of 2017. Prior
to his full-time appointment to SMC, Professor
Cheesman taught at Los Angeles City College,
Los Angeles Trade Tech College, and Hope
International University.

Some of the diverse artists he has studied/performed with include Ron Eschete, Frank Potenza, Joe Diorio, Jody Fisher, John Prince, Kevin Tulius (LA Jazz Quartet), Paul Kreibich (Ray Charles), and Richard Carpenter, to name a few. Known for his diversity and ability to simultaneously play bass and guitar

parts, Professor Cheesman maintains an active performing calendar.

#### **Brian Driscoll**

Music Department Chair

Born and raised in Ohio, Brian Driscoll earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in music composition from California Institute of the Arts, and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in organ performance from UCLA.

In the years following his graduation from CalArts, he built a thriving private piano teaching studio. Professor Driscoll began at Santa Monica College in 2008 and joined the faculty full-time in Fall 2014. Before his full-time appointment at SMC, he was the director of music at an Episcopal church where he led five choirs, curated a popular concert series, and directed a community chamber choir.

Professor Driscoll served as the president of the board of directors of Elemental Music, was a founder and board member of Red Door Vineyard, and served on the board of the Association of Anglican Musicians.

## **SMC Jazz Combo**

#### **Lesa Terry**

Jazz Dept., Jazz & American Culture, Jazz Violin

Lesa Terry hadn't felt such butterflies in years. A seasoned pro, she wasn't worried about coaxing beautiful tones from Baby Love, her 200-year-old Italian violin.

What she dreaded was tripping over her tongue. As she botched her lines again, Lesa eyed Tom Hanks warily across the set.

It was 2018, and the L.A.-based violinist and longtime SMC music instructor was recreating a scene from her past: a 1997 appearance in "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood," episode 1718

"It was an extraordinary experience," Lesa says.
"We had to do a thousand takes, but everybody was so loving and supportive. Every time we played, they applauded afterwards — the film crew, everybody."

When the filmmakers first called, Lesa couldn't imagine why they wanted to highlight the Uptown String Quartet. It wasn't until she saw the completed movie that she understood: Rejecting limitations had been a key message for Mr. Rogers.

"When you think about a string quartet, it's four men in tuxes and tails playing European classical music," she says "But maybe not. It might be four African American women playing their own compositions and reinterpreting music from the African American continuum."

Fred Rogers was a big fan of bebop and played jazz piano himself. His friends included jazz legend Max Roach, who had put together the Uptown String Quartet in the mid 1980s to showcase his daughter Maxine's skill.

The idea was to produce a full, jazz sound using only the instruments of a European string quartet. No rhythm section. No wind instruments. The quartet was invited on "Mr. Rogers'

Neighborhood."

"I'm biracial," says Lesa, who grew up in a Pasadena home filled with music. "I got my introduction to European classical music through my mother. And my father was African American and Native American, so that's where the jazz and other musical forms come in."

Lesa fell in love with the violin at 8. She credits a cousin, jazz trumpet and flugelhorn legend Clark Terry, "for teaching me how to feel and incorporate jazz swing on the violin."

At SMC, one of the courses Lesa teaches is Music 33, Jazz and American Culture. "She's an incredible teacher — the kind you're going to remember all your life," says Saul Isler, who graduated from SMC in 2019 at age 85. He didn't much care for jazz before taking Lesa's course. "But I got into it very quickly because she brought it to us in such a lively manner. She teaches with passion."

Lesa continues to innovate with musical hybrids. In 2006, she founded the Women's Jazz Orchestra of Los Angeles, a 21-member string and rhythm band. She aims to transmit her aesthetic ideas to the next generation, using novel ways to create a personal connection. For her SMC jazz history classes, she has students "write a 'blues.' It doesn't have to be music. They can deliver a poem or spoken-word. They can dance it or shout it. We're talking about the human condition and what new sounds you can create to express it."

# Spiñorita



She most recently played Boiler Room in 2022 and had her debut broadcast on Boiler Room in March 2023. Spiñorita just dropped her second EP, Top Secret Grand Prix 2, follow up to Top Secret Grand Prix with co-producer Caleb Stone on April 8th on her record label, Backyard Party Records.

A unifying force in Los Angeles' music community, Spiñorita has gone on to make a name for herself throughout the world. For the past decade, she has hosted her own radio show, Casual Play, which is broadcast internationally through NTS radio. During the pandemic, she brought her multigenerational open-format style to new audiences through her engaging performances on Twitch, which led to her becoming a partner and garnering over 12,300 followers on the platform.

Spiñorita has toured internationally to Amsterdam for ADE in 2023 and London in 2022 playing with Apron Records & L.I.E.S Record artists and toured in Japan in 2019 where she played vinyl sets in Harajuku and Osaka.



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Learn more about BroadStage Activations by visiting broadstage.org/activations.

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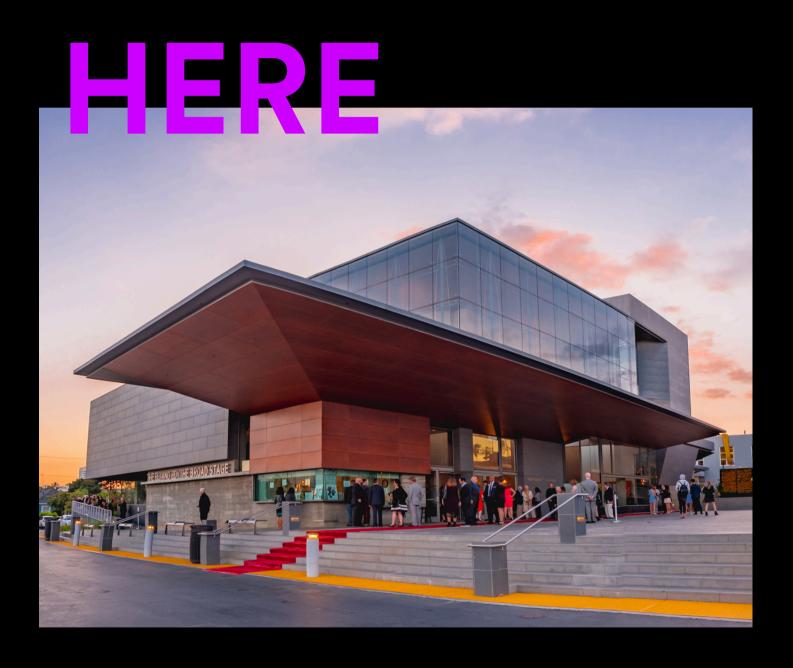
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