Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University

The VCU Jazz Studies program provides its students outstanding opportunities to pursue jazz performance and writing, as evidenced in part by such successful former students as Steve Wilson (sax, Chick Corea’s Origin); James Genus (bass, Saturday Night Live Band; recordings with Dave Douglas, Michael Brecker, Mike Stern and John Abercrombie); Victor Goines (sax/clarinet, Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra; director, Northwestern Jazz Studies); Alvester Garnett (drums, recordings with Abbey Lincoln, Cyrus Chestnut, James Carter); Mark Shim (sax, Blue Note recording artist, member of Terence Blanchard sextet); Al Waters (sax, featured with Ray Charles); Alvin Walker (trombone, Count Basie Orchestra), Daniel Clarke (pianist, Mandy Moore, k.d. lang); and Emre Kartari (drums; Jazz Department, Yasar University, Izmir, Turkey). For more information, please visit <www.jazz.vcu.edu>.

VCU Jazz Faculty

Taylor Barnett—Jazz Improvisation; Carlos Chafin—Affiliate Faculty (In Your Ear Studio); Reginald Chapman—Small Jazz Ensemble; John D’earth—Artist in Residence (Trumpet, Jazz Masterclass); Victor Dvoskin—Bass; Michael Ess—Guitar, SJE; Antonio García—Director of Jazz Studies, Trombone, Jazz Orchestra I, SJE, Jazz Theory, Music Industry; Wells Hanley—Piano; Darryl Harper—Jazz History; J.C. Kuhl—Saxophone; Tony Martucci—Drum Set, SJE; Randall Pharr—Bass, SJE; Doug Richards—Arranging; Rex Richardson—Trumpet; Marcus Tenney—Jazz Orchestra II, SJE

VCU Jazz Calendar

All concerts $7 advance; $10 at the door; free with VCU student ID and in the Concert Hall unless noted.
T 3/22, 8p—VCU Jazz Orchestra II.
T 4/19, 8p—VCU Jazz Orchestra I with guest trombonist Bob McChesney.
TH 4/21, 8p—VCU Small Jazz Ensembles. Admission free.
SAT 4/23, 6-7:30p—VCU Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band, Titan Jazz & Art Festival, Trinity Episcopal School, Richmond. Admission free.
SAT 5/7, 1p—VCU Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band. Admission free.

Contact number for general concert/ticket information: (804) 828-6776, MWF 9 am-Noon.
Photography is not permitted during performances; all cellphones/pagers should be off.

More than 1900 people get the inside story and advance word on VCU Jazz events by subscribing to the VCU Jazz E-Newsletter. It’s free! Just e-mail Prof. García at <ajgarcia@vcu.edu> and ask to be added to the list. You’ll find out there’s much more to VCU Jazz than even the concerts you enjoy!

Looking for some other great music besides jazz? The VCU Music Department hosts hundreds of concerts each year, most of them free of charge! Get on the VCU Music mailing list by e-mailing <music@vcu.edu> or calling (804) 828-1169.

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Mary Hermann Garcia is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counselor Education at VCU. She holds a Juris Doctor in Law, a Ph.D. in Counselor Education, and is a licensed attorney and a licensed professional counselor. She has been a participant in VCU’s Grace Harris Leadership Institute, the recipient of the VCU School of Education Charles P. Ruch Award for Excellence in Teaching, and has been listed multiple times in Who's Who Among America’s Teachers. Mary has performed at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Ginter Gardens, the University of Richmond, in New York City, Denver, and Puerto Rico and recently released her debut CD of bossa novas in Portuguese plus swing, ballad, and blues tunes: Joy Spring. Visit <www.maryhermanngarcia.com>.

Justin Alexander is the Assistant Professor of Percussion at VCU, having previously served at Troy University. He has presented recitals and master classes throughout the U.S., including at conferences of The Percussive Arts Society, The College Music Society, and The National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors. He has performed with the Florida Orchestra, Aspen Festival Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Eastern Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Tallahassee Symphony, has commissioned and premiered numerous works, and is an audio engineer. He has served in various roles within the Percussive Arts Society, and his articles have been published in Percussive Notes. Justin holds the Doctor of Music Degree in Percussion Performance from The Florida State University and endorses Pearl/Adams Musical Instruments, Zildjian Cymbals, and Innovative Percussion sticks and mallets.

Ross Walter is Associate Professor of trombone, euphonium, and tuba at VCU, having previously served as trombonist with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. He received his D.M.A. and M.M. degrees from Louisiana State University, where the faculty of the School of Music honored him for his teaching. In addition to teaching low brass, brass methods, brass pedagogy, and chamber music, he has instructed a variety of music technology courses. He is an active freelance teacher and performer, including with his own quartet and with the Palmetto Posaunen, a professional trombone choir in South Carolina. Ross regularly presents performances, master classes, and clinics in the schools and provides clinics and performances at regional, national, and international conferences across the U.S. and in Europe. He also serves as artistic director of the annual Festival of Brass in Cartagena, Colombia.

An Assistant Professor at VCU, Ying-Fang Shen is a Taiwanese independent filmmaker with advanced training in ink painting and digital art. Her work is influenced by the handmade aesthetics of traditional East Asian art and Taoist philosophy. Taoism encourages her to work intuitively in the production of some projects by letting the process inspire their direction rather than a pre-determined script, with the effect that events become like waves carried on water in these stories. Her experiments have resulted in her animated films, “Heath,” “The Tale of The Day,” “Humanexus,” and now “In the Waves.” Her animation works have been exhibited in galleries and film festivals worldwide since 2008. “In the Waves” has already been selected for screening at film festivals in Italy, Macedonia, Uganda, Colombia, India, Brazil, Hong Kong, Argentina, and here at the Richmond International Film Festival. For more information visit <www.yfshen.info>.

Antonio García is a Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at VCU. An alumnus of the Eastman School of Music and of Loyola University of the South, he has received commissions for jazz, symphonic, chamber, and solo works—instrumental and vocal—including grants from Meet The Composer, The Commission Project, and The Thelonious Monk Institute. His music has been performed by such artists as Sheila Jordan, Arturo Sandoval, Jim Pugh, Denis DiBlasio, James Moody, and Nick Brignola. Composition/arrangement honors include IAJE (jazz band), ASCAP (orchestra), and Billboard Magazine (pop songwriting).

A Bach/Selmer trombone clinician and avid scat-singer, Tony has freelanced as trombonist, bass trombonist, or pianist with over 70 nationally renowned artists, including Ella Fitzgerald, George Shearing, Mel Tormé, Doc Severinsen, Louie Bellson, Dave Brubeck, and Phil Collins. He is also a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS). A New Orleans native, he performed there with such artists as Pete Fountain, Irma Thomas, and Al Hirt.

Tony is Associate Jazz Editor of the International Trombone Association Journal, a Network Expert (for Improvisation Materials) for the Jazz Education Network; Author of Cutting the Changes: Jazz Improvisation via Key Centers; Co-Editor and Contributing Author of Teaching Jazz: A Course of Study; authored a chapter within The Jazzer’s Cookbook; and served for ten years as Editor of the IAJE Jazz Education Journal. He has directed All-State instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles across the U.S. The partnership he created between VCU Jazz and the University of KwaZulu-Natal merited the 2013 VCU Community Engagement Award for Research; he has also been appointed a Research Faculty member at UKZN.

Of his jazz curricular work, Wynton Marsalis said: “Eight key categories meet the challenge of teaching what is historically an oral and aural tradition. All are important ingredients.” The Chicago Tribune has highlighted García’s “splendid solos...virtuosity and musicianship...ingenious scoring...shrewd arrangements...exotic orchestral colors, witty riffs, and gloriously uninhibited splashes of dissonance...translucent textures and elegant voicing” and cited him as “a nationally noted jazz artist/educator...one of the most prominent young music educators in the country.” Down Beat has recognized his “‘knowing solo work on trombone’” and “first-class writing of special interest.” Cadence noted his “hauntingly lovely” composing as well as CD production “recommended without any qualifications whatsoever.” Phil Collins has said simply, “He can be in my band whenever he wants.”

A member of the board of The Midwest Clinic, Tony has taught and performed in Canada, Europe, Australia, The Middle East, and South Africa, including creativity workshops for Motorola, Inc.’s international executives. He is also the subject of an extensive interview within Bonanza: Insights and Wisdom from Professional Jazz Trombonists. Previous to VCU, he served as Coordinator of Composers at Northwestern University, where he taught jazz and integrated arts, was Jazz Coordinator for the National High School Music Institute, and for four years directed the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Formerly the Coordinator of Jazz Studies at Northern Illinois University, he was selected by students and faculty there as the recipient of a 1992 “Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching” award and nominated as its candidate for 1992 CASE “U.S. Professor of the Year.” He is recipient of the VCU School of the Arts’ 2015 Faculty Award of Excellence. Visit his web site at <www.garciamusic.com>. 
PSA/Campfire Program

Antonio J. García

In A Mellow Tone

Duke Ellington, arr. García

Antonio García, trombone, percussion

All the Things You Are

music by Jerome Kern, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Corcovado

Antonio Carlos Jobim

Mary Hermann García (vocals), Antonio García (trombone, vocals),
Mikiyas Negussie (guitar), Macon Mann (piano),
Ben Kelly (bass), Stefan LaRue (percussion)

Three for Two (or One or Three)

commissioned by Nathan Dishman, with support from Morehead State University

Antonio García (trombone), Ross Walter (euphonium),
Justin Alexander (percussion)

Jaguar Blues

commissioned for Jefferson Middle School (MO) via The Commission Project

VCU Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band
Antonio García, Director, Vocals

Saxes Wes Taylor & Dexter Moses (alto),
Spencer Cook & Jordan Crichlow (tenor), Spencer Culbertson (baritone)
Trumpets Jake Zaslav, Robert Williamson III, Aaron Kyle,
Ethan Massey, & Sophie Harrison
Trombones Daniel Nunn, John Bracey, Joseph Laux,
Jack Hendricks, & Jesse Yeomans (bass)
Rhythm Christian Lewis (guitar), George Maddox (piano),
Zen Southam-Gerow (bass),
Sheldon Blount & Tykeira Johnson (percussion)

The VCU Jazz Students Fund

We hope that you will make a gift to the VCU Jazz Students Fund. The Fund helps advance the careers of future jazz musicians by providing scholarships, equipment, and travel funding for students/ensembles, plus fees for visiting artists. Your gift now at any of the following levels will help us secure these opportunities for our students: $1000+ (Jazz Orchestra), $500 - $999 (Big Band), $250 - $499 (Quartet), $100 - $249 (Duo), $1 - $99 (Soloist). Please make your checks payable to the “VCU Jazz Students Fund” and mail them to Antonio García, VCU Music, PO Box 842004, Richmond, VA 23284-2004.

Ring My Bell

from the score for “The Palooka,” a film by Zack Kron

How’s Ya Mom ‘n’ Dem?

both public premieres by The Nashville Avenue Stompers

Myrick Crampton (sax, clarinet), Victor Haskins (trumpet),
Antonio García (trombone, vocals), Stefan Demetriadis (tuba),
Joe Lubman & C.J. Wolfe (drums)

It Just Is (Yiqiniso)

commissioned by Virginia Commonwealth University

in Honor of its Partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal

UKZN Jazz Poetry Ensemble
Prof. Neil Gonsalves, Director

Kwena Ramahuta (vocals), Rogan van den Berg (guitar),
Lungelo Ngcobo (keyboard), Dalisu Ndlazi (bass),
and Jude Ganasen (drums) with Prof. Burton Naidoo (piano)

In the Waves

film by Ying-Fang Shen, score & sound-design by García

The Heart of the Dance

VCU Jazz Orchestra I
Antonio García, Director, Trombone, Vocals

Shyheim Hinnant, vocals

Saxes Nathanael Clark (alto, soprano), Spenser Kears (alto),
Myrick Crampton* (tenor, flute), Chet Fricerson (tenor, clarinet),
Griffin Sisk (baritone)

Trumpets Michael Berkeley, Jack Beckner,
Cameron Bassicks, Zack Forbes, Matt Dixon

Trombones, Gabriel Luciano-Carson, Ben Culver,
Adam Davy, Nick Moore (bass)

Rhythm Mikiyas Negussie (guitar), Macon Mann (piano),
Kevin Eichenberger (bass), Stephan LaRue (drums)

* = VCU alumnus

This recital would not have been possible without the time and effort lent by all performing on today’s program, as well as the ongoing work of my VCU Music Faculty and Staff colleagues, especially Curt Blankenship, Concert Hall Manager. I am grateful to them for their professional and personal support.