Jazz Appreciation Month

Every April is Jazz Appreciation Month, an annual affirmation of jazz: in short, a month-long JAM! At its core, JAM is about education and the involvement of communities and cultural institutions in celebrating jazz.

Consider what the VCU Jazz Students Fund (founded in that same year of 2001) has already meant to our students. This academic year we hosted guitarist Randy Johnston; trombonist Bob McChesney; pianists Harry Appelman and Allen Farnham; composer Jonathan Wolff; guitar alumni/composers Trey Pollard and Matthew E. White; plus additional performances and instruction by our artist in residence, trumpeter John D'earth, and various guest performing adjunct faculty.

Most of these events would not have been possible without the support of the Jazz Students Fund—nor various equipment, musical arrangements, and other needs. And last November’s jazz concert saw over $9,000 in scholarship and financial support go to our students! Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month by contributing to the future of jazz education in Richmond: join the VCU Jazz Students Fund. Your gift now at any level will help us secure these opportunities for our students. Please make your checks payable to the “VCU Jazz Students Fund” and mail them to Antonio Garcia, VCU Music, PO Box 842004, Richmond, VA 23284-2004. For more information about the VCU Jazz Studies Program, visit <www.jazz.vcu.edu> and then contact Prof. Antonio Garcia at <ajgarcia@vcu.edu>, (804) 827-0699. And “thank you” to all our current contributors to the VCU Jazz Students Fund!

VCU Jazz Calendar (Concerts free and in Vlahcevic Hall unless noted.)

TH 4/21, 8p—VCU Small Jazz Ensembles, Vlahcevic Concert Hall.
SAT 4/23
5p—Macon Mann Senior Jazz Studies recital (piano), Recital Hall.
6:40-7:30p—VCU Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band, Titan Jazz & Art Festival, Trinity Episcopal School, Richmond.
W 5/4, 7:30-9:30p—“VCU Jazz” night, featuring VCU Jazz students and a VCU Jazz jam session, at Triple Crossing Brewery (113 South Foushee Street).
SAT 5/7, 1p—VCU Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band. Admission free.

Get the inside story and advance word on VCU Jazz events by subscribing to the VCU Jazz E-Newsletter (free!) E-mail Prof. Garcia at <ajgarcia@vcu.edu>.

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

VCU Jazz Orchestra
Antonio J. García, director

with guest soloist
Bob McChesney, trombone

and celebrating the Fifteenth Annual . . .

8 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2016
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
Virginia Commonwealth University
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Richmond, VA
— Program —

Road Time Shuffle
Exactly Like This
Marionett
Caravan
Whirlybird
Emily
Here’s Looking at You
Cherokee

— Intermission —

Toshiko Akiyoshi
Tom Kubis
Lars Jansson
Juan Tizol, arr. Tom Kubis
Neal Hefti
Johnny Mandel, arr. Bill Rogers
Charlie Haden, arr. Chris Walden
Ray Noble, arr. Matt Harris

VCU Jazz Orchestra I
Saxes Nathanael Clark (alto, soprano), Spenser Kearns (alto), Alfredo Santiago (tenor, alto, soprano, flute), Chet Prierson (tenor, clarinet), Griffin Sisk (baritone)
Trummps Michael Berkeley, Jack Beckner, Cameron Bessicks, 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 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

Our Guest Artist
Trombonist Bob McChesney has distinguished himself as one of the pre-eminent soloists in the world, not only in the realm of jazz and improvisation, but also as an interpreter of the most difficult and highly technical classical repertoire, as well. He can be heard on CDs for Barbra Streisand, Shakira, Michael Bublé, Natalie Cole, Rod Stewart, Chicago, Michael Bolton, and on the following Grammy-winning CDs: “Ray Charles: Genius Loves Company,” Diana Krall’s “When I Look in Your Eyes,” and Arturo Sandoval’s “Dear Diz.” Bob is thrilled to have worked with legendary composer and entertainer Steve Allen before his death in 2000. They co-produced what would be the last CD from Allen’s prolific songbook, the highly acclaimed “No Laughing Matter - The Bob McChesney Quartet plays Steve Allen.” A pre-eminent jazz educator and clinician, Bob has been a welcomed guest artist all over the U.S. and Canada and has authored what is considered to be the definitive treatise on the subject of “doodle tonguing,” “Doodle Studies and Etudes.” Legendary composer and conductor Lalo Schifrin exclaimed, “Bob McChesney is a virtuoso and has the gift to bring us the joy of music at the highest level.” We are delighted that he has come our way to share in his music and ours! Visit <www.bobmcchesney.com>.

VCU Jazz CDs “Leap of Faith” and “Front Burner” on Sale in the Lobby!
VCU Jazz’s eighth album, “Leap of Faith,” was recorded live in the U.S. and South Africa as part of the initial year of VCU Jazz’s collaborative project with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (Durban, South Africa). The CD features students and faculty from VCU and UKZN in various combos, plus performances by guest artists Plunky Branch (sax) and Madala Kunene (guitar and vocals), four newly commissioned compositions, and many new arrangements from the first year of our exchange project, “A Jazz Bridge to Greater Understanding,” funded by grants from VCU’s Global Education Office and VCUarts and spanning three years.

You can buy the CD in the lobby with cash, check, or credit card. Also available is VCU Jazz’s recent album “Front Burner,” also recorded entirely live, featuring the Jazz Orchestra I, a Small Jazz Ensemble, the Faculty Jazz Septet, and guests John Riley (drums) and Taylor Barnett and Graham Breedlove (trumpet). All proceeds from CD sales go to the VCU Jazz Students Fund.

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>.

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.