

KU SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The University of Kansas

NYC/Jazz at Lincoln Center Preview

KU Jazz Ensemble I
Dan Gailey, *director*

Matt Otto Combo
Matt Otto, *director*
Matt Otto, *saxophone*
Jeff Harshbarger, *bass*
Brian Ward, *piano*

Program to be selected from the following:

2/3's Adventure	Carlos Henriquez
Blood Count	Billy Strayhorn
Grace	Brian Ward
Neener, Neener	Remy Le Boeuf
On the Sunny Side of the Street	Jimmy McHugh arr. John Clayton
Pursuit with a Purpose	Camille Thurman arr. Chris Peebles
Silver's Serenade	Horace Silver arr. Matt Otto
Trombonio-Bustoso-Issimo (Trombone Buster)	William "Cat" Anderson arr. Duke Ellington

Friday, April 15, 2022
7:30 p.m., The Lied Center of Kansas

KU Jazz Ensemble I
Dan Gailey, director

Saxophones

Keegan Kaiser *Olathe, KS*
Nate Clarke *Lake Zurich, IL*
Ben Perschall *Polk City, IA*
Sam Sharp *Lawrence, KS*
Andrea Edwards *Overland Park, KS*

Trombones

Colin Wreath, *Andover, KS*
Eli Lockhart *Overland Park, KS*
David Dayoub *El Paso, TX*
Aaron Reed *Lawrence, KS*

Trumpets

Robert Vandivier *Orlando, FL*
Davison Smith *Fredericksburg, VA*
Rafniel Rios *Aguada, PR*
Camden Williams *Aurora, NE*
Quentin Weathers *Topeka, KS*

Rhythm Section

John Fraka, guitar *Shawnee, KS*
Nick Johnston, piano *Overland Park, KS*
Spencer Reeve, bass *Fresno, CA*
Paulo Zambarano, drums/percussion *Austin, TX*
Guthrie Bricker, drums/percussion *Lawrence, KS*
Nick Velicer, drums/percussion *Overland Park, KS*

Performer Biographies

MATT OTTO is currently the Assistant Director of Jazz Studies at [the University of Kansas](#) teaching Jazz Theory and Performance, jazz combos and private lessons in jazz improvisation, theory and composition. Matt studied music performance and composition at [Indiana University, Berklee School of Music, New School Jazz \(BFA\)](#) and [California Institute of the Arts \(MFA\)](#) during which time he studied under Lee Konitz, George Garzone, Billy Pierce, Charlie Haden, Don Hawkins and many others. Having lived in Japan for 5 years, New York City for 7 years and Los Angeles for 6 years, he has performed with a variety of artists including Anthony Wilson, Larry Koonse, Rashid Bakr, Ben Monder, Willie Jones III, Alan Ferber, Mark Ferber, Albert "Tootie" Heath, Gregory Hutchinson, Jonathan Kreisberg, Joe La Barbera, Leroy Vinegar, Bob Bowman, Jimmy Smith, Paul Jackson, Ari Honig, Ben Street, Mike Moreno, Sara Gazarek, Josh Nelson, Peter Schlamb, Danny Weiss, Roger Wilder, William Parker, Matt Wilson, Steve Cardenas, Bobby Watson, Bob Weir, Deborah Brown, Larry Goldings, Eric Harland, Sheryl Bailey, Darek Oles, Erik McPherson, John Stowell, Danny Embrey, Alan Pasqua, and many others. Matt currently performs his original compositions with his Kansas City based sextet, as well as traveling several times per year to NYC and LA to perform and record with various jazz artists. He has recorded and performed with the Grammy nominated Anthony Wilson Nonet (*The Power of Nine*, Groove Note 1035, 2006), The Rashid Bakr Quintet, and the Grammy nominated Alan Ferber Big Band as well as having recorded on over 50 CD's as both a leader and a side man.

Bassist/vocalist/composer **JEFF HARSHBARGER** has collaborated with visual artists (Nick Cave, David Ford, Molly Murphy) and musicians (Bobby Watson, Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, David Balakrishnan, Darol Anger, Krystle Warren) to produce work that challenges convention. He curates a twice-monthly concert series that promotes original composition, and hosts "Jazz in the Afternoon" on KKFI. A lecturer in Jazz Studies at The University of Kansas, Harshbarger is the recipient of fellowships from the Charlotte Street Foundation, The Kennedy Center, and The Steans' Institute.

BRIAN WARD is a keyboardist, educator, composer, and arranger from Portland, Oregon. Brian has performed with the Oregon Symphony, Bobby Torres, Shirley Nanette, Curtis Salgado, Obo Addy, Will Matthews, Bobby Watson, and many others. "City of Roses," one of the arrangements Ward helped create for Esperanza Spalding's album *Radio Music Society*, won a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Arrangement for Vocal Performance. Ward has taught jazz band and jazz piano at Portland State University, Washington State University, University of Idaho, Eastern Washington University, University of Kansas, Benedictine College and the Kansas City Jazz Academy. Currently, Brian is a candidate for a doctor of musical arts in composition at the University of Kansas and is enjoying performing jazz and blues in the Kansas City area.

KU JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

The University of Kansas Jazz Ensemble I, directed by Dan Gailey, is the flagship ensemble within the KU Jazz Studies Program. The program has received 28 *DownBeat* Student Music Awards, including Jazz Ensemble I's 2021, 2019 and 2015 awards in the Graduate Division for Best College Big Band in the United States or Canada, and their Outstanding Performance Award in the same division in 2017. Jazz Ensemble I performed Gailey's flamenco suite "Palos Nuevos" at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. in April 2018. In April 2016, the ensemble performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City with internationally acclaimed vocalist Deborah Brown, and the band was one of six international college finalists that performed at the 2019 and 2017 Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival. In April 2022, the band will be one of 10 college jazz ensembles invited by Wynton Marsalis to compete in the Rudin Jazz Championship at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City.

In July 2018, Jazz Ensemble I played 10 shows in 13 days with Deborah Brown as part of a European tour that included appearances by invitation at three of the world's most prestigious jazz festivals — the Montreux Jazz Festival (where the band performed twice), Umbria Jazz, and the Jazz À Vienne Festival. The ensemble has also been featured at International Association of Jazz Educators Conferences in New York City, Boston and Atlanta. Jazz Ensemble I has had the distinction of performing with such noted guest artists as Toshiko Akiyoshi, Clark Terry, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Anat Cohen, Sean Jones, Kneebody, Renee Rosnes, Steve Wilson, Tia Fuller, Dave Douglas, Louie Bellson, Jeff Coffin, Tim Ries, Peter Erskine, Vince Mendoza, Conrad Herwig, Bob Sheppard, Gary Foster, Steve Houghton, Bob Mintzer, Bobby Shew, Carl Fontana, Dick Oatts, Frank Mantooth, Ingrid Jensen, Jon Hendricks, Pete Christlieb and many others.

MATT OTTO COMBO

The Matt Otto Combo is the top small group in the KU Jazz Studies Program, and is directed by Matt Otto. The group places special emphasis on the performance of compositions and arrangements by ensemble members along with works written by Otto. They perform regularly on the KU campus and have been featured at the KU Jazz Festival, along with performances in Kansas City including the Westport Coffee House.

RUDIN JAZZ CHAMPIONSHIP JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER—NYC APRIL 19-20, 2022

The Jack Rudin Jazz Championship, a two-day invitational competition featuring ensembles from ten of the most well-regarded university jazz programs in the country, honors the legacy of Jack Rudin, longtime supporter of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and his founding support for Essentially Ellington, the organization's signature transformative education program. Launched in 2020, right before the pandemic, the Jack Rudin Jazz Championship provides participating ensembles with quality literature and a forum for celebrating excellence and achievement, while introducing higher education to Jazz at Lincoln Center's education methodology and philosophy—extending JALC's educational mission into the sphere of professional development for the next generation of leading jazz artists.

The Jack Rudin Jazz Championship competition events will include a combo showcase in The Appel Room, an initial round of competition performances, and a final concert in Rose Theater featuring a performance by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra as well as the final competition, with a second round of competition performances by the three top-placing bands, followed by an awards ceremony and announcement of the band taking top honors. The ensembles will also participate in rehearsals and workshops throughout Rose Hall over the course of the competition. The 2022 competition will be judged by a panel of leading jazz performers, composers, and educators: Ayn Inserto, Carlos Henriquz, Jeff Hamilton, Randy Brecker, and Jazz at Lincoln Center Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis.

KU Jazz Ensemble I will perform on Wednesday, April 20 at 1:30 PM EDT (12:30 PM CDT) in the Frederick P. Rose Hall in Jazz at Lincoln Center. The Matt Otto Combo will perform on Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00 PM EDT (6:00 PM CDT) in The Appel Room in Jazz at Lincoln Center. Both concerts will be livestreamed—for more information, visit <https://2022.jazz.org/jrjc>

The KU Jazz Studies Program and the School of Music would like to thank Reach Out Kansas, Inc. and the Law Offices of Smithyman and Zakoura for their generous support of the ensemble's travel costs.