

KU Jazz Ensemble I

with special guest

Camila Meza

guitar/vocals

Directed by **Dan Gailey**



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We are pleased to partner with the Lied Center of Kansas to present
KU Jazz Ensemble I with Camila Meza.

There will be no intermission during this performance.
Song selections will be announced from the stage.

Camila Meza

A fluidly inventive Chilean jazz guitarist and singer-songwriter, Camila Meza makes ambitious, lyrical music that combines progressive fusion, post-bop and Latin American folk traditions. It's a sophisticated sound born out of her love for artists like Pat Metheny, Milton Nascimento and Joni Mitchell. Meza first garnered attention with her 2007 debut, *Skylark*, before moving to New York. Since then, she has collaborated on projects with other boundary-pushing artists, like Ryan Keberle, Aaron Goldberg and Fabian Almazan. Applying her distinctive approach to jazz and pop standards, as well as her own emotive original pieces, Meza has garnered widespread acclaim for her genre-crossing albums, including 2009's *Retrato*, 2016's *Traces* and 2019's ebulliently orchestral *Ambar*.

Born in 1985 in Santiago, Meza grew up in a creative, intellectually minded family—the daughter of two journalists. Her father, who also played piano, encouraged her to play music. She also drew early inspiration from her brother, a drummer, who introduced her to prog-rock. By her teens, Meza was taking guitar lessons and listening to music by Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin, as well as singer-songwriters like Joni Mitchell. At 15, she formed a rock band with friends from school. She eventually discovered jazz, especially the genre-bending work of Pat Metheny, who quickly became a major influence. Soon, Meza was studying the styles of other influential guitarists, like George Benson, John McLaughlin and John Scofield. She also developed a deep passion for Latin American music traditions, including artists like Victor Jara, Milton Nascimento and Mercedes Sosa. Along with playing live shows, she studied with noted Chilean artists Jorge Vidal and Jorge Díaz. In 2007, she released her debut solo album, *Skylark*.

In 2009, Meza moved to New York City to attend the New School, where she further honed her skills studying with guitarists Peter Bernstein, Vic Juris and Steve Cardenas. That same year, she released her sophomore album as leader, *Retrato*, which featured her original songs, alongside covers by Luiz Bonfá, Led Zeppelin, Joni Mitchell and more. It was around this time that she also began to branch out, developing close creative relationships with artists like Ryan Keberle, Lucas Pino, Fabian Almazan and others. An EP, *Prisma*, arrived in 2013 and found Meza working with pianist Aaron Goldberg, bassist Pablo Menares, drummer Clarence Penn and saxophonist John Ellis.

In 2016, Meza made her Sunnyside debut with *Traces*, singing in English and Spanish. The album featured contributions by Shai Maestro, Matt Penman, Kendrick Scott, Sachal Vasandani and others. It earned Meza two Independent Music Awards, including Best Adult Contemporary Album and Best Latin Song for “Para Volar.” She returned in 2019 with the orchestral-string-inflected *Ambar* on Sony Masterworks, which again found her playing her own songs, alongside selections by Antônio Carlos Jobim, Milton Nascimento, Chico Buarque and others.

Dan Gailey

Dan Gailey is the director of Jazz Studies and professor of music at the University of Kansas, where he directs Jazz Ensemble I, teaches courses in jazz composition, arranging and pedagogy, and produces the annual KU Jazz Festival. He was named to a coveted Chancellor's Club Teaching Professorship at KU in 2017. Gailey is the recipient of the 1996 IAJE Gil Evans Fellowship, presented to an emerging jazz composer from an international field of candidates. Under his direction, the KU Jazz Studies program has been the recipient of 31 *DownBeat* Student Music Awards.

As director of KU Jazz Ensemble I, Gailey has led performances at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, the Jazz À Vienne Festival in France, the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival in California, the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy, and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City. He also directed the band in invited appearances at International Association of Jazz Educators Conferences in New York City, Atlanta and Boston.

The Dan Gailey Jazz Orchestra debut CD, *What Did You Dream?*, was released in July 2010 on Origin/OA2 Records and features all original compositions by Gailey, several of which are published through iJazzMusic.com. The CD spent almost two years on the *JazzWeek* Radio Airplay charts, and it received very favorable reviews from *JAZZIZ*, *JazzTimes* and *Cadence* magazines, among others.

Gailey has directed all-state high school jazz ensembles in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas and Washington, along with the 2015 NAFME All-Northwest Jazz Ensemble and the 1996 National Band Association National High School Ensemble. He holds degrees from the University of Northern Colorado (MM) and Pacific Lutheran University (BM). He is also on the Board of Directors for Jazz Education Abroad, a non-profit organization that presents educational workshops and festivals throughout the world, with emphasis in Asia and the Middle East.

KU Jazz Ensemble I

KU Jazz Ensemble I, directed by Dan Gailey, is the flagship ensemble within the Jazz Studies program at the University of Kansas. The program has received 31 *DownBeat* Student Music Awards, including Jazz Ensemble I's 2023, 2021, 2019 and 2015 awards in the Graduate Division for Best College Big Band in the United States or Canada, and their Outstanding Performance Awards in the same division in 2022 and 2017.

In April 2022, the band was 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, where they were selected as one of five finalists for the evening concert. The ensemble also performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City with internationally acclaimed vocalist Deborah Brown in 2016 and toured Europe with Brown in 2018, performing 10 shows in 13 days, including

appearances at three of the world's most prestigious jazz festivals: the Montreux Jazz Festival, Umbria Jazz and the Jazz À Vienne Festival. The band will return to Europe in July 2024, with performances at Umbria Jazz and the San Sebastian (Spain) Jazz Festival, among others.

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.

KU Jazz Ensemble I

Dan Gailey, director

Saxophone:

Keegan Kaiser
Nate Clarke
Spencer Addis
Ben Perschall
Andrea Edwards

Trumpet:

Davison Smith
Caden Dean
Nic Weaver
Camden Williams
Rafniel Rios

Trombone:

Aidan Hamer
Asa Martin
Eli Lockhart
José Arrieta

Rhythm Section:

John Fraka, guitar
Daul Lee, piano
Paxton Harvey, bass
Jade Harvey, drums/percussion
Owen Ashley, drums/percussion