

Jazz Band Concert

Chris Becker, director

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 - 7:30 P.M.
Pillsbury Theatre, 560 Music Center

WUSTL **MUSIC**

Program

- This I Dig of You* (1960) Hank Mobley (1930 - 1986)
arr. Mike Tomaro (b. 1958)
- Gentle Rain* (1965) Luiz Bonfá (1922 - 2001)
arr. Kris Berg (b. 1961)
- It Could Happen to You* (1944) Jimmy Van Heusen (1913 - 1990)
Lyrics by Johnny Burke (1908 - 1964)
arr. Dave Wolpe (b. 1936)
- Work Song* (1960) Nat Adderley (1931 - 2000)
Lyrics by Oscar Brown Jr. (1926 - 2005)
arr. Geoff Keezer (b. 1970)
- Peri's Scope* (1965) Bill Evans (1929 - 1980)
arr. Mike Tomaro (b. 1958)
- What Is This Thing Called Love* (1929) Cole Porter (1891 - 1964)
arr. Craig Skeffington (b. 1966)
- Witchcraft* (1957) Cy Coleman (1929 - 2004)
Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh (1926 - 1983)
arr. Sammy Nestico (1924 - 2021)
- Emancipation Blues* (1963) Oliver Nelson (1932 - 1975)
- Ran Kan Kan* (1957) Tito Puente (1923 - 2000)
arr. Michael Philip Mossman (b. 1959)

Director



Chris Becker is the Director of the Wind Ensemble and the Jazz Bands at Washington University in St. Louis, and serves as the director of winds and percussion. Mr. Becker graduated from the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory of Music "With Distinction" in 1977, receiving the Bachelor of Music Education Degree, and earned a Master of Arts in Education from Lindenwood University.

Mr. Becker has taught instrumental music in Missouri for 45 years from the elementary to the university level. In June 2017, he retired as Director of Bands at Parkway South High School, after serving for 36 years in the Parkway School District (St. Louis County, Missouri). During his tenure there, he directed Marching Bands, Symphonic Bands, Jazz Bands, and all other related band activities.

In addition, he is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Manchester Community Band, a highly successful ensemble founded ten years ago and enthusiastically received by the residents of Manchester. Mr. Becker has also been a frequent guest conductor for both concert bands and jazz bands in Missouri and Illinois.

Mr. Becker has served as the Jazz Vice President for the Missouri Music Educators Association, the first educator to hold that position after it was established as a part of the MMEA Board. Mr. Becker is a Past President of the Missouri unit of the International Association of Jazz Educators. During his term he helped clarify the mission and goals of the unit, and endeavored to reach out to music educators, those in the music industry, and professional players to create a broader base of support for jazz education. Becker has also served as Jazz Vice President for the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association. Becker plays the trumpet professionally with a variety of ensembles in the St. Louis area, and has taught trumpet privately in both the Kansas City and St. Louis areas.

Mr. Becker is a member of the National Association for Music Education, the Missouri Music Educators Association, the Missouri Association for Jazz Education, the Missouri Band Masters Association, and Phi Beta Mu Band Directors Fraternity. He was named "Charles Emmons Outstanding Band Director of the Year" by Phi Beta Mu in January 1999. He was nominated numerous times for the Pillar of Parkway Award, which recognizes commitment and dedication for work in the Parkway School District, and was awarded a Pillar of Parkway in April 2016. Mr. Becker was honored for his distinguished career by the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association in January 2018, and named to their Hall of Fame.

Jazz Band

Saxophones

Noah Clayton, alto (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Ph.D., Boston, MA)
Aaron Chen, alto (Math and Computer Science, Beijing, China)
Grant McIntyre, tenor (Physics and Math, Darien, CT)
Owen Kim, tenor (Undeclared, Los Angeles, CA)
Will Leidig, baritone (Neuroscience, St. Charles, IL)

Trumpets

Anais Beauvais (Psychological & Brain Sciences & Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Arlington, VA)
Nathan Pravda (Physics, Natick, MA)
Auriel Prepejchal (Biology, Carbondale, IL)
Jake Tillman (Economics, Strafford, MO)

Trombones

Matthew Viola (Philosophy, Manhasset, NY)
Riley Silfies (Biomedical Engineering, Southlake, TX)
Elijah Darden (Psychological and Brain Sciences, Naperville, IL)
Gage Fowlkes (Chemistry, Fort Worth, TX)
Peter Ochalek (Neuroscience, Jericho, NY)
Jonah Edelman-Gold, bass trombone (History, New York City, NY)

Rhythm Section

Collin Lloyd, drums (Political Science, Newburgh, IN)
Chase Walker, drums (Computer Science, Los Angeles, CA)
Gavin Goldsmith, drums (Undeclared, Los Angeles, CA)
Haihao Guo, guitar (Marketing Science, China)
Gabe Hamburg, acoustic bass (Economics, Environmental Analysis, Highland Park, IL)
Zachary Lieske, bass guitar (Biomedical Engineering, El Cerrito, CA)
Matthew Schwartz, bass guitar (Computer Science, Papillion, NE)
Nate Sapp, piano (Mechanical Engineering, Monument, CO)

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