

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 - 7:30 P.M.
Pillsbury Theatre, 560 Music Center

Jazz Band Concert

Chris Becker, director



Music

Program

Smack Dab in the Middle! (1985)

Sammy Nestico (1924 - 2021)

Blue Bossa (1963)

Kenny Dorham (1924 - 1972)
arr. Mark Taylor (b. 1950)
(This arrangement 2003)

Key West (2000)

Lennie Niehaus (1929 - 2020)

One Note Samba (1960)

Music by Antonio Carlos Jobim (1927 - 1994)
Words by Newton Mendonça (1927 - 1960)
arr. Mike Tomaro (b. 1958)
(This arrangement 1997)

Love Beams (2016)

Mark Taylor (b. 1950)

Fowl Play (2003)

Kris Berg (b. 1961)

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 47 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 College Band Directors National Association, 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.

WashU Jazz Band

Saxophones

Noah Clayton, alto (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Ph.D., Boston, MA)
Cyrus Beauvais, alto (Undecided, Arlington, VA)
William Wang, alto (Undecided, Shanghai, China)
Grant McIntyre, tenor (Physics and Math, Darien, CT)
Owen Ross, tenor (Chemistry, Atlanta, GA)
Aaron Chen, bari (Math and Computer Science, Beijing, China)

Trumpets

Josh Poeschel (Physics, Downers Grove, IL)
Auriel Prepejchal (Computational Biology, Carbondale, IL)
Jake Tillman (Masters in Economics, Strafford, MO)
Teo Giannini (Electrical Engineering, Berkeley, CA)
Kelsey Conover (Political Science, Kansas City, MO)

Trombones

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, NY)

Rhythm Section

Dave Howell, piano (Master of Legal Studies, St. Louis, MO)
Haihao Guo, guitar (Marketing Science, China)
Livy Best, bass guitar (Biological Anthropology, New Orleans, LA)
Zachary Lieske, bass guitar (Biomedical Engineering, El Cerrito, CA)
Mason Klein, drums (Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, Sudbury, MA)
Collin Lloyd, drums (Political Science, Newburgh, IN)

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