



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Jazz Nonets with Dan Wilson, jazz guitar

Jazz Nonet I
Randy Napoleon, conductor

Jazz Nonet II
Xavier Davis, conductor

Jazz Nonet III
Michael Dease, conductor

Jazz Nonet IV
Walter Blanding, conductor

*Generously sponsored by the
Jenny Chung & Family Fund for Human Rights
in the College of Music*

Friday, November 8, 2024
Murray Hall, 8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Jazz Nonet IV, Walter Blanding, conductor

Blue 'n' Boogie	Dizzy Gillespie & Frank Paparelli (1917–1993) (1917–1973)
Stranger	Walter Blanding (b. 1971)
Dream	Walter Blanding
Bup A Loup	Donald Byrd (1932–2013) arr. Walter Blanding

Jazz Nonet III, Michael Dease, conductor

I Can't Get Started	Vernon Duke (1903–1969) arr. Stephen Michaels
New Light	Eli Rachlin (b. 2003)
Black Napkins	Frank Zappa (1940–1993)

Jazz Nonet II, Xavier Davis, conductor

Bésame mucho	Consuelo Velázquez Torres (1916–2005) arr. Xavier Davis
A Token of Justice	Christopher Minami
ACJ (American Citizens for Justice)	Christopher Minami
Smiling Eyes	Dan Wilson (b. 1984) arr. Xavier Davis

PROGRAM (cont.)

Jazz Nonet I, Randy Napoleon, conductor

South Side

Louis Smith
(1931-2016)
arr. Randy Napoleon

Blue Skies

Irving Berlin
(1888-1989)
arr. Randy Napoleon

Lament for Lily

Christopher Minami

Looking Back

Christopher Minami

GUEST ARTIST BIO

Growing up in Akron, Ohio, **Dan Wilson** spent the majority of his youth within the church community, where his musical path began.

Traces of his major guitar influences – including Wes Montgomery, Charlie Christian, Joe Pass, and George Benson, to name a few – can be discerned through his playing, but his musical identity has been shaped by everything from gospel and blues to traditional jazz, hip-hop, and horn players like Sonny Rollins and Joe Henderson.

After graduating from Hiram College, Wilson made his recording debut with pianist Joe McBride and performed to worldwide acclaim with Joey DeFrancesco and Christian McBride's Tip City, eventually recording his debut album as a leader "To Whom It May Concern".

Wilson has had the honor of sharing the stage with jazz greats including Eric Marienthal, Russell Malone, Les McCann, René Marie, Jeff Hamilton, David Sanborn, and Dave Stryker. He also teaches jazz guitar and music theory through private lessons.

Wilson's career took him on an exploratory journey into foundations laid down by the guitar/organ tradition, eventually leading to an invitation to perform with jazz great Joey DeFrancesco's trio quartet, with which Wilson went on to earn a GRAMMY® Award nomination with for DeFrancesco's "Project Freedom" album (Mack Avenue Records, 2017).

This collaboration allowed the guitarist to insert his own dialect into the musical prowess and respect that DeFrancesco had earned throughout his journey.

Wilson had been playing with DeFrancesco for a few years when he met bassist, composer, arranger, Christian McBride. From there, Wilson went on to tour with McBride's trio Tip City, eventually leading McBride to serve as producer on "Vessels of Wood and Earth" and release the album on his newly formed imprint Brother Mister Productions through Mack Avenue Music Group.

The album was released on April 23, 2021 and is available on all platforms.

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS

From New York to China and everywhere in between, **Walter Blanding** has brought people joy through music for three decades. He has performed and recorded with Paul Simon, Aretha Franklin, Chick Corea, Dianna Ross, Cab Calloway, Branford Marsalis, and Tony Bennet, as well as the Count Basie Orchestra, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Wynton Marsalis Quintet, and orchestras in New York, Berlin, London, Paris, and Los Angeles.

Born in Ohio and raised in New York City, Walter's artistry impressed critics and listeners with his debut on "Tough Young Tenors", acclaimed as one of 1991's best jazz albums. Since then, his musical and spiritual presence has continued to evolve. In 1999, *Newsweek International* described Walter as the "Jazz Ambassador to Israel", where he lived for four years. His touring and significant influence on the music scene there inspired the making of the film "Caravan 841" in which he is a featured actor. Walter taught music in several Israeli schools and opened a private school in Tel Aviv. Dedicated to enriching lives through art as a means of cultural exchange, Walter served as Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jazz Ambassador in Shanghai from 2018 to 2020.

Xavier Davis has been appointed associate professor of jazz piano at the MSU College of Music, following six years of teaching at the Juilliard School. He has performed and recorded with many world-famous jazz artists including the legendary Freddie Hubbard, Tom Harrell, and Wynton Marsalis. Davis has worked with the Boys Choir of Harlem as their musical director, and he also played keyboard for the television series "Cosby". Davis is part of the Christian McBride Big Band and was featured on McBride's album, "The Good Feeling", which won a GRAMMY Award in 2012. In 2005, Davis became the first person to receive the prestigious New Works Grant twice from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation under the auspices of Chamber Music America.

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Michael Dease first played alto sax as a teenager, soon switched to tenor sax, and won all-state honors for three consecutive years on the latter instrument. Teaching himself trombone during his senior year, he repeated his all-state achievement on his new instrument. In 2002, Dease was invited to join the inaugural class of the jazz studies division of The Juilliard School where he received Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees. His teachers include Wycliffe Gordon, Steve Turre, Vincent Gardner, John Drew, and Joseph Alessi. While at Juilliard, Dease won many awards, including the Frank Rosolino Award, J.J. Johnson Award, the Sammy Nestico Jazz Composers Award, ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award, and the Fish Middleton Jazz Competition. He began his career in Illinois Jacquet's Big Band in 2002 and is currently a featured member of the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band, Christian McBride Big Band, Roy Hargrove Big Band, Nicholas Payton Big Band, Jimmy Heath Big Band, and the Charles Tolliver Big Band.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, **Randy Napoleon** began his journey in jazz immediately after finishing his studies at the University of Michigan. Napoleon's career took off, first touring with pianist Benny Green, and then full time with the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. Napoleon is featured on Michael Bubl 's GRAMMY-nominated CD, "Caught in the Act". He is the main arranger and the guitarist on "Freddie Cole Sings Mr. B", a 2010 GRAMMY-nominated release from High Note that features songs from the Billy Eckstine song book, as well as on "Talk to Me", Cole's 2011 album, and Cole's most recent album "This and That". Today, Napoleon is one of the most sought-after guitarists and he is known as a forward-thinking musician with a passion for the jazz guitar tradition.

PERSONNEL

Jazz Nonet I - Director: Randy Napoleon

Alto Saxophone - Thomas Noble

Tenor Saxophone - Evan Kielty

Baritone Saxophone - Nat Lewis

Trumpet - Andrew Brown

Trombone - Nanami Haruta

Piano - Max Gage

Bass - Langston Kitchen

Guitar - Daniel Li

Drums - Joe Fielder

Voice - Sarah Whitaker

Jazz Nonet II - Director: Xavier Davis

Alto Saxophone - Kevin Brewster

Tenor Saxophone - Evan Boyd Kielty

Baritone Saxophone - Andrew Wittmer

Trumpet - Joel Reaves

Trombone - Aidan Clark

Piano - Ethan Frank

Bass - Laura Simone Martin

Guitar - Mia Christina-Chinni Ianzito

Drums - Alonso Umana Chan

Voice - Adrienne Evans

Jazz Nonet III - Director: Michael Dease

Alto Saxophone - Mason Rheinhardt

Tenor Saxophone - Liam Avelluto

Baritone Saxophone - Stephen Michaels

Trumpet - Eli Rachlin

Trombone - Eli Howell

Piano - Kevin Eisenberg

Bass - Charlotte Best

Guitar - Nikhil Mandrekar

Drums - Chris Corey

Voice - Phoenix Miranda

Jazz Nonet IV - Director: Walter Blanding

Alto Saxophone - Sam Guckwa

Tenor Saxophone - Shane Karas

Baritone Saxophone - Mason Lopez

Trumpet - Jauron Perry

Trombone - Daniel Bear

Piano - Alex Makeda

Bass - Judah Guerra

Guitar - Sage Ziegenthaler

Drums - Larson Kelly

The Jazz Club

2024-2025 Season

The Michigan State University Jazz Studies Program aims to be the best training ground in the nation for aspiring jazz musicians. Private contributions help ensure our ability to provide an environment that nurtures the highest level of excellence and inspires the next generation of jazz musicians. Gifts support student scholarships, fellowships, outreach activities, student travel, the opportunity to bring guest artists to campus to enhance the student experience, and other crucial areas that make MSU Jazz Studies the outstanding program that it is.

With grateful appreciation, we acknowledge the following members of The Jazz Club at Michigan State University beginning April 1, 2024.

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Robert Last and Jill Canny

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If you are interested in becoming a member of The Jazz Club please send your check, made payable to Michigan State University, with The Jazz Club listed on the memo line, to:

College of Music Advancement Office

333 W Circle Drive, Room 153

Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI 48824

Make a gift



For information about The Jazz Club or concert sponsorships, please contact the College of Music Advancement Office at (517) 353-9872 or e-mail music.giving@msu.edu.

UPCOMING JAZZ STUDIES EVENTS

12/8 Sunday

MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence

Jazz Orchestras

Fairchild Theatre, 3:00 p.m. \$\$

12/14 Saturday

MSUFCU Showcase Series

A Jazzy Lil' Christmas

Fairchild Theatre, 8:00 p.m. \$\$\$

1/19 Sunday

MLK –Jazz: Prayer and Protest Concert

Fairchild Theatre, 3:00 p.m. free

2/14 Friday

MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence

Jazz Nonets with Rick Roe, jazz piano

Murray, 8:00 p.m. \$\$

2/21 Friday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Professors of Jazz

Murray Hall, 8:00 p.m. \$

3/23 Sunday

MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence

Jazz Orchestras

Pasant Theatre, 3:00 p.m. \$\$

4/10 Thursday

Jazz Nonets – Jazz Spectacular

Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$

4/11 Friday

Swing Dance – Jazz Spectacular

Large Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m. \$

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18. Please note: *All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.*

\$\$\$ \$22/\$25 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12/\$15 Students and those under age 18.