



University
of Rochester
Eastman School of Music

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

JAZZ FACULTY

*Tuesday, September 22, 2026
Kilbourn Hall
7:30 PM*

PROGRAM

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

Sara Gazarek, voice
Christine Jensen, saxophone
Bob Sneider, guitar
Clay Jenkins, trumpet
Marshall Gilkes, trombone
Gary Versace, piano
Dariusz Terefenko, piano
Jeff Campbell, bass
Otis Brown III, drum set



For program notes, artist biographies, and the most up-to-date information on Eastman concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the "Great Hill People" and "Keepers of the Western Door" of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Graced with an “impeccable” voice (*Winnipeg Free Press*) and hailed as an artist who “may well turn out to be the next important jazz singer” by the *LA Times*, three-time Grammy Award®-winning jazz vocalist **Sara Gazarek** has been one of the leading lights of an impressive generation of jazz vocalists since her brilliant emergence at age 20. While her subsequent career has been the picture of success – highlighted by five critically acclaimed albums, numerous world tours, an ardent fanbase, enthusiastic reviews, and collaborations with such luminaries as Kurt Elling, Fred Hersch, and Billy Childs, it is with her latest double-GRAMMY® nominated album, *Thirsty Ghost*, and most recent four-song EP, *Vanity*, that Gazarek brings her musical expression stunningly into phase with her emotional maturity. Gazarek currently works as an Associate Professor of Jazz Voice at the Eastman School of Music (where she was hired to design the brand-new jazz voice degree), is a founding member of the all-female, GRAMMY® winning vocal ensemble, *sāje*, and currently serves as a National Trustee of the Recording Academy.



As a *DownBeat* Critic’s Poll winner for Rising Star Big Band, Arranger, and Soprano Saxophonist, **Christine Jensen** is constantly in motion leading her own jazz orchestra and small ensemble. Her jazz orchestra recordings have gone on to win Juno awards, including *Habitat* (2014) and *Treelines* (2011). She is two-time recipient of SOCAN’s Hagood Hardy Jazz Composer Award. *Habitat* received the coveted 5 stars in *DownBeat*, along with being included at the top of several international critic’s polls, including Jazz Album of the Year in 2014.



Jensen’s music has taken her all over the world, where she has received numerous commissions and conducting opportunities in Canada, the US and Europe. Her recent guest artist residencies have brought her to Frost School of Music-UMiami, The New School, University of Michigan, UMO Jazz Orchestra, Stockholm Jazz Orchestra, and Luxembourg Jazz Orchestra. She has performed with Jeremy Pelt, Phil Dwyer, Ben Monder, Gary Smulyan, Geoffrey Keezer, Lenny Pickett, and Donny McCaslin, as well as directing Terrence Blanchard with the Orchestre National Jazz de Montreal. She is founding artistic director and conductor of the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra, as well as the past artistic director of Orchestre National Jazz de Montreal. As a saxophonist, Jensen continues to collaborate on small and large ensemble projects with her sister Ingrid Jensen out of New York, along with the addition of guitarist Ben Monder with *Infinitude*.

Teachers and mentors include Kenny Werner, Jim McNeely, Dick Oatts, Remi Bolduc and John Hollenbeck. Since 2006, she has held composition and arranging lecturer positions at McGill University, Purchase College, University of Sherbrooke as well as guest professor at University of Montreal, as well as being artistic director of McGill Jazz Orchestra and small ensembles.

Before joining the Eastman faculty in late 1997, guitarist **Bob Sneider** toured for several years with two-time Grammy Award winner Chuck Mangione. Other notable performers with whom Sneider has performed, toured, or recorded include Nat Adderley, Joe Locke, Don Menza, Lou Donaldson, Joey DeFrancesco, Pat Bianchi, Gary Versace, Pat Labarbara, Joe Locke, Grant Stewart, Ken Peplowski, Gerry Niewood, Chris Potter, Roy McCurdy, Eric Alexander, David Hazeltine, Frank Strazzerri, Jon Faddis, Keeter Betts, and frequent appearances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Pops (guitar/banjo).



Bob Sneider has performed in major festivals, concert halls, and jazz clubs throughout South America, Central America, North America, and Europe. Sneider is a graduate of the University of Rochester where he studied with Bill Dobbins and Ramon Ricker. Growing up in Brockton, MA, Sneider's mentor and teacher was Chet Kruley—a veteran of the Fletcher Henderson and Nat Pierce bands.

Sneider has several solo and co-led CD projects that have received rave reviews and international airplay. His solo albums are *Introducing Bob Sneider* (self-produced) and *Out of the Darkness* (Sonsofsound). Additionally, he has recorded duo projects with pianist Paul Hofmann: *Interconnection* (Sonsofsound), *Escapade* (Sonsofsound), and *Serve & Volley* (Origin). With the Bob Sneider Joe Locke Film Noir Project, Sneider can be heard on *Fallen Angel* (Sonsofsound), *Nocturne for Ava* (Origin), and *All Through the Night* (RIJF).

Sneider's students have won major jazz competitions and attended renowned institutes such as YoungArts, *DownBeat*, Grammy National Band, the Brubeck Institute, and the Kennedy Center/Jazz Ahead.

Clay Jenkins performed as a member of the Stan Kenton, Buddy Rich, and Count Basie Orchestras before he joined the Eastman School of Music faculty in September 2000 as Professor of Jazz Trumpet. Clay has performed and recorded with many different jazz artists including Milt Jackson, Benny Carter, Snooky Young, Harold Danko, Rich Perry, Dick Oates, Randy Brecker, Diana Krall, Dr. John, Joe Williams, Peter Erskine, Joe La Barbera, and Kim Richmond. He is a charter member of The Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, and continues to record and tour with that award-winning ensemble.



Among his numerous recording credits are four recordings with Trio East (along with Jeff Campbell and Rich Thompson), as well as several solo recordings. He has performed on several Grammy-nominated recordings. Clay Jenkins recently founded the endowed Snooky Young Trumpet Scholarship at the Eastman School of Music.

Over the course of the past 20 years, **Marshall Gilkes** has established himself as one of the world's preeminent trombonists. A nonpareil artist at the forefront of brass playing, his virtuosic command of the instrument, marked by a warm and enveloping tone, formidable technique, astounding flexibility, and awe-inspiring range, place him in a league of his own. Crafting eight albums since 2004, Gilkes has touched on a variety of settings including the compact trio, quartet and quintet formats, a merging of brass octet and jazz combo, and big band. Drawing heavy praise in the process, including a pair of Grammy nominations, he's cemented his reputation as a composer and leader of great renown.



His lengthy résumé includes work performing and/or recording with bassist Carlos Henriquez, harpist Edmar Castañeda, Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Slide Monsters, bassist Richard Bona, pianist Makoto Ozone and numerous other top-tier musicians and outfits. And through his work with the WDR Big Band and as a longtime member of the Maria Schneider Orchestra, Gilkes has played himself into the rich history of large ensemble music. A marvel of musicality sought after and highly respected in both the jazz and classical worlds, Gilkes has served on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music, Berklee College of Music and New England Conservatory of Music. In addition, he's shared his knowledge and skills through master classes, clinics, guest appearances and teaching at other venerable institutions including the Banff Center, University of North Texas, the Brubeck Institute, Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music and the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. An S. E. Shires Artist, Gilkes performs on his signature model trombone—an instrument as versatile as its inspiration.

Since basing himself in NYC in 2000, originally hailing from Cos Cob, CT, jazz pianist, organist and accordionist **Gary Versace** has become one of the busiest and most versatile musicians on the international jazz scene, often featured in bands led by musicians such as John Scofield, John Abercrombie, Maria Schneider, Al Foster, Kurt Elling, Rudy Royston, Rich Perry, Mike Rodriguez, Regina Carter, Ellery Eskelin, Ray Anderson, John Hollenbeck, Ralph Alessi, Michael Blake, Kurt Elling, Anat Cohen, Madeleine Peyroux, Matt Wilson, Ingrid Jensen, and many others. Gary appeared twice as a guest on Marian McPartland's acclaimed NPR show "Piano Jazz," and McPartland has described him as "...endlessly inventive... (Versace) really has an extraordinary talent." His latest recording as a leader, *Three Track Mind*, is a piano trio date featuring bassist Francois Moutin and drummer Rudy Royston and was released on the Sunnyside label to critical acclaim that included as a 4.5 star review in *DownBeat Magazine*. Versace also has several CD's under his own name on the Criss Cross and SteepleChase labels, the most recent releases being two piano trio recordings: *Time Frame*, featuring bassist Jay Anderson and drummer Rudy Royston, and *All for Now*, also featuring bassist Jay Anderson with drummer Obed Calvaire. *All for Now* received a 4 star review in *DownBeat Magazine* and was included in their list of the best recordings of 2020.



Versace, along with bandmates vocalist Kate McGarry and guitarist Keith Ganz, was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2019 for his work on *The Subject Tonight is Love*, the band's latest trio recording, and has performed on several other Grammy winning and nominated recordings by composers John

Hollenbeck and Maria Schneider. He has also appeared on dozens of recordings as a sideman on various labels over the years with nationally and internationally known jazz artists. Versace won the *Jazz Journalists' Association's* "Best Instrumentalist – Instruments Rare In Jazz (accordion)" award in 2018, their "Organist of the Year" award in 2012, and is mentioned yearly in both the readers and critics polls in *DownBeat* and *JazzTimes* magazines. Before embarking on his performing career, Versace spent eight years as a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Oregon, and currently is a tenured professor in the jazz studies department at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

Dariusz Terefenko teaches at the Eastman School of Music, where he began his career as a master's student of jazz piano. After completing his M.M. in jazz piano performance (1998), he enrolled and finished a Ph.D. in music theory (2004). Terefenko holds a joint teaching appointment in two departments: Jazz and Contemporary Media and Music Theory. Terefenko's recently recorded solo album, *Evidence*, offers his creative take on favorite jazz standards, jazz instrumentals, and his own compositions. In March 2014, Terefenko published a book entitled *Jazz Theory: From Basic to Advanced Study* (Routledge), which has already been adopted as a required textbook at the prestigious music universities in the USA, Canada, and Europe.



Jeff Campbell has carved out an impressive career as a bass player of extraordinary artistry, fluent in both the jazz and classical idioms. As a jazz bassist, he maintains an active schedule performing with Marian McPartland, Gene Bertoncini, Rich Perry, Trio East, Harold Jones, and the Eastman Jazz Quartet featuring Harold Danko, and has appeared on McPartland's Piano Jazz program on *National Public Radio*. In high demand across the globe, Jeff has performed at such prestigious European musical events as the Nice, Montreux, North Sea, Riga, and Parnu Jazz Festivals, and has also appeared in the former Soviet Union and the Baltic Republics. His first CD, *West End Avenue*, with John Hollenbeck and John Wojceichowski, features a combination of original compositions and jazz standards. Additionally, Jeff is a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra bass section. His summers are occupied with the Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Door County, Wisconsin, where he serves as program director, and the Eastman Summer Jazz Studies and Bass Day, of which he is co-director.



In addition to a busy performing schedule, Jeff maintains an active career as a jazz educator with a keen interest in bass playing of the past, present, and future. A full-time professor at Eastman since 1997, his teaching duties include jazz bass, jazz history, jazz theory and aural skills, and small group performance. He is a regular contributor to the *Double Bassist* magazine, and is the Jazz Editor of *Bass World*, the official publication of the International Society of Bassists. Jeff's book on the famous Duke Ellington-Jimmy Blanton duets (in preparation for publication) provides bassist with an opportunity to study the bass playing of the great Jimmy Blanton.

Jeff's music education began at an early age under the influence of his professional-musician parents. As a young musician, Jeff received much of his musical training working with local professional

musicians in a myriad of musical styles and venues. Through these experiences, Jeff developed a healthy balance between the artistic and practical issues faced by today's professional musician. Jeff holds degrees in double bass performance and music education from Brigham Young University (BM) and the Eastman School of Music (MM, DMA). He has studied bass with John F. Clark, James VanDemark, Jeffrey Turner, and Robert Zimmerman, and jazz composition with Bill Dobbins and Fred Sturm.

The son of music educators turned high school Principals, Grammy nominated drummer **Otis Brown III** is committed to honoring tradition while pushing the boundaries of genre. Having grown up in Newark, N.J. to the sounds of gospel, funk, rhythm and blues, and jazz, Otis believes music is a vessel for spiritual catharsis, storytelling, and advocacy. In his stellar career as a first call musician he has performed and/or recorded with the likes of artists such as Herbie Hancock, Somi, Joe Lovano, Esperanza Spalding, Terence Blanchard, Robert Glasper, Gretchen Parlato, Regina Carter, and many others. Having played with a literal "Who's Who" in the music world, he has also been a frequent collaborator in the world of modern dance. He has collaborated with MacArthur fellow and Doris Duke Artist Award winner Kyle Abraham and his company A.I.M., and has most recently collaborated with choreographer Hope Boykin and the Alvin Ailey American Dance theater for the premiere of a new work titled *Finding Free*. As a bandleader, Otis has also toured extensively worldwide and released his critically acclaimed debut album *The Thought Of You* on the Revive Music/Blue Note record label. The highly anticipated follow-up will be released in 2025.

