

A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN JAZZ

TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

9:00 AM

JAZZ FACULTY ENSEMBLE

FEATURING MILENA CASADO, TRUMPET

CHRISTINE JENSEN, DIRECTOR

11:30 AM

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Hatch Recital Hall



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Program to be announced from the stage.

EASTMAN CELEBRATION ENSEMBLE

Christine Jensen, director

Sara Gazarek, voice

Christine Jensen, alto/soprano saxophone

Melina Casado, trumpet

Melissa Gardiner, trombone

with

Allison Young, baritone saxophone

Erin Famous, bass

Danica Rebudiao, bass

Kate Molloy, piano

Reyna Machado, drum set

Welcome to A Celebration of Women in Jazz Day. Thank you to Eastman School of Music, The Jazz and Contemporary Media Department, and the Office of the Dean.

Thank you to all of the student volunteers and musicians. Special thank you to Reinbild Steingrover, Kate Schimmer, Jeff Campbell, Danica Rebudiao and Sara Gazarek for their dedication to making this event take off.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Celebrating 40 years in music, NEA Jazz Master and four-time GRAMMY® award-winning drummer, producer and educator, **Terri Lyne Carrington** started her professional career in Massachusetts at 10 years old when she became the youngest person to receive a union card in Boston. She was featured as a “kid wonder” in many publications and on local and national TV shows. After studying under a full scholarship at Berklee College of Music, Carrington worked as an in-demand musician in New York City, and later moved to Los Angeles, where she gained recognition on late night TV as the house drummer for both the *Arsenio Hall Show* and Quincy Jones’ *VIBE TV* show, hosted by Sinbad.

While still in her 20’s, Ms. Carrington toured extensively with Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock, among others. In 2011, she released the GRAMMY® award-winning album, *The Mosaic Project*, featuring a cast of all-star women instrumentalists and vocalists, and in 2013, she released, *Money Jungle: Provocative in Blue*, which also earned a GRAMMY® Award, establishing her as the first woman ever to win in the Best Jazz Instrumental Album category.

To date Ms. Carrington has performed on over 100 recordings and has been a role model and advocate for young women and men internationally through her teaching and touring careers. She has toured or recorded with luminary artists such as Al Jarreau, Stan Getz, Woody Shaw, Clark Terry, Diana Krall, Cassandra Wilson, Dianne Reeves, James Moody, Yellowjackets, Esperanza Spalding, Kris Davis, Chaka Khan, Natalie Cole, and Nancy Wilson.

In 2019 Ms. Carrington was granted The Doris Duke Artist Award, a prestigious acknowledgment in recognition of her past and ongoing contributions to jazz music. Also in 2019, her collaborative project, Terri Lyne Carrington and Social Science (formed with Aaron Parks and Matthew Stevens), released their album, *Waiting Game*, inspired by the seismic changes in the ever-evolving social and political landscape. The double album expresses an unflinching, inclusive, and compassionate view of humanity’s breaks and bonds through an eclectic program melding jazz, R&B, indie rock, contemporary improvisation, and hip-hop. *Waiting Game* was nominated for a 2021 GRAMMY® award and has been celebrated as one of the year's best jazz releases by *Rolling Stone*, *Downbeat*, *Boston Globe*, and *PopMatters*. *Downbeat* describes the album as, “a two-disc masterstroke

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on par with Kendrick Lamar's 2015 hip-hop classic, "To Pimp a Butterfly'..." and garnered three of their critics poll awards, Album of the Year, Group of the Year, and Artist of the Year. Ms. Carrington was also named Artist of the Year by *Jazz Times Critics Polls*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Jazz Journalists Association*.

Ms. Carrington has received honorary doctorates from Manhattan School of Music, York University, and Berklee College of Music, where she currently serves as the Founder and Artistic Director of the Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice, which recruits, teaches, mentors, and advocates for musicians seeking to study jazz with racial justice and gender justice as guiding principles.

She has curated musical presentations at Harvard University, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the John F. Kennedy Center, and has enjoyed multi-disciplinary collaborations with esteemed visual artists Mickalene Thomas and Carrie Mae Weems and is also the artistic director for Detroit's multi-disciplinary arts organization, the Carr Center.

In 2022, the curator and activist authored two books; a children's book entitled *Three of a Kind*, on the making of the Allen Carrington Spalding trio, and the seminal collection, *New Standards: 101 Lead Sheets By Women Composers*, another illustration of how she has worked tirelessly to fight for inclusivity and raise the voice of women, trans, and non-binary jazz musicians. Accompanying the book is her latest album, *new STANDARDS vol. 1*, featuring 11 selections from the songbook with an all-star band.

The album, which ranges from ballads to experimental compositions, is timely and adventurous, exploring the multiverse of jazz, with Carrington (drums and percussion) joined by Kris Davis (piano), Linda May Han Oh (bass), Matthew Stevens (guitar), and Nicholas Payton (trumpet) and welcomes special guests trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire, saxophonist Ravi Coltrane, electronic artist Val Jeanty, guitarist, Julian Lage, flutist Elena Pinderhughes, percussionist Negah Santos and vocalists Melanie Charles, Samara Joy, Michael Mayo, Dianne Reeves, and Somi. In 2023, the album won a GRAMMY® Award for the best jazz instrumental album.

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Carrington also curated a multi-media installation to accompany and expand on the message of the New Standards book and new STANDARDS vol. 1 album. The installation premiered at Detroit's Carr Center, and was later featured at the Emerson Contemporary Media Art Gallery in Boston. This ambitious series of projects were created to shine a light on women composers in historic new ways.

Ms. Carrington serves as co-executive producer and musical director for the newly formed Jazz Music Awards and is a 2022 inductee into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Called “a revelation” by *The New York Times*, trumpeter and composer **Milena Casado** is one of the most compelling new voices in contemporary jazz. Known for her fluid improvisation and deeply personal compositions, she effortlessly moves between acoustic music and electronic experimentation, blending tradition with innovation.

Recently recognized by the *LA Times* as a can't-miss newcomer who's keeping the spirit of jazz moving and listed as a contemporary jazz artist you should know by *WBGO*, Casado has already generated major buzz through her work with Terri Lyne Carrington, Vijay Iyer, Aaron Parks, Kris Davis, and other guiding forces in the music world, earning critical acclaim. She has been featured at many of the world's top venues and festivals, including Carnegie Hall, The Village Vanguard, North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreal Jazz Festival, and Monterey Jazz Festival, among others.

Casado leads her working quintet, with recent performances at North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreal Jazz Festival, Vitoria-Gasteiz Jazz Festival, NYC Winter Jazzfest, and other major venues. Backed by this group, Casado recently released her debut album, *Reflection of Another Self*, on Candid Records.

"*Reflection of Another Self* is a stunning debut—sonically adventurous and deeply personal, a journey of self-discovery and resilience, overcoming personal traumas. It is a bold statement from a newcomer who has been honing her skill with luminaries and biding her time, constructing a debut album fit for someone destined to upend the jazz world."

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Composer, bandleader and saxophonist **Christine Jensen** has contributed a distinctive voice to creative jazz scene with large and small ensemble for the last twenty-five years. As a Downbeat Critic's Poll winner for Rising Star Big Band, Arranger, and Soprano Saxophonist, she is constantly in motion leading her own jazz orchestra and small ensemble. Her jazz orchestra recordings have gone on to win three Canadian Juno Awards, including her large ensembles recordings *Habitat* (2014), *Treelines* (2011) and most recently for her quartet *Day Moon* (2024). She is two-time recipient of SOCAN's *Hagood Hardy* Jazz Composer Award. *Habitat* received the coveted 5 stars in Downbeat, along with Jazz Album of the Year, while making the top of several international critic's polls. In 2017, Jensen was awarded The *Prix Oscar Peterson* from the Montreal International Jazz Festival.



Jensen's music has taken her all over the world, where she has received commissions, performance and conducting opportunities in Canada, the US and Europe. In 2023 she led the HR Big Band-Frankfurt in conducting and arranging with Mark Turner and his music, alongside her mentor and teacher Jim McNeely. She has appeared as invited guest artist with Frost School of Music-UMiami, The New School-NY, University of Michigan, UMO Jazz Orchestra-Finland, Stockholm Jazz Orchestra, Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, Hard Rubber 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. Between 2012 and 2022 she collaborated with Orchestre National Jazz de Montreal, including composing, conducting and recording *Under The Influence Suite*, which went on to receive the *Prix Opus* for jazz recording of the year in 2017.

In 2022 Jensen joined the Eastman faculty as professor of jazz studies, where she teaches jazz composition and arranging, as well as directing the award-winning Eastman Jazz Ensemble. Since 2006, she has also held saxophone, composition and arranging positions at McGill University,

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Purchase College (NY), University of Sherbrooke, Université de Montreal, as well as being artistic director of McGill Jazz Orchestra I. Jensen has studied with Kenny Werner, Jim McNeely, Dick Oatts, Remi Bolduc and John Hollenbeck.

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, two-time GRAMMY Award® nominated 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, a teaching position at the University of Southern California and collaborations with such luminaries as Kurt Elling, Fred Hersch, Billy Childs and Larry Goldings, 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 is a founding member of the all-female, GRAMMY® nominated vocal ensemble, *säje*, and currently serves as Governor of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Recording Academy. Learn more about Sara by visiting her website.



Trombonist **Melissa Gardiner** has been described by Curtis Fuller as technically creative and emotionally powerful. Her improvisation is inspiring and motivating for the listener, and she draws you in with a raw expression that directly relates to life experience.

Throughout her career she has worked with several notable musicians including Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, Geri Allen, Wycliffe Gordon, Steve Turre,



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Gerald Wilson, Patti Austin, Tia Fuller, Ingrid Jensen, Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, and Vulfpeck.

As a bandleader, she has released four albums, *Transitions* (2011), *Second Line Syracuse* (2016), *Empowered* (2019) which features prominent jazz women Tia Fuller (Beyonce) and Ingrid Jensen, and *The NOVA Collective* (2023). Gardiner has won several awards including two Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMYS) for Best Jazz Album (2016, 2019), and a Grand Prize Winner at the International Jazz Competition in Bucharest, Romania (2018).

In addition to an active performance career, Gardiner has teaching credentials at Syracuse University, Le Moyne College and Cornell University and has been recognized as an outstanding educator in many settings, including as a finalist for the National Music and Arts Educator of the Year award (2017), as an inductee to the Liverpool High School Fine Arts Hall of Fame (2018) and a Lifetime Educator of the Year award for the SAMMYS Hall of Fame (2019).

Gardiner received her master’s degree in jazz performance at The Juilliard School where she studied with Steve Turre. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree at The University of Michigan where she studied with Dennis Wilson (jazz) and David Jackson (classical). Former teachers also include Bill Harris, Curtis Fuller and Wycliffe Gordon. She is an artist for BAC Musical Instruments and plays on a BAC Custom Trombone.

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.

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

EASTMAN PRESENTS - RANLET SERIES

Ying Quartet

Kilbourn Hall

Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 3:00 PM

The Ying Quartet occupies a position of unique prominence in the classical music world, combining communicative performances with a fearlessly imaginative view of chamber music in today's world. As quartet-in-residence at the Eastman School of Music, the ensemble performs three Eastman Presents Series concerts during the season.

EASTMAN PRESENTS - RAY CONNIFF JAZZ SERIES

Eastman New Jazz Ensemble

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

*Free, tickets not required

EASTMAN PRESENTS - FERNANDO LAIRES PIANO SERIES

Stewart Goodyear

Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

Proclaimed “a phenomenon” by the *Los Angeles Times* and “one of the best pianists of his generation” by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Stewart Goodyear is an accomplished concert pianist, improviser, and composer. Goodyear has performed with, and has been commissioned by, many of the major orchestras and chamber music organizations around the world.

UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Eastman Jazz Ensemble

Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

Composers Concert

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall



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