MEET THE ARTISTS



Clay Jenkins' career as a jazz artist has covered a wide range of musical experiences and responsibilities, bringing him to the forefront of the jazz performing and teaching arenas.

Clay's experience as a performer began at an early age, playing and recording with the Stan Kenton Orchestra. In 1978, Clay moved to Los Angeles, where he was in demand as a performer and studio recording musician and toured with the big bands of Buddy Rich and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Since moving to Rochester, New York in 2000 to join the Eastman faculty, Clay has maintained a busy performing, recording, and teaching schedule. He has remained active throughout the United States and abroad. Clay continues to perform and record with the Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, of which he is a charter member and whose trumpet section also included the great Eugene "Snooky" Young (1919-2011).

Clay's close friendship with Snooky Young led to three guest appearances at Eastman by the great trumpet player, and Clay recently established the Snooky Young Endowed Scholarship at Eastman to assist underrepresented minority students. Clay is currently writing a biography of Snooky Young's life.

Clay has performed on over one hundred recordings. He has released seven solo recordings under his name, and as a co-leader he has recorded with Gene Bertoncini, Kim Richmond, and Don Aliquo. Additionally, Clay has also recorded with Joe LaBarbera's Quintet, The Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, Harold Danko, Rufus Reid, Alan Ferber, and Charles Pillow. Clay also records with his Eastman colleagues Jeff Campbell and Rich Thompson as Trio East. Clay's latest recording project, soon to be released, included guitarists Gene Bertoncini and Larry Koonse, drummers Joe La Barbera and Jeff Hamilton, and bassist John Clayton.

Clay attended North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Theory. He received his Master's Degree in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California.

Clay plays Edwards Trumpets and is a performing artist for The Edwards Instrument Company.



With 7 recordings to his credit, **Charles Pillow** has established himself as one of the premier woodwind instrumentalists and saxophonists of the day. His recordings include *Electric Miles* (MAMA, 2018) with his large ensemble featuring the music of Miles Davis, which was a top 10 critics pick; *Triocity* (Origin Arts, 2017), with fellow Eastman instructors Jeff Campbell and Rich Thompson; *Van Gogh Letters* (ELCM, 2010), featuring Eastman instructor Gary Versace; *The Planets* and *Pictures at an Exhibition*, both on Artistshare; *In this World* (Summit, 2001); and *Currents* (Challenge, 1996).

A fluent performer, educator and touring musician, he has appeared on over 100 CDs of jazz and pop artists such as Brad Mehldau, John Scofield, Michael Brecker, David Liebman, David Sanborn, Jay Z, Paul Simon, Tom Harrell, Joe Henderson, Maria Schneider, and Bob Mintzer. In addition to his teaching at the Eastman School of Music, he gives masterclasses throughout the US and abroad.



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 has 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, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Slide Monsters, bassist Richard Bona, pianist Makoto Ozone, and numerous other top-tier musicians and outfits. 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. In addition, he has shared his knowledge and skills through masterclasses, 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.



Before joining the Eastman faculty in late 1997, **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, Grant Stewart, Ken Peplowski, Gerry Niewood, Chris Potter, Roy McCurdy, Eric Alexander, David Hazeltine, Frank Strazzerri, Jon Faddis, Keeter Betts, and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Pops (guitar/banjo). 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: *Introducing Bob Sneider* (self-produced); *Out of the Darkness* (Sons of Sound); duo projects with pianist Paul Hofmann—*Interconnection* (Sons of Sound), *Escapade* (Sons of Sound), and *Serve and Volley* (Origin); The Bob Sneider/Joe Locke Film Noir Project—*Fallen Angel* (Sons of Sound) and *Nocturne for Ava* (Origin); and *All Through The Night* (RIJF). Several of his students have won major jazz competitions and attended renowned institutes including YoungArts, DownBeat, Grammy National Band, The Brubeck Institute, and Kennedy Center/Jazz Ahead.



Jeff Campbell has carved out an impressive career as 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 he 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 bassists 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, NJ 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.