

The Ray Conniff Jazz Ensemble Series

Eastman New Jazz Ensemble

Dave Rivello,
director

Eastman Jazz Ensemble

Christine Jensen,
director

Featuring John Clayton,
guest composer, conductor, and bassist

Tuesday, April 15, 2025
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre
7:30 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

~ PROGRAM ~
Eastman New Jazz Ensemble
Dave Rivello, *director*

If Only

Jake Leis, *baritone saxophone*

Kathy Sakson

INTRODUCING John Clayton

Georgia On My Mind

Ian Oliver, *tenor saxophone*

Carmichael/Gorrell
Arr. John Clayton

The Jody Grind

Ian Oliver, *tenor saxophone*
Elijah Alexander, *trombone*

Horace Silver
Arr. John Clayton

For All We Know

Camilo Baracaldo, *piano*

Coots/Lewis
Arr. John Clayton

I Love Being Here with You

Lauren Gibson, *voice*

Lee/Schluger
Arr. John Clayton

Evidence

Aidan Bartholet, *guitar*
Ian Larking, *trumpet*
Alvaro Caravaca, *trumpet*
Felix Schneider, *trumpet*
Ryan Vasquez, *trumpet*
Reyna Machado, *drums*

Thelonious Monk
Arr. John Clayton

~ PROGRAM ~
Eastman Jazz Ensemble
 Christine Jensen, *director*

Featuring guests Clay Jenkins and Jeff Campbell

Hidden In Plain Sight **Jack Snelling****

Jordan Bell, *soprano saxophone*
Conducted by the composer

False Spring **Sarah Jerrom****

Juan Saus Ruiz, *alto saxophone*
Misha Studenkov, *accordion*; **Will Anderson**, *guitar*
Sarah Jerrom McBride, *voice*; **Sam Chandler**, *conductor*

Preso **Juan Saus Ruiz****

Wyatt Pepper, *trumpet*
Conducted by the composer

The Eternal Triangle **Sonny Stitt**
arr. John Clayton

Alison Young, *baritone saxophone*
Ivan Demarjian, *tenor saxophone*; **Peter Haensel**, *tenor saxophone*
Juan Saus Ruiz, *alto saxophone*; **Jordan Bell**, *alto saxophone*

Yellow Flowers After **Clay Jenkins**
Arr. John Clayton

Featuring **Clay Jenkins**, *trumpet*

Cici Will Do Just Fine **John Clayton**

Erin Famous, **Danica Rebudiao**,
John Clayton, **Jeff Campbell**

How Insensitive **Antonio Carlos Jobim**
Arr. John Clayton

Lisa Lei, *vocals*
Lorenzo Monk, *piano*

And So It Goes **Billy Joel**
Arr. John Clayton

Featuring **John Clayton**, *bass*
Annie Orzen, *piano*; **Jordan Bell**, *alto saxophone*

The Jones Brothers **Jeff Clayton**
Arr. John Clayton

Soloists TBA

Captain Bill **Ray Brown**
Arr. John Clayton

Soloists TBA

~ PERSONNEL ~
Eastman New Jazz Ensemble

Reeds

Carter Bowman
 Ryan Finegan
 Ian Oliver
 Cameron Jones
 Jake Leis
 Lane Hansen

Voice

Lauren Gibson

Trumpet

Felix Schneider
 Ryan Vasquez
 Alvaro Caravaca
 Ian Larkin
 5th trumpet

Trombone

Elijah Alexander/ Sam Streeter
 Ethan Burkett
 Bec Caldwell

Guitar

Aidan Bartholet

Piano

Misha Studenkov
 Camilo Baracaldo

Bass

Danica Rebudiao
 Kat Link

Drums

Reyna Machado
 Jack Kelly

~ PERSONNEL ~
Eastman Jazz Ensemble

Woodwinds

Jordan Bell
 Juan Saus Ruiz
 Peter Haensel
 Ivan Demarjian
 Allison Young

Piano

Annie Orzen
 Lorenzo Monk

Bass

Gavin Rice
 Brenden Nei

Trumpet

Steve Sharp
 Wyatt Pepper
 Israel Stone
 Wesley Benjamin
 Julian Sachs

Guitar

Will Anderson

Drums

Braden Jones
 Sam Schaefer

Trombone

Dan Atkinson
 Garnet Muller
 Dan Mach Holt
 Corey 'CJ' Bohler

***denotes student premiere of new work*

~ MEET THE ARTIST ~

John Clayton is a natural born multitasker. The multiple roles in which he excels — composer, arranger, conductor, producer, educator, and yes, extraordinary bassist — garner him a number of challenging assignments and commissions. With a Grammy on his shelf and eight additional nominations, artists such as Diana Krall, Paul McCartney, Regina Carter, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Gladys Knight, Queen Latifah, and Charles Aznavour vie for a spot on his crowded calendar.

He began his bass career in elementary school playing in strings class, junior orchestra, high school jazz band, orchestra, and soul/R&B groups. In 1969, at the age of 16, he enrolled in bassist Ray Brown's jazz class at UCLA, beginning a close relationship that lasted more than three decades. After graduating from Indiana University's School of Music with a degree in bass performance in 1975, he toured with the Monty Alexander Trio (1975-77), the Count Basie Orchestra (1977-79), and settled in as principal bassist with the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in Amsterdam, Netherlands (1980-85). He was also a bass instructor at The Royal Conservatory, The Hague, Holland from 1980-83.

In 1985 he returned to California, co-founded the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra in 1986, rekindled the The Clayton Brothers quintet, and taught part-time bass at Cal State Long Beach, UCLA and USC. In 1988 he joined the faculty of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, where he taught until 2009. Now, in addition to individual clinics, workshops, and private students as schedule permits, John also directs the educational components associated with the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, Centrum Festival, and Vail Jazz Party.

Career highlights include arranging the "Star Spangled Banner" for Whitney Houston's performance at Super Bowl 1990 (the recording went platinum), playing bass on Paul McCartney's CD "Kisses On The Bottom," arranging and playing bass with Yo-Yo Ma and Friends on "Songs of Joy and Peace," and arranging playing and conducting the 2009 CD "Charles Aznavour With the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra," and numerous recordings with Diana Krall, the Clayton Brothers, the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz, Orchestra, Milt Jackson, Monty Alexander and many others.

About The Ray Conniff Jazz Ensemble Series:

The Ray Conniff Jazz Ensemble Series is supported by The Ray and Vera Conniff Foundation, established in 2015 to honor the renowned Grammy-winning trombonist and arranger Ray Conniff. The foundation furthers Conniff's legacy by supporting future generations of musicians through scholarships and financial support.



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