Welcome
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY
To You: The Music of Thad Jones

NEC Jazz Orchestra
Ken Schaphorst, director

Jim McNeely, guest conductor

Thursday, April 20, 2023
7:30 p.m.
NEC’s Jordan Hall
PROGRAM

Thad Jones
(1923–1986)

Counterblocking

Little Pixie

Kids are Pretty People

Return Journey

A Child is Born

Fingers

Intermission

Jim McNeely

Thad

Thad Jones
arr. Jim McNeely

Elusive

Thad Jones

The Second Race

To You

Don’t Git Sassy
NEC Jazz Orchestra
Ken Schaphorst, conductor

Winds
Zack Bacak, alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, flute
Ben Eidson, alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, flute
Chris Ferrari, tenor saxophone, flute
Sam Childs, tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone
Vladyslav Dovhan, baritone saxophone

Trumpets
Mark Tipton
Richard Stanmeyer
Lemuel Marc
Isaac Dubow

Trombones
Michael Gerace
Aiden Coleman
Dylan Rogan
Weza Jamison-Neto

Rhythm
Jonathan Paik, piano
Thatcher Harrison, guitar
Leo Weisskoff, bass
Alex Yoo, drums

Guest
Koki Renwick, trumpet

Jim McNeely was born in Chicago. In 1975 he received his B.Mus. in composition from the University of Illinois and moved to New York City. He joined the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra in 1978 and spent six years as a featured soloist with that band and its successor, Mel Lewis and the Jazz Orchestra (now The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra). In 1981 he began a 4-year tenure as pianist/composer with the Stan Getz Quartet, and from 1990-95 he held the piano chair in the Phil Woods Quintet. He currently leads his own tentet, his own trio, and appears as soloist at concerts and festivals worldwide.

Jim’s reputation as composer/arranger and conductor for large jazz bands has earned him a Grammy Award and several Grammy nominations. In 1996 he rejoined The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra as pianist and Composer-in-Residence. He is the former chief conductor, and now composer-in-residence, with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band, where he has collaborated with artists including Dave Holland, John Scofield, Luciana Souza, Branford Marsalis, Dave Douglas and Ambrose Akinmusire. Other work includes projects with the Danish Radio Big Band (where he was chief conductor for five years), the Metropole Orchestra, the Swiss Jazz Orchestra, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw.

Jim’s music has been called “exhilarating” (The New York Times) and “eloquent
Jim has appeared as sideman on numerous recordings led by major artists such as Thad Jones, Mel Lewis, Stan Getz, Bob Brookmeyer, and Phil Woods. He has numerous albums under his own name, including the recent Rituals, with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band and Chris Potter, which received five stars from DownBeat. Jim is professor emeritus in jazz composition at Manhattan School of Music and has held positions at William Paterson University and New York University. He was involved with the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop for 24 years, including 16 years as musical director. He has done clinics and major residencies at dozens of institutions in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and Egypt.

Thad Jones was an American jazz trumpeter, composer, and bandleader. He was born in Pontiac, Michigan to a musical family of ten (an older brother was pianist Hank Jones and a younger brother was drummer Elvin Jones). Thad Jones was a self-taught musician, performing professionally by the age of sixteen. He served in U.S. Army bands during World War II (1943-46).

After the war, Thad Jones continued his professional music career, eventually winding up with Count Basie in 1954, for whom he arranged, composed, and performed for nine years. But much of Jones's music was stylistically original and didn't always fit in with the Basie group which he left in 1963. In the early sixties he became a freelance arranger and performer in the New York area. In 1965 he and drummer Mel Lewis formed the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band. The group initially began with informal late night jam sessions amongst New York's top studio musicians. The group eventually began performing at the Village Vanguard, to wide acclaim, and continued with Jones in the lead for twelve years. In 1979 they won a Grammy Award for their album Live in Munich. Jones also taught at William Paterson College in New Jersey.

In 1978 Thad moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, where several other American jazz musicians had gone to live. There, he formed a new band, Eclipse, composed for The Danish Radio Big Band and taught jazz at the Royal Danish Conservatory in Copenhagen. A year before his death, Jones came back to the U.S. to lead the Count Basie Orchestra but had to step down due to ill health. He returned to his home in Copenhagen for the last few months of his life. Charles Mingus called Jones "...the greatest trumpet player I've heard in this life." In later years his playing ability was overshadowed by his composing and arranging skills. His best known composition is the standard A Child is Born.
Upcoming Concerts at NEC
Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert and ticketing information

FACULTY RECITAL: BRIAN LEVY, jazz saxophone
Friday, April 21, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONG & VERSE: “Diva! Romance, Peril, Dream, and the Feminine Eternal”
JJ Penna, coach
Friday, April 21, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

MARION RUBIN BERMAN ’31 PIANO HONORS CONCERT
Ligeti Etudes
Monday, April 24, 2023, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

JAZZ COMPOSERS’ WORKSHOP ORCHESTRA, Frank Carlberg, director
Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC PHILHARMONIA & SYMPHONIC CHOIR, Hugh Wolff, conductor
Brahms Tragic Overture; Gabriela Lena Frank Conquest Requiem;
Yeonjae Cho, soprano, Libang Wang, baritone; Lutoslawski Concerto for Orchestra
Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Symphony Hall

SONATA NIGHT 46, Pei-Shan Lee, director
Music for Piano Four Hands by Franz Schubert
Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

HONORS ENSEMBLE: ZEPHYR WIND QUINTET
Yechan Min, flute; Sojeong Kim, oboe; Hyunwoo Chun, clarinet; Andrew Brooks, bassoon; Yeonjo Oh, French horn
Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC CHAMBER SINGERS, Erica J. Washburn, conductor
“Something Old: An Origin Story”
works by Aleotti, Byrd, des Prez, Dowland, Lotti, Morley, Ockeghem, Palestrina, Pearsall, Weelkes, de Wert
Friday, April 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

LIEDERABEND LXVI
Friday, April 28, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall
Upcoming Concerts at NEC
–continued

NEC CHAMBER SINGERS, Erica J. Washburn, conductor
“Something New: The Line Between”
Improvisational electronic dance music, recycling selected Renaissance works from
the 7:30 concert, guest artist, Andrew Lenox
Friday, April 28, 2023 at 10:00 p.m., Jordan Hall

FIRST MONDAY IN JORDAN HALL, Laurence Lesser, artistic director
Kurtág Hommage à Schumann; Ligeti Quartet No. 2; Schumann Quintet in E-flat Major
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC
New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers
Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

HONORS ENSEMBLE: QUARTET LUMINERA
Masha Lakisova and Kristy Chen, violin; Njord Fossnes, viola; Davis You, cello
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

PRATT RESIDENCY CONCERT
Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

CHAMBER MUSIC GALA
Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

CMA CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
Sunday, May 7, 2023, 10:00 am -10:00 pm, Eben Jordan

ARTIST DIPLOMA RECITAL: Changyong Shin, piano
Changyong Shin ‘24 AD studies with Wha Kyung Byun
Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

HONORS ENSEMBLE 7
Joshua Brown and Thompson Wang, violin; Cara Pogossian, viola; Claire Park, cello
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

FACULTY RECITAL: STEPHEN DRURY, piano
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

HONORS ENSEMBLE 8
Yun Janice Lu, piano; Yiliang Eric Jiang, violin; Jeffrey Ho, cello
Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall
Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC
all programs subject to change

William Mabuza, jazz bass (BM)
Student of Jason Moran and Nasheet Waits
Friday, April 21, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Eben Jordan

Kwong Man To, viola (MM)
Student of Nicholas Cords
Friday, April 21, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Keller Room

Delfina Cheb Terrab, CMA (DMA ’24)
Student of Dominique Eade and Anthony Coleman
Friday, April 21, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Brown Hall

Jawoon Koo, bass-baritone (MM)
Student of MaryAnn McCormick
Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

Josie Larsen, soprano (MM)
Student of Bradley Williams
Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

William Stark, jazz bass (BM)
Student of Cecil McBee
Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall

Libang Wang, baritone (MM)
Student of Michael Meraw
Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Lucas Hernandez, tenor (BM)
Student of Bradley Williams
Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Burnes Hall

Andrew Li, piano (MM)
Student of Wha Kyung Byun
Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Williams Hall

Ga-Young Park, collaborative piano (DMA ’25)
Student of Cameron Stowe and Jonathan Feldman
Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Keller Room
Support the musical journeys of NEC students!
Contributions to The NEC Fund directly support the musical journeys of our extraordinarily talented NEC students and help keep our concerts free. From student scholarships and faculty support to exceptional student resources and learning opportunities, your gift makes the unparalleled NEC experience possible. Learn more at necmusic.edu/give.

Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

necmusic.edu/tonight