

N | E | C

New England  
Conservatory

# Concert Program

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*High Life:*  
*The Music of Wayne Shorter*

NEC Jazz Orchestra  
Ken Schaphorst, director

with guest artists  
Carl Atkins, conductor  
and  
Jerry Bergonzi, saxophone  
Ethan Iverson, piano  
Rachel Z, piano

Thursday, April 18, 2024  
7:30 p.m.  
NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

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All compositions on tonight's concert are by Wayne Shorter.

*NEC Jazz Orchestra*

**Wayne Shorter**  
(1933-2023)  
arr. Carl Atkins

*Suite Wayne/Sweet Wayne*  
*Speak No Evil*  
*Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum*  
*Yes or No*

Carl Atkins, conductor

arr. Ethan Iverson

*The Chess Players*

Ethan Iverson, piano

*Shere Khan, the Tiger*

*This is for Albert*

Ken Schaphorst, conductor

*Intermission*

*NEC Jazz Orchestra and Members of NEC Philharmonia*

***Midnight in Carlotta's Hair***

Rachel Z, piano

arr. Ken Schaphorst

***Infant Eyes***

Jerry Bergonzi, tenor saxophone

***Children of the Night***

***High Life***

Ken Schaphorst, conductor

**Wayne Shorter**, called a genius, a trailblazer, a visionary, was born on August 25, 1933 in Newark, New Jersey. He studied at New York University and served in the U.S. Army. He spent brief periods in the Horace Silver quintet and the Maynard Ferguson big band before his first major association, with Art Blakey's hard-bop Jazz Messengers. Miles Davis convinced Shorter to join his quintet in September 1964, thus completing the lineup of a group whose biggest impact would leapfrog a generation into the '80s. Staying with Miles until 1970, Shorter became the band's most prolific composer at times, contributing tunes like E.S.P., Pinocchio, Nefertiti, Sanctuary, Footprints, Fall, and the signature description of Miles, Prince of Darkness. Herbie Hancock said: "The master writer to me, in that group, was Wayne Shorter. He still is a master. Wayne was one of the few people who brought music to Miles that didn't get changed." Following the release of *Odyssey of Iska* in 1970, Shorter formed Weather Report. The band produce many high-quality recordings in diverse styles, with funk, bebop, Latin jazz, ethnic music, and futurism being the most prevalent denominators. After leaving Weather Report in 1986, Shorter continued to record and lead groups in jazz fusion styles.

In 2000, he formed the first permanent acoustic group under his name, a quartet with pianist Danilo Perez, bassist John Patitucci, and drummer Brian Blade, playing his own compositions. Four albums of live recordings have been released: *Footprints Live*; *Beyond the Sound Barrier*; *Without a Net*; and *Emanon*, with the latter, in addition to live material, including Shorter's quartet in a studio session with the 34-piece Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Wayne Shorter's works have been performed by the Chicago Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Lyon Symphony, National Polish Radio Symphonic Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Prague Philharmonic and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. He has received commissions from the National, St. Louis, and Nashville Symphony Orchestras, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the La Jolla Music Society. Shorter has realized over 200 compositions and dozens of these works have become modern standards. Shorter died on March 2, 2023, at the age of 89.

In a career spanning more than 60 years, **Carl Atkins** has distinguished himself as a woodwind specialist, conductor, composer, ethnomusicologist, administrator, consultant, and teacher, in "Jazz," non-Western and Western European art music. Atkins received the Bachelor of Music in Woodwinds from Indiana University, the Master of Music in Conducting from the New England Conservatory, and the Doctor of Music in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music.

Atkins has performed with many noted musicians and organizations, including Gunther Schuller, George Russell, Bill Evans, Jaki Byard, and Herbie Hancock; the American National Opera Co., the Boston Opera Co., and the Swedish Radio Jazz Orchestra. As a composer, he has written for solo artists, chamber ensembles, symphony orchestras, wind orchestras, and documentary films.

Atkins was the founding director of the Jazz and Afro-American Music Department at the New England Conservatory, where he also taught woodwinds, African American Music History, and conducted jazz and wind ensembles. He has served as President and Executive Director of the David Hochstein School of Music &

Dance (Rochester, NY), and Board Chair of the National Guild for Community Arts Education. In 1995 he became Co-Director (with noted Jazz bassist, Ron Carter) of the Thelonious Monk Institute at NEC. In 1999, Atkins was appointed Associate Dean for Advanced Studies at NEC. In 2002, he was appointed Professor of Music at the Rochester Institute of Technology, serving as Chair of the Department of Performing and Visual Arts from 2012 to 2018. Atkins retired as Professor Emeritus in 2018, and in 2021 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the New England Conservatory.

Tenor saxophonist **Jerry Bergonzi** is an internationally recognized jazz performer, composer, author, and educator. Bergonzi has performed throughout the world at all the major jazz festivals and jazz venues, with his own ensembles as well as with numerous jazz greats. His music is renowned for its innovation, mastery, and integrity. His discography includes more than 60 recordings, notably *Standard Gonz* with the Jerry Bergonzi Quartet on the Blue Note label; he also has 60 recorded song titles registered with ASCAP. As a clinician Bergonzi has taught at conservatories and music schools throughout the U.S. and Europe. He is the author of a series of instructional books with play-along CDs and videos, entitled *Inside Improvisation*, published by Advance Music (seven volumes: Melodic Structures, Pentatonics, Jazz Line, Melodic Rhythms, Thesaurus of Intervallic Melodies, Developing a Jazz Language, and Hexatonics), as well as the book/CD set *Sound Advice*. The *Inside Improvisation* series is now available in French, German, and Italian translations. Bergonzi is a three-time NEA grant recipient.

**Ethan Iverson** is a pianist, composer, and writer who lives in Brooklyn. His latest Blue Note release, *Technically Acceptable*, features a Piano Sonata originally premiered at New England Conservatory, where Iverson has taught since 2016.

**Rachel Z** is a keyboardist with a long history of award-winning performances in the worlds of jazz and rock. In addition to her 13 albums as bandleader and her work in internationally acclaimed bands such as Steps Ahead, Vertú, the Omar Hakim Experience, and OZmosys, she has played and toured with artists like Wayne Shorter (on the Grammy-winning album *High Life*), Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller, Terri Lyne Carrington, Al Di Meola, and Regina Carter. She also co-wrote the Grammy-winning song, *Tokvo Blue* with fellow NEC graduate, Najee. Rachel came to worldwide prominence in the rock world in the Peter Gabriel concert films *Growing Up Live* and *Still Growing Up Live*. Since 2000, she has been a Professor of Jazz and Contemporary Music Studies at The New School University in New York. Since 2022 also a Professor of Jazz Studies and Electronic Music at Montclair State University and Cali School of the Arts.

**NEC Jazz Orchestra**  
Ken Schaphorst, director

*Winds*

Zack Bacak, alto and soprano saxophone, flute  
Lenka Molcanyiova, alto and soprano saxophone  
Logan From, tenor saxophone, flute  
Hunter McKay, tenor saxophone, clarinet  
Matt Wessner, baritone saxophone, bass clarinet

*Trumpets*

Richard Stanmeyer    Woody Pierre  
Koki Renwick        Sammy Davies

*Trombones*

Aiden Coleman        Cooper Malanowski  
Yimin Ji                Weza Jamson-Neto, bass trombone

*Rhythm*

Longfei Li, piano       Peikun Liu, guitar  
Nick Isherwood, bass    Dominic Vance, drums

*Guests*

Itay Dayan, clarinet    Jake Wise, bass clarinet  
Maddoc Johnson, trumpet

**Members of NEC Philharmonia**

*Flute*

Subin Oh

*Oboe*

Abigail Hope-Hull

*English horn*

Christian Paniagua

*Bassoon*

Julien Rollins

Carson Meritt

*French horn*

Mauricio Martinez

Sophie Steger

*Violin 1*

Olga Kaminsky

Angela Sin Ying Chan

Joy Wei

Sydney Scarlett

*Violin 2*

Claire Thaler

Yebin Yoo

Gabriella Foster

Tessie Katz

*Viola*

Philip Rawlinson

Po-Sung Huang

Ru-Yao Van der Ploeg

Chengrong Li

*Cello*

Nicholas Tsang Man To

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*Timpani*

Lucas Vogelman

*Harp*

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guest, Berklee College of  
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## **Upcoming Concerts at NEC**

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### **SONG AND VERSE 3**, JJ Penna, curator

“Morrison | Lorca: Songs Inspired by the Writings of Toni Morrison and Federico García Lorca”

*Friday, April 19, 2024 at 8:30 p.m., Burnes Hall*

### **NEC HONORS ENSEMBLE: CATEGORY FIVE WINDS**

Honor Hickman, flute; Corinne Foley, oboe; Evan Chu, clarinet;  
Abigail Heyrich, bassoon; Graham Lovely, French horn

*Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **JAZZ COMPOSERS' WORKSHOP ORCHESTRA**, Frank Carlberg, director

*Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **ENCHANTED CIRCLE**, Steven Drury, artistic director

*Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

### **NEC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**, Donald Palma, artistic director

Shaw *Entr'acte*; Schoenberg *Verklärte Nacht for string orch., op. 4*;  
Harberg *Piccolo Concerto*, Elizabeth McCormack, flute

*Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **LIEDERABEND LXXII**

Tanya Blaich and Cameron Stowe, directors

*Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

### **NEC SYMPHONIC CHOIR & CHAMBER SINGERS**, Erica J. Washburn, conductor

“Great Music for a Great Space: Sanctuary”

Shaw *To the Hands*; Corigliano *Fern Hill*

*Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **NEC LAB ORCHESTRA**

*Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

### **ARTIST DIPLOMA RECITAL**: Yeonjae Cho '24, soprano

*Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **NEC SYMPHONY**, David Loebel, conductor

Simon *The Block*; Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*;  
Jennings *Five Miniatures from Greenwich Village*

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*



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