

Concert Program

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*Dreamkeeper:
The Music of Carla Bley*

NEC Jazz Orchestra
Ken Schaphorst, conductor

Thursday, October 16, 2025
7:30 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall

Carla Bley (1936-2023) was an American composer, pianist, organist, and bandleader celebrated for her wit, originality, and genre-blurring approach to jazz. Emerging in the 1960s avant-garde scene, she gained prominence as a composer for the Jazz Composers Orchestra and through her ambitious, often satirical works that fused jazz, rock, and classical influences. Her landmark jazz opera *Escalator Over the Hill* became a cult classic, and she went on to lead innovative big bands and small groups for decades. Bley's music, marked by sharp humor, lyricism, and structural inventiveness, left a lasting imprint on modern jazz composition and performance.

PROGRAM

All compositions by Carla Bley unless otherwise noted.

Someone to Watch

Enoch Sontonga
arr. Carla Bley

Nkosi Sikelel'i Afrika

Three Strikes

arr. Ken Schaphorst

Jesus Maria

On the Stage in Cages

Greasy Gravy

Awful Coffee

Charlie Haden
arr. Carla Bley

Silence

Ray Noble
arr. Carla Bley

I Hadn't Anyone Til You

NEC Jazz Orchestra
Ken Schaphorst, conductor

Winds

Max Cannon, alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, flute
Teddy Goldman, alto saxophone, soprano saxophone
Max Strong, tenor saxophone
Jett Gonzalez, tenor saxophone
Shuhan Wang, baritone saxophone

Trumpets

Charlie Watson	Ben Kilpatrick
Nicholas Abraham	Woody Pierre

Trombones

Zixuan Weng	Angel Salinas
Julian Quinones	Jonas Ventrescas, bass trombone

Rhythm

Peter Vasquez, <i>piano</i>	Oscar Peterson, <i>bass</i>
Oliver Turner, <i>guitar</i>	Brett James-Halter, <i>drums</i>

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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.

Stay connected



necmusic.edu/tonight



Welcome to NEC!

I'm thrilled to welcome you to New England Conservatory's 2025–26 concert season — a celebration of the power that music has to inspire and connect us to one another.

Whether you are seated in one of our concert halls or watching online, we hope the performances of our students, faculty, and guest artists uplift you.

Above all, we thank you for supporting our students as they cultivate their artistry and contribute to the world through music.

Andrea Kaylin
President

A large orchestra is performing in a grand, ornate hall. The conductor, wearing a bright yellow jacket, stands in the center of the stage, facing the orchestra. The musicians are seated in rows, playing various instruments including violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. The hall has a high ceiling with decorative moldings and is lit with warm, golden light. The audience is visible in the foreground, seated in rows of chairs.

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N | E | C

A woman in a graduation gown and a headpiece made of many thin sticks with stars at the ends, has her arms raised in a celebratory gesture. She is wearing a dark gown over a sequined dress. The background is a blurred image of a building with large windows.

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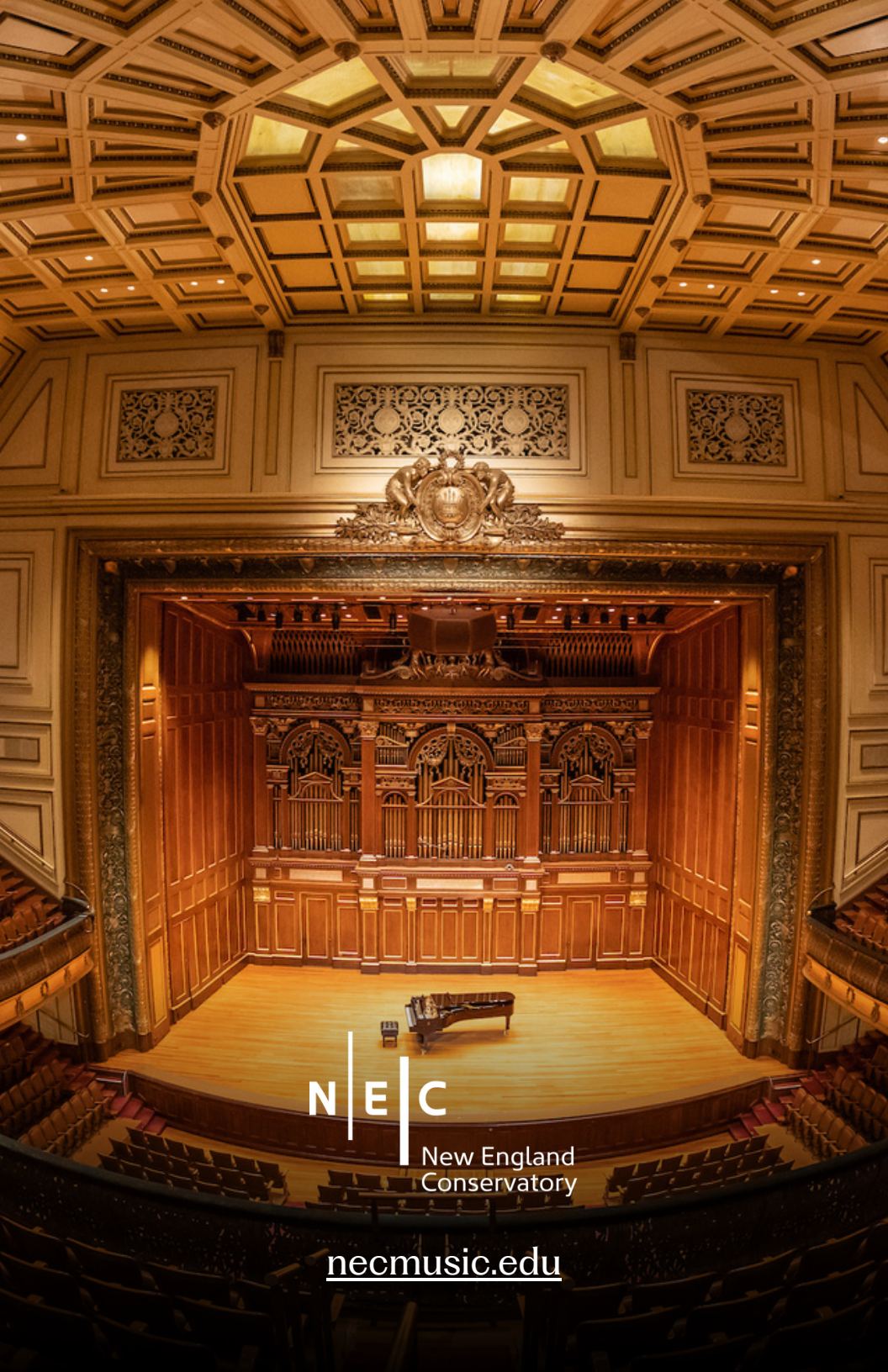
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