

Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra

Frank Carlberg, director
Hannah Marks, assistant director

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
8:00 p.m.
Brown Hall

PROGRAM

Thomas Griffin

Smiling Politely

soloists: Maddoc Johnson, trumpet
Cosmo Lieberman, alto saxophone

Trevor Johnson

Spring Equinox

soloist: Joe Wagner, soprano saxophone

Spring Equinox was written to capture the feeling of winter turning into spring. The slow gradual build of snow starting to melt, the winds softening on your cheeks, and the eventual day you open your door to budding leaves and blooming flowers.

– Trevor Johnson

Frank Carlberg

Text by Thelonious Monk

Wanting More

soloist: Koki Renwick, trumpet

Thelonious Monk

(1917–1982)

arr. Frank Carlberg

'Round Midnight

soloist: Maddoc Johnson, trumpet

R. Taylor Fleming

Chidiya

soloists: Cosmo Lieberman, alto saxophone
Niko Malinowski, guitar
Victor Giraldez, drums

Chidiya is a piece that is part of a larger work called *A Book About Birds* in which I aim to write pieces that embody the character and personality of the loved ones in my life. *Chidiya*, which means "bird" in Hindi, is dedicated to my partner Tanya Mishra and draws on music from her native North India. Elements of Hindustani music like drones and *tihai* are carefully woven in to evoke my fondness for her.

– R. Taylor Fleming

Joe Wagner

Bee Standoff

soloist: Cosmo Lieberman, alto saxophone

guest: Anthony Defeo-Gelman,

soprano saxophone

I wrote this piece while reflecting on my experience in the late spring of last year. I had woken up around 5am to start on some writing for class and while I was making coffee, I noticed a bee flying around the kitchen. *Bee Standoff* captures the life-or-death literal standoff that I was in that morning. Throughout the piece I intentionally think about instrumental textures, ranges, and the horizontal and vertical density of notes and rhythms in relation to one another to convey the standoff I found myself in.

– Joe Wagner

Gabriel Mininberg

Oyevim

soloist: Koki Renwick, trumpet

Oyevim—a transliteration of the word for “enemies” in Hebrew—is a lamentation of the war in Gaza and a call for peace. Through the piece, I aim for a cathartic expression of the fear, paranoia, confusion, frustration, and anger that has defined the last two years of witnessing this conflict from the other side of the world. This piece is part of a larger series, titled *Joshua*, which will be recorded this spring.

– Gabriel Mininberg

Cainan Birchim

Programmatic Piece #1

soloist: Cosmo Lieberman, alto saxophone

This piece is simply meant to convey some chaotic, perhaps low points in life, and has no intended meaning for listeners other than the one you could personally prescribe upon hearing it. It is partially inspired by the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra recording of *Alone Together* from the album *20 Years At The Village Vanguard*.

– Cainan Birchim

Siha Han

The Threads of Memory

soloist: Maddoc Johnson, trumpet

Memory begins as a single, fragile thread -
easy to forget, and quick to fade.
But as time passes,
those thin strands start to gather.
They settle quietly on top of one another,
almost without us noticing.

(continued on the following page)

At some point, the layers deepen.
Patterns begin to appear.
And slowly, they grow into something larger -
a weave we can't step back from.

It's only then that we understand
we can't pull those threads apart
or trace them back to where they started.
They've already become part of us.
They're woven into who we are.

So we just keep adding new threads,
one after another,
hoping that by the time the weave grows further,
we'll be a little closer
to the person we hope to become.

– Siha Han

Alexander Hussain

Hemomancer

soloist: Niko Malinowski, guitar

guest: Anthony Defeo-Gelman,
tenor saxophone

One who uses arcane knowledge to manipulate the blood of others, or themselves.

– Alexander Hussain

Niko Malinowski

Here's What's Going to Happen

soloist: Alexander Hussain, tenor saxophone

This piece is dedicated to David Tronzo, a guitarist and educator who has deeply impacted my life and my journey in music. I had the pleasure of learning from David in my undergraduate studies. His embodiment of leadership and discipline is a lifelong aspiration, and I hope to attain even a fraction of it.

One of the many ideas he imparted is to leave value judgements out of music in an effort to fully access the raw organizational data of music. “There is no like and dislike,” he would tell us. This idea has become a guiding principle in my craft — leaving taste at the door in favor of the pursuit of knowledge and growth. This piece consists of different systems of organization I learned from David, and it is an exercise in grappling with the “raw data.”

– Niko Malinowski

Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra

Woodwinds:

Joe Wagner, Cosmo Lieberman, Alexander Hussain,
Gabriel Mininberg, Shuhan Wang

Trumpets:

Woody Pierre, Koki Renwick, Maddoc Johnson, Dan Engdahl

Trombones:

Julian Quinones, Zixuan Weng, Angel Salinas, Evan Beachy

Piano:

Thomas Griffin

Guitar:

Niko Malinowski

Bass:

Hannah Marks

Drums:

Victor Giraldez

Guest:

Anthony Defeo-Gelman, soprano and tenor saxophones

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NEC Chamber Singers, Symphonic Winds, Navy Band Northeast

"Into the Holidays" (repeat) - Audio streamed on wiconline.org

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 12:00 noon, Mechanics Hall, Worcester

Liederabend LXXVIII Cameron Stowe and Tanya Blaich, curators

All-Ravel program

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Philharmonia, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Handel *Concerto Grosso*, op. 6 no. 4; Bartók *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta*;

Beethoven *Violin Concerto in D Major*, op. 61, Joshua Brown AD, violin

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Sonata Class Recital, Vivian Hornik Weilerstein, faculty

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Conductors' Choir

Works by Chatman, Gilkyson, Hazzard, Parry, Poulenc, Trumbore, and Victoria conducted by Estel Haejin Park, Noah Scecina-White, and Louis Shriber, all '27 MM students of Erica J. Washburn

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Adam Newman, *viola* (GD '25)

Student of Kim Kashkashian

Friday, December 12, 2025 at 8:30 p.m., Williams Hall

Faculty Recital: Paula Robison, *flute* with Paavali Jumppanen, *piano*

"An Hour of Bach and Mozart"

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Lab Orchestra

Clancy Ellis '26 GD, Joseph Bozich '27 GD and Leonard Bopp '27 GD conductors

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

Borromeo String Quartet Seminar Recital

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

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and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

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Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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