



The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra
Presents

Bright Stars
of the
Kansas City Jazz Orchestra

FEATURING MARY LOU WILLIAMS
ZODIAC SUITE

May 6, 2021

Virtual Concert and Fundraiser

Artistic Director and Conductor
Clint Ashlock

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and my colleagues at the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra, I want to thank you for gathering with us virtually tonight to celebrate our Kansas City Jazz Orchestra musicians and the artistry of Mary Lou Williams' *Zodiac Suite*.

Our performance dates over the past year came and went and perhaps like me, you also felt like there was somewhere important you were supposed to be on any of those given nights. Although it was not what we planned, we did find we were supposed to be right where we were—reflecting, recreating, re-imagining.

This has kept us growing. We moved some of our programming to a virtual format, which seemed limiting at the time. But, it allowed more ears to experience the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra.

I want to also thank our wonderful benefactors who have committed to making this evening possible and so much more. Our board and committees who have been so supportive and flexible as we have navigated this year, and our honorary board who have steadfastly supported us through thick and thin.

Wherever you are right now, you are in the right place. Thank you for being with us to experience this special night and for your belief that even virtually, we can all feel the beat, the energy and the love of this beautiful composition which connects us even when we are apart.



Lea M. Petrie

Lea M. Petrie – Executive Director

Bright Stars

Thank you for joining us for the Bright Stars of the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra.

We hope you will consider becoming one of the Bright Stars in our constellation by making a contribution.

Any amount you give will be generously matched by benefactors Mike and Karen Herman and Edith and Benny Lee, who have pledged a challenge grant totaling \$20,000.

Please consider doubling your impact by donating today!

Text "DONATE" to
816-312-5110
or visit www.kcjo.org
to make your contribution.

THE KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA

VISION

The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra is an internationally acclaimed, premier performing arts icon providing jazz entertainment and education.

MISSION

Through performances and educational programs, The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra preserves the rich heritage of jazz, nurtures its growth, and encourages its appreciation as an art form for all ages.

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THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS BENEFACTORS!

We are pleased that you could join us this evening for **Bright Stars of The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra**. Our staff and Gala Committee have worked diligently to bring you this event. The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra is one of the nation's preeminent big bands, performing classic and original repertoire in a variety of settings and we will be returning to the beautiful Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts this fall for our concert season.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to thank the benefactors, foundations and corporations who generously support The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra. Your contributions support our concerts, events and education initiatives and help keep big band jazz a vibrant part of Kansas City for generations to come.

-Sally Bibb, Board Chair

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† In memoriam

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to ...

Clint Ashlock

Cathy and Rick Baier

Columbus Jazz Orchestra

Mary Jamerson

Lonnie McFadden

Megan Pence- Locally Gifted

Plexpod Westport Commons

Clarence Smith

*And especially,
the Bright Stars of the
Kansas City Jazz Orchestra Committee.*

Bright Stars

*Featuring Mary Lou Williams' Zodiac Suite
Arr. Clint Ashlock*

Zodiac Suite, featuring Guest Narrator Eboni Fondren

Aries featuring Jeff Hamer and John Kizilarmut

Taurus featuring Bob Harvey and Rod Fleeman

Gemini featuring Dave Aaberg

Cancer in honor of Eugene Hall

Leo featuring Clint Ashlock and Charles Williams

Virgo featuring James Albright and Doug Talley

Libra featuring Mark Cohick and Paul Roberts

Scorpio featuring Earlie Braggs and Steve Dekker

Sagittarius featuring Bob Long

Capricorn featuring Brad Gregory

Aquarius featuring Steve Molloy

Pisces featuring David Chael

"ZODIAC SUITE"

Written by Mary Lou Williams

Published by Cecilia Music Publishing Co. (ASCAP)
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d/b/a Modern Works Music Publishing



PROGRAM NOTES

1. Aries Mary Lou said this movement tried to capture the personalities of two Aries: Ben Webster and Billie Holiday. We have two in our band: trombonist Jeff Hamer and drummer John Kizilarmut. What I know of Aries is that they enjoy challenge, and can use their prodigious tempers to rise to that challenge (but at the same time can sometimes forget why they were rising in the first place). John is definitely an Aries, so I let him bring some war here and there. Mary Lou's melodies really transcend the eras of jazz, and this one is really Monkish in nature.

2. Taurus Williams was a Taurus, and is said to have dedicated this movement to Duke Ellington. Duke is a huge influence on me, especially in his manner of writing music that was tailored to his band members' personalities, strengths and so forth. The piano and then ensemble intro is one of the homages to Duke in this arrangement. Our Tauruses are Rod Fleeman and Bob Harvey, and both have several Taurean characteristics. In an overt reference to arguably the most famous song about bulls ever recorded, I let Bob take a ride over some "Lonely Bull" chord changes.

3. Gemini The twins. Mary Lou presented two grooves - an uptempo swing and an up boogie. She said that the left hand of the piano, the rhythm, the 2 and 4, was the most important part of a jazz groove. I tried keeping this arrangement reflective of that. I always have felt like if anyone needed a tangible example of her mastery, it'd be that she could take a root position C major scale and create a melody out of it. Dave Aaberg is our Gemini, and when he and I first started playing together, I was astonished at his ability to improvise over altered-dominant scales, so I threw several at him in his blues choruses.

4. Cancer Moody and emotional, this is such a haunting, modern-sounding melody to me. Really, the whole suite is astonishingly not anachronistic for something composed in 1945, but the mood she created with this tune is contemporary and brilliant. We don't have any Cancers in the band, but I thought this lent itself to David Chael's plaintive, emotionally invested saxophone style.

5. Leo Mary Lou definitely had a regal statement prepared for the king of the zodiac, Leo. We played the introduction nearly identically to her initial composition, but as our two lions - pianist Charles Williams and myself - share a love for ballads and certain melodic characteristics, I adapted her already fairly abstract melody into an almost-homage to Freddie Hubbard's "Brigitte."

6. Virgo Modest and reliable are two traits of Virgos, and our two (tenor Doug Talley and bassist James Albright) are as well. I didn't do a lot of changing to the original theme, as it is aligned with some definite Kansas City values, so I focused on developing the swingy, riffy nature of the song across the band.

PROGRAM NOTES

7. Libra The impressionistic intro on the original recording was rife for orchestration, but for the melody treatment I thought the line worked really well as a waltz, a style that provided a nice contrast to the surrounding movements and also would feature our two "charming diplomats," baritonist Mark Cohick and bass trombonist Paul Roberts.

8. Scorpio Definitely the most overt homage to Ellington, this one is done with respect to his Far East Suite, Afro-Eurasian Eclipse, and the "Arabesque Cookie" movement from his Nutcracker Suite arrangement. Being jealous and secretive are two common traits of Scorpions, and while ours (trombonists Steve Dekker and Earlie Braggs) don't come across that way, I thought a winding, improvised duet would evoke that, and the imagery of two scorpions skittering across some imaginary arid landscape.

9. Sagittarius Here was a deviation from the original theme, which was of a pastoral sort. Jazz writer Dan Morgenstern equated it to Bix Beiderbecke's classic tune "In A Mist." But with the very talented and soulful soloist Bob Long, and with respect to the style of the songs surrounding it, this version of Sagittarius is much more heavily influenced by Maria Schneider and other contemporary writers. I chose a straight 8ths, almost film music vibe and used the original melody as an ostinato - slowly getting there via an interlude from the last movement, and patiently opening up for the soprano solo.

10. Capricorn Our Capricorn is tenor Brad Gregory, a very powerful player heavily influenced by players like Jerry Bergonzi and the main artist behind my interpretation here: John Coltrane. The original chords Mary Lou wrote were basically foretelling McCoy Tyner's harmonic stylings to come decades later, and it fit all too well to give this tune a classic early-60s Coltrane Quartet feel (complete with a bridge of "Crescent" changes).

11. Aquarius Again, her chords and melodies are so fresh for being 75 years old, and this lent itself very well to big band. One of our trumpeters, Steve Molloy, is the resident Aquarian, and he's a talented lead and solo player, so I thought it'd be fun to let him show off a bit. The ensemble gets some shine as well - in her original trio recording there's a passage starting at around 1:20 that just seemed like a remarkably big band passage, that lent itself nearly directly to this arrangement.

12. Pisces The Pisces is supposed to be imaginative and compassionate, and altoist David Chael evokes those qualities each time he plays. Again, the original theme is very modern (Dave Douglas called Mary's melodic and harmonic construction "postmodern"), although here I grounded it with a pulsing jazz waltz rhythm. Like all the other soloists on their respective tunes, David really shines here.

MARY LOU WILLIAMS - THE FIRST LADY OF JAZZ



MARY LOU WILLIAMS
1910 - 1981

Mary Lou Williams was not only the First Lady of jazz; she has a place at the very top echelon of the jazz pantheon. Ms. Williams wrote over 350 compositions throughout her rich and highly eclectic musical career. She also helped spawn an entire generation of young musicians during the 1940s that would precipitate the birth of one of the world's most influential musical styles, known as bebop. Her students included musicians as influential and varied as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, and countless others.

Among her few peers in the more than 50 years that she was active were Duke Ellington, Benny Carter, Count Basie, and Sonny Blount (aka Sun Ra), all of whom successfully remained contemporary through vast stylistic shifts in the history of jazz, from before swing until well after bebop. Indeed Ellington captured her well when stating that, "Mary Lou Williams is perpetually contemporary."

Williams came to prominence in the late '20s and '30s as the principal composer-arranger and pianist for Andy Kirk and His Twelve Clouds of Joy, enhancing her reputation by contributing to the big band books of Benny Goodman, Earl Hines, Tommy Dorsey and, later, Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie. She became an early champion of bebop, adapting its modern harmonies and rhythms to her blues and boogie rooted piano style. In the '50s she had a spiritual crisis that led her to abandon music for about three years; she became a Roman Catholic. Her religious conversion had more than personal results. She began to compose in a sacred vein. This yielded a small masterpiece in 1964 with her hymn in honor of St. Martin de Porres called Black Christ of the Andes. She also composed three complete masses including "Music for Peace" later known as Mary Lou's Mass.

"No one would record me. So I decided to record myself."

In 1964, Mary founded Mary Records to release her own self-produced album "Black Christ of the Andes." This was not the first record company owned and controlled by an African American musical artist. There had been Dizzy Gillespie with Dee Gee and, importantly, Charles Mingus with Debut. Mary Lou Williams also released "Music for Peace" (later "Mary Lou's Mass") and "Zoning", as well as four 45rpm recordings on Mary Records. Activity on the label, however, ceased by 1975. Williams also founded

MARY LOU WILLIAMS - THE FIRST LADY OF JAZZ

her own publishing company, Cecilia Music Co., for the same purposes and is one of the very few African American, and particularly African American women artists of her time, to have done so.

In 2005, Mary Records was revived by Mary Lou's former manager and close friend, Rev. Peter O'Brien, to continue the project begun more than forty years ago. Also established around this time was The Mary Lou Williams Collective, an arm of The Mary Lou Williams Foundation, Inc., which was devoted to the recording and performance of the music of Mary Lou Williams. Led by late pianist and composer, Geri Allen, the collective was involved in presenting fresh approaches to her own works which she herself recorded in her lifetime. It was also intent on recording her compositions which have never before been heard on disc. In 2006, the collective recorded Zodiac Suite Revisited and in 2010, The Complete Sacred Works of Mary Lou Williams was recorded in honor of the centenary of her birth.

Mary Lou Williams returned to the Jazz world fully in 1970 and remained there for the rest of her life. She appeared in concert and at workshops in colleges, at jazz festivals, in clubs, on recordings, on radio and television. In her last four years she maintained a full professional schedule of appearances while functioning as Artist in Residence at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. To this day, she remains one of the most historically significant and influential women in jazz.

In the final year of her life, she formed The Mary Lou Williams Foundation.

Written by Rev. Father Peter O'Brien.

First paragraph by George Kanzler, *All About Jazz*.

From the Mary Lou Williams Foundation website - www.marylouwilliams.foundation



*"No one
would
record me.
So I
decided
to record
myself."*

~Mary Lou
Williams



Artistic Director/Conductor
CLINT ASHLOCK

Trumpeter/composer/bandleader Clint Ashlock grew up in the Kansas City area. An in-demand musician across various genres, Clint is a dedicated and tireless contributor to the scene. He has performed with such luminaries as Aretha Franklin, the Temptations, Clark Terry and Natalie Cole, as well as being a mainstay on the local Kansas City performing circuit, most notably with his 'other' big band, New Jazz Order, small group Forward, and as a member of various

groups such as The Project H and the Marcus Lewis Big Band. Ashlock has produced a number of recordings, including "New Jazz Order," featuring Bobby Watson, as well as a recent release with Denver pianist Ben Markley entitled "The Return."

As a student of jazz, Ashlock reflects the lineage of his hard bop idols such as Lee Morgan, Freddie Hubbard and Woody Shaw, and his big band writing is heavily influenced by Duke Ellington, Thad Jones, Kerry Strayer and Dan Gailey. Ashlock was recently featured as a soloist at the First Jazz Education Festival in Shanghai, China, and at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Sydney, Australia, as well as winning the Downbeat Student Music award for best big band arrangement.

He completed his Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance at Fort Hays State University, received two Masters degrees in Jazz/ Studio Music and Music Composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He spent 14 years teaching at a number of area universities and colleges and is an enthusiastic music educator.

Clint has served as Artistic Director for The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra since August 2013.

Guest Narrator
EBONI FONDREN

Dynamic vocalist and entertainer Eboni Fondren, brings passion and excitement whenever she takes the stage. Her precise readings of jazz standards, which she seasons with a dash of R&B, fill a room with energy and delight. With a smooth and sultry finish, audiences will be enchanted by her lyrical interpretation and ability to draw an audience in leaving them wanting more.



As an actress and voice over artist, she has lit up the stage with feature roles at some of Kansas City's top Theatre Companies in productions like "Little Shop of Horrors", "Hairspray" and "Ain't Misbehavin". Her voice can be heard every time you visit an AMC Theater telling you to turn off your phone and she recently became the new voice for the Kansas City Royals "Raised Royal" season campaign.

THE KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA - SAXOPHONES



DAVID CHAEL David Chael is a Kansas City native. He performs regularly with Bram Wijnands, the Roger Wilder Quartet, the Westport Art Ensemble, Horacescope, the Jim Lower Big Band, Boulevard Big Band, the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra, and the Brad Gregory Sextet. Chael graduated from the University of North Texas where he performed with the celebrated One O'clock Lab band. He has been a member of KCJO since 2003.

DOUG TALLEY is a graduate of the University of Kansas and the University of North Texas. He is a recipient of the Kansas Governor's Arts Award and the Johnson County Library Pinnacle Award for arts in education. His discography includes four recordings on the Sea Breeze label with the Trilogy and Boulevard Big Bands, numerous other projects with KC area musicians, and five recordings with his own jazz quartet, including the critically acclaimed Kansas City Suite. Doug is a Founding Member of the KCJO.



BRAD GREGORY originally from Edmonton Canada, attended the University of North Texas where he was a member of the One O'Clock Lab Band. Brad is also an alumnus of the Houston Jazz Orchestra. After working in New York City as a professional jazz musician for several years, Brad began a full-time career in the plastics industry and relocated his family to Kansas City. He performs regularly with the Boulevard Big Band, Jim Lower's Big Band, as well as with Molly Hammer's Quintet and his own groups, KC Reeds and Rhythm and the Brad Gregory Sextet. He has been a member of the orchestra since the spring of 2009.

BOB LONG is the Director of Jazz Studies/Saxophone Instructor at Missouri Western State University. He holds the BME and MA degrees from Truman State University, with additional graduate study at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. As an educator, his ensembles at both the high school at collegiate level have performed at regional and national music conferences and festivals. As a performer, credits include the Des Moines Big Band, the Latin group Ashanti, Des Moines Symphony, as well as backing such acts as Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, Lou Rawls, and Manhattan Transfer, to name a few.



MARK COHICK has played baritone saxophone since junior high school, and has played with the UMKC Jazz Ensemble, the S.S. Norway Big Band, Trilogy Big Band, Boulevard Big Band, New Jazz Order and the People's Liberation Big Band. Cohick plays all woodwind instruments, and has played with Kansas City Symphony, Ballet and Opera, toured Europe with Broadway shows and recorded for radio, TV and film. He has been with KCJO since 2012.

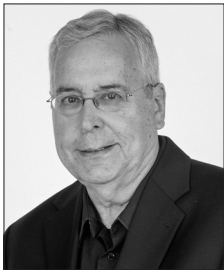
THE KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA - TRUMPETS



STEVE MOLLOY is a lifelong founding member of the KCJO. When he's not fulfilling his roles as a Trumpet Artist in Residence at Missouri Western State University and Instructor of Applied Brass at Kansas City Kansas Community College, he can be found performing in many KC area venues as a show musician for the Starlight Theater, KC Repertory Theater, and the Music Hall. He remains routinely sought after as a musician for numerous traveling artists from all stylistic backgrounds and venues, and has performed in backup roles for Aretha Franklin, They Might Be Giants, Natalie Cole, Barry Manilow, Johnny Mathis, Martina McBride, Lou Rawls, and many more. He has performed as a

sub/extra with the Kansas City Symphony, and is a member of the St. Joseph Symphony. He is also a founding member of the Fountain City Brass Band and has previous experience as a musician for Walt Disney World and as a lead trumpet player for the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He holds a BA in Music degree from St. Cloud State University, and an MM in Trumpet Performance from the University of Kansas.

BOB HARVEY earned degrees from Missouri Western State University and Michigan State University. He has been Principal Trumpet in the St. Joseph Symphony for 30 years. He taught in the Lee's Summit School District for 29 years, and served as an adjunct for Missouri Western and Ottawa universities. He has performed and recorded with the Boulevard Big Band, Trilogy Big Band Vince Bilardo Orchestra, and the Kerry Strayer Orchestra. Bob played in the TD Pack Band for over 20 years, 10 as lead trumpet. He is active as a guest artist and clinician, performing with and running master classes for area middle and high schools. He frequently serves as clinician, adjudicator and/or soloist for area Jazz Festivals. Bob is an Educational Representative for Meyer Music. He is a Founding Member of KCJO.



JAY SOLLENBERGER attended Wichita State University and the University of North Texas where he performed with the renowned One O'Clock Lab Band. Jay toured and recorded with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, the Woody Herman Orchestra, the Buddy Rich Big Band and the Jazz/Rock group Chase led by trumpeter Bill Chase. He has freelanced in Kansas City since 1980 and has played with the Boulevard Big Band, the Vine Street Rumble, and at Starlight Theatre. He is also a member of the International Trumpet Guild. Jay is a Founding Member of the KCJO.

DR. DAVID AABERG serves as Director of Jazz-Commercial Music at the University of Central Missouri, a position he has held since 1986. In 2011 he received the Outstanding Jazz Educator Award from the Missouri Association for Jazz Education. David holds BA and MM degrees in Composition from Central Washington University and a DMA in Composition from The University of Texas at Austin. He regularly performs in the Jim Lower Jazz Orchestra and Boulevard Big Band, and has played lead trumpet with the Louis Neal Big Band since 2004. His playing and arrangements can be heard on numerous recordings with the Boulevard Big Band and the Trilogy Big Band. As well as playing in the KCJO trumpet section, David also serves the organization as a staff arranger. He has been a member of KCJO since 2006.

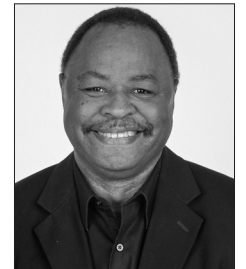


THE KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA - TROMBONES



JEFF HAMER studied trombone at the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. He has performed on more than twenty recordings, including Tim Whitmer, the New Vintage Big Band, Kerry Strayer Orchestra, Boulevard Big Band, and others. As a freelance artist he has performed with Natalie Cole, Debby Boone, and with such touring groups as the Jimmy Dorsey and Guy Lombardo Orchestras. Jeff is the Director of IT with 360 Architecture. Jeff is a founding member of the KCJO.

EARLIE BRAGGS is best known as a jazz trombonist, however he is equally proficient as a vocalist and bassist. In addition to his first CD as a leader, the Earlie Braggs Quartet/It's About Time, he has recorded with the Kerry Strayer Septet, the New Kansas City Seven, the Jazz Heritage Orchestra (Cleveland, OH.), and the Gull Lake Jazz Orchestra (Gull Lake, MI.). Earlie has also performed with Kansas City's own Claude "Fiddler" Williams and Jay "Hootie" McShann, Benny Golson, Nancy Wilson and has toured Europe with the Illinois Jacquet Big Band.



STEVE DEKKER Steve Dekker is currently the Director of Instrumental Music at The Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City. Steve has also taught jazz trombone and arranging at the UMKC Conservatory of Music. Steve holds BS and MM degrees in trombone performance and jazz composition from Towson University where he studied under Hank Levy who composed for the bands of Stan Kenton and Don Ellis. Steve was also a member of the First United States Army Band where he played lead and jazz trombone and bass guitar. Steve performs regularly with the Boulevard Big Band, the Jim Lower Jazz Orchestra, Starlight Theater, the Music Hall and has recorded with numerous artists including Tom Harrell, Eddie Daniels, Frank Mantooth, Bob Kindred and Pete Christlieb. He has been a member of KCJO since 2012.

PAUL ANDREW ROBERTS has been performing in Kansas City since the mid-1980's both as a bass trombonist and pianist. Paul has served in bands with both the Marine Corps and the Army as a musician, arranger and conductor. He also took charge of leading several of the unit's musical ensembles. Paul holds a bachelor's degree in Music Composition from the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. He has subbed with the Kansas City Symphony and currently performs with a variety of local bands including the "J Love Band" and "Glamour Profession," an 11-piece Steely Dan tribute band that he arranges for and leads. In addition to being a fine bass trombonist and pianist, Paul is an excellent composer/arranger and is one of KCJO's staff arrangers. He has been a member of KCJO since 2008.



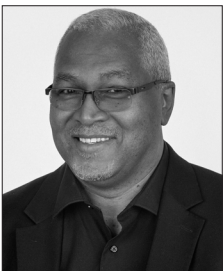
THE KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA - RHYTHM



JAMES ALBRIGHT holds a music degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. While in Nebraska, he performed with the Lincoln Symphony and the Omaha Symphony. In 1992 he came to Kansas City, and currently makes his living playing, teaching, and recording music. James continues to use his classical bass skills through his principal bass positions with the Northland Symphony and Liberty Symphony in the KC area. He teaches bass at his private studio, at William Jewell College, and at Missouri Western State College.

In addition to the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra, he performs with a wide variety of the groups, including Tim Whitmer, the Terry Hancock Band, the Ones, A La Mode, Triple Play, and the Bon Ton Soul Accordion Band. He is equally at home in the classical, rock, country, jazz, and pop music styles, on both upright and electric bass. His on-stage persona makes him as much fun to watch as he is to hear. He has been with KCJO since 2008.

ROD FLEEMAN has been a professional guitarist for over 30 years. Following his studies at the University of Miami, Rod moved to New York City where he toured and recorded extensively with the jazz fusion group Dry Jack. Since returning to Kansas City in 1981, he has toured and recorded with such artists as Marilyn Maye, Karrin Allyson, Jay McShann, Claude Williams and Interstring. Rod currently serves on the staff at the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance and the Kansas City Kansas Community College. Rod is a founding member of the KCJO.



CHARLES WILLIAMS is a Kansas City musician, pianist, trombonist, band leader, private piano instructor, producer, writer, and clinician/educator. Charles is current pianist for the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra and has been since it was founded. As a performer, Charles plays at many local venues with his own trio, accompanies many local vocalists, and is pianist for The Louis Neal Jazz Orchestra.

Mr. Williams is very dedicated to supporting the American Jazz Museum & Blue Room. Artists Mr. Williams has backed include Ernie Andrews, Houston Person, Harold Jones, Clark Terry, Randy Brecker, Bobby Watson, Deborah Brown, Ann Hampton Callaway, New York Voices, Wycliffe Gordon, The Four Freshmen, Cannonball and Nat Adderley, Dizzy Gillespie, Max Roach, and many more. Charles has an Associate in Arts Degree from Penn Valley Community College, and also studied at the UMKC Conservatory.

THE KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA - RHYTHM



SAM WISMAN is a versatile fixture in Kansas City's creative music scene. Sam is a member of the Mark Lowrey Trio, Kinnor Philharmonic, Marimba Sol de Chiapas, the Owen/Cox Dance Group, the People's Liberation Big Band, the Shay Estes Quartet, HoraceScope, and the Roger Wilder Quintet & Trio. Sam has performed with the Kansas City Symphony, the Topeka Symphony, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, the St. Joseph Symphony, the Northland Symphony, Kansas City Puccini Fest, Krystle Warren, Bobby Watson, The Sons of Brasil, Angela Hagenbach, Terrell Stafford and many more.

He has worked extensively as a percussionist in musical theater including the Kansas City Repertory Theater, New Theatre Restaurant, Unicorn Theater, Musical Theater Heritage, and the Coterie Theater. Sam has helped to premiere works by Harry Connick Jr., Stephen Schwartz, Shirley Jones & Richard Maltby Jr., Henry Krieger & Bill Russell, and Ahrens & Flaherty. You can also listen to Sam as a DJ for Jazz Afternoon on 90.1 FM KKFI. He has been with KCJO since 2012.

JOHN KIZILARMUT Active composer and arranger, John Kizilarmut has performed and recorded with a wide range of artists and ensembles, including Matthew Wilson, Branford Marsalis, DJ Starscream, and the Des Moines Symphony. He is a frequent guest performer and clinician at percussion and jazz festivals throughout the midwest, and most recently performed with TOCA artist Jamal Mohamed and Marimba One artist Matthew Coley at the 2013 PASIC convention in Indianapolis, IN.



 THE KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE 2021 - 2022 SEASON!



Bird Lives
Fri, Oct 8 - 8:00 PM
 On this concert, we will feature music from Charlie Parker's most iconic album, Charlie Parker with Strings, and the mastery of alto saxophonists Jaleel Shaw, David Valdez and Bobby Watson.



Just the Two of Us
Sat, Mar 12 - 8:00 PM
 SMOOTH JAZZ BIG BAND? Huh? That's right, it's going to happen - and whether you're already a huge fan of Grover Washington and George Benson or if you still need convincing, we can tell you that KCJO is going to blow the roof off with a completely fresh take on contemporary jazz.

Hallelujah Holidays
Tue, Dec 7 - 7:00 PM
 New stylistic directions emerged in the 1960s jazz landscape, and of those nothing grooved harder than Soul Jazz. Artists like Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin dominated the airwaves just as Cannonball Adderley and Horace Silver infused jazz fans' ears with powerful music. For this year's holiday concert, KCJO will fill Helzberg Hall with sounds celebrating and paying homage to this great movement in the music.



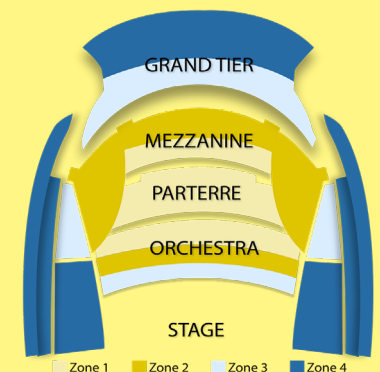
Roaring KC
Sat, May 14 - 8:00 PM
 In Kansas City's historic 18th and Vine Jazz District, a rollicking, riffing, and rambunctious music was the soundtrack of the 20s and 30s, and it lasted all night long. Join us as we dive into the music of Jay McShann, Bennie Moten, Count Basie, and others, and celebrate our city's history and heritage.



Join The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra for our exciting 2021-22 Season!

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE!
Subscription renewals open MAY 10
New subscriptions on sale JUNE 21

Ticket Price Zone	Single Ticket	Subscription
Price Zone 1	\$68.50	\$220.00
Price Zone 2	\$53.50	\$169.00
Price Zone 3	\$43.50	\$135.00
Price Zone 4	\$33.50	\$101.00



TICKETS: 816-994-7222 • www.kcjo.org

CELEBRATING THE PAST AND EMBRACING THE FUTURE

UPCOMING KCJO EVENTS

Bird Lives!

FRI, Oct 8, 2021, 8:00 pm

Hallelujah Holidays

TUE, Dec 7, 2021, 7:00 pm

Just the Two of Us

SAT, Mar 12, 2022, 8:00 pm

Roaring KC

SAT, May 14, 2022, 8:00 pm

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center

For more info visit

www.kcjo.org

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