

Main Auditorium (A100)

Alan Baylock (Trumpet)



Born and raised in a small town in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Alan Baylock has composed music that is performed throughout the world. One of the most respected and sought-after jazz composers and educators in the industry today, he is the director of the Grammy-nominated One O'Clock Lab Band at the University of North Texas, and previously served 20 years as Chief Arranger for the USAF Airmen of Note in Washington, D.C. The Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra recorded three critically acclaimed CDs and performed throughout the United States for 15 years. Baylock graduated from Shenandoah University (B.M. '90), where he later became Jazz Composer-in-Residence, and the University of North Texas (M.M. '94).

Baylock travels extensively as guest conductor and clinician, and has been featured with over 100 professional, collegiate, high school (all-state and regional) and middle school jazz ensembles. Alan is on faculty at the National Jazz Workshop (NJW) and directed the NJW All-Star Big Band in performances on the East and West Coast. He is an active member of the Jazz Education Network and is a strong advocate for women in jazz. In 2022, Alan teamed up with composer/arranger Annie Booth to establish Brava Jazz Publishing, whose mission it is to support and champion women composers and arrangers in the field of big band jazz by creating a platform for their music to be widely published and distributed.

Alan's music has been performed and/or recorded by jazz greats Melissa Aldana, Michael and Randy Brecker, Regina Carter, Paquito D'Rivera, Kurt Elling, Maynard Ferguson, Stefon Harris, Jimmy Heath, Freddie Hubbard, Sean Jones, Dave Liebman, Allison Miller, Nicholas Payton, Joshua Redman, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Arturo Sandoval, Doc Severinsen, Tierney Sutton, Kenny Werner, Phil Woods, and many more. His eclectic talents have also led him to writing music for Roy Clark, Lee Greenwood, Chaka Khan, Al Jarreau, Patti LaBelle, Spyro Gyra, Ronan Tynan, Wynonna, and symphony orchestras throughout the United States and abroad. His music is published by Alfred Music and ProJazzCharts.com.

Baylock lives in Denton, Texas with his wife, cellist Maria Baylock. In his spare time, Alan enjoys playing table tennis, and golfing with his UNT Jazz colleagues.

Doug Stone (Saxophone)



Doug Stone's versatility as a jazz saxophonist, improviser, and composer can be heard on his recordings as a leader – Motion (Outside in Music), and The Early Riser (self-released) – as well as his recordings as a co-leader and sideman – Doug Stone/Marcelo Magalhaes Pinto Quartet, Shifting Perspectives (Ears & Eyes Records), Facing West Quartet, Facing West (Outside in Music), Justin Haynes Big Band, In A Funk (self-released), Quintopus, The Adjacent Possible (Ears & Eyes Records), Matthew Golombisky's Cuentos, Volume 4 (Ears & Eyes Records), and many more. Stone maintains an active national and international performing and touring schedule, and is a first call musician in New Orleans, LA, with groups including The John Mahoney Septet, Reid Poole's Boppin' Five, the Victory Swing Orchestra, and in Baton Rouge, LA, with the Florida Street Blowhards, among others.

In addition to Stone's teaching duties at Louisiana State University, he is a sought-after clinician and presenter at schools and jazz camps for students of all age levels both nationally and internationally. He has presented workshops on jazz, improvisation, and composition in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Medellin and Bogota, Colombia, and at jazz festivals in Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Illinois. In the summers, Stone teaches and performs with the Birch Creek Jazz Orchestra, at the esteemed Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Egg Harbor, WI. His book *Stepping Stones Through Improvisation: From Day One to the Big Gig* (Low Down Publishing) is a useful resource for school jazz ensembles and individuals.

At Louisiana State University, Stone directs the acclaimed LSU Jazz Ensemble, coaches chamber jazz ensembles, teaches applied lessons in jazz saxophone and improvisation, and teaches courses in jazz pedagogy and career preparedness. He has also served as the president of the Louisiana Association for Jazz Education and jazz division chair of the Louisiana Music Educators Association.

Band Room (A111)

John Tate (Bass)



A first-call accompanist in Chicago, John Tate has played with any number of important artists including Matt Wilson, Marquis Hill, Ron Miles, Von and George Freeman, Ben Monder, Jeff Parker, John Chin, Sacha Perry, Bill Carrothers, Victor Goines, Caroline Davis and Billy Kaye. He also performs and records with experimental drummer-composer Charles Rumback, appearing on the 2015 duo album *Daylight Savings* and the 2017 trio efforts *Threes* and *Tag Book*.

In 2009, he joined the Moshier-Lebrun Collective, recording two albums with the band. The following year, he joined the group of rising star Marquis Hill and played on the trumpeter's debut album, *New Gospel*. It includes a feature for him, "Bass Solo." In addition to performing, Tate was jazz bass instructor and combo director at Wheaton College and taught jazz bass in the Naperville school district.

In 2011, he moved to New York to study at the Juilliard School. That's where his life changed under the tutorship of bassist Ron Carter. Tate took private lessons with Carter and played in an ongoing band under Carter's direction. As a member of the *über*-select Juilliard Jazz Artist Diploma band, Tate toured the world, performing and teaching in eight countries. He recorded with trombonist Wycliffe Gordon and, in a concert at Alice Tully Hall honoring Carter on his 75th birthday, played in a 12-member bass choir including Christian McBride

and Buster Williams.

"I was really thrilled that John moved back to Chicago from New York," says saxophonist Geof Bradfield, a leading player in the Windy City and Professor of Jazz Saxophone and Jazz Studies at NIU. "He's got a great sound and feel and knows the tradition deeply, yet remains open-minded musically. He's also a joy to work with, a truly selfless collaborator and as direct and honest musically as he is personally."

Mark Bettcher (Trombone)



Mark Bettcher, holds a masters degree in trombone performance from Northern Illinois University, a bachelors degree in music education from the University of Illinois and is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher.

Mark retired from teaching in Community Unit School District #300 after thirty-four years. After accepting a position teaching orchestra and jazz at Carpentersville Middle School in 1984, he transitioned in 1990 to directing the jazz and orchestra program at Dundee-Crown High School where the orchestras and jazz ensembles received numerous honors and awards. In addition to directing the Dundee-Crown Jazz Ensembles and Orchestras, Mark also directed the Elgin Community College Jazz Program from 1988-2014. During his tenure at ECC he founded the ECC Jazz Festival and Youth Jazz Program while developing the Jazz Ensemble into one of the areas hottest bands attracting artists Bill Evans, Bobby Shew, Arturo Sandoval, David Liebmann, "Blue Lou" Marini and numerous others.

As a performer, Mark has worked with some of the top names in jazz and pop music including Tony Bennett, Joe Williams, Louis Bellson, Slide Hampton, Randy Brecker, Ramsey Lewis, Gladys Knight, and the Temptations. In 1998, Mark toured with Phil Collins throughout the United States and Europe, recording a live C.D. in Paris. He recorded five C.D.'s with the Frank Mantooth Orchestra, receiving multiple Grammy nominations. Mark's solo recordings "Through the Eyes of a Child" and "Take a Look Inside" have received critical acclaim and are used to generate funds to purchase instruments for disadvantaged students.

Mark was selected as conductor for the Illinois All-State Jazz Band in 1999 and 2009, and was named the 1999 "Kane County Educator of the Year". In addition, Mark was selected as the "Elgin Youth Orchestra Educator of the Year" (2011), the "Quinlan and Fabish Outstanding Music Educator of the Year" (2012) and was the recipient of the "Mary Hoffman Award of Excellence" at the 2008 IMEA All-State Conference. Mark is currently working as a performer, writer and education consultant. In demand as a guest clinician, soloist and conductor, Mark is pursuing numerous creative projects while he continues to work with both teachers and students to advocate for music education..

Welcome Center (E112)

Joan Hickey (Piano)



Joan Hickey teaches and performs as a freelance artist in the Chicago area. Howard Reich of the Chicago Tribune wrote of her playing, "*Hickey remains one of the most appealing and distinctive pianists in the city ... (she) produces gorgeously singing lines and unexpected harmonies. The gentility of her touch is matched by the intellectual accomplishment of her improvisation.*" Professor Hickey has been recording and leading her own groups (trio, quartet, sextet) since 1980, as well as accompanying vocalists. She has performed in such venues as The Jazz Showcase, The Green Mill, Pete Miller's and the Chicago Jazz Festival. Cab Calloway, Joe Williams, Milt Hinton, Nat Adderly, Von Freeman and Buster Williams are among the artists with whom Professor Hickey has worked. She has toured in Italy, Sweden, and Denmark with the Jazz Members Big Band. She has been awarded two National Endowment for the Arts grants, an Illinois Arts Council grant in music composition, and her quintet was a finalist in the Hennessy Jazz Competition. Her latest compact disc, *Soulmates*, was nominated for best jazz CD at the Chicago Music Awards. In addition to private lessons, Professor Hickey has taught at Verhoog Music Institute, jazz vocal camps, ISYM, Midwest Young Artist Jazz camp and University of Arkansas music camps.

Joey Devassy (Trombone)



Joey Devassy teaches instrumental music in the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD on Long Island, New York. His bands have consistently received top honors at festivals throughout the state. Mr. Devassy received his education from Ithaca College and Queens College, and is a highly sought after trombonist and educator in NYC and Long Island, NY. Along with his educational duties, Mr. Devassy also co-leads, composes for, and performs with the Interplay Jazz Orchestra. They have recorded five albums, with the most recent album due out later this year. The IJO performs throughout Long Island and New York City, and have a monthly residency at The Jazz Loft in Stony Brook, NY. Mr. Devassy has studied trombone with Dr. Hal Reynolds and Michael Dease, and studied composition and arranging from Dana Wilson, Steve Brown, and Michael Philip Mossman. He has also shared the stage or recorded with such notable musicians as Randy Brecker, Glenn Drewes, Ralph and Dave Lalama, Michael Mossman, Dave Pietro, Wycliffe Gordon, Antonio Hart, Gary Smulyan, Carl Fontana, and John Mosca.

Academic Study Center (E212)

Joel Spencer (Drums)



As a testament to Joel Spencer's performance skills, a great number of musical relationships developed into offers to tour the U.S. and Europe performing with major artists such as pianist Earl "Fatha" Hines, guitarist Barney Kessel, bassist Eddie Gomez, trumpet artists Red Rodney, Clark Terry, Chet Baker, Freddie Hubbard, saxophonists Sonny Stitt, Benny Golson, Joe Henderson, Eddie Harris, Wayne Shorter, David Liebman, pianists Hank Jones and Cedar Walton. As a professional Joel has performed with a diverse variety of musical artists. Whether the call was for an extended engagement with the Count Basie Orchestra at the upscale Rainbow Grill in NYC, Chicago club appearances with R&B vocalist Sissy Houston, a filmed performance with jazz vocalist Eddie Jefferson, a national TV appearance with vocalist Barbra Streisand,

or a soundtrack for a major motion picture featuring pop vocalist Barry Manilow, the highest level of instrumental virtuosity and musical versatility was required of Spencer in each of these demanding musical environments. Joel's formal training as a percussionist (paired with drum set performance) has resulted in numerous appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra featuring such artists as vocal stylist Michael Feinstein, Broadway vocalists Patti Lupone and Kristin Chenoweth, trumpeter Doc Severinsen, and featured performance and recording dates with former Chicago Symphony conductor and world-renowned piano recitalist Daniel Barenboim. From 1985-2005 Spencer greatly succeeded in the competitive studio recording industry in Chicago where he recorded hundreds of national TV product commercials, movie soundtracks, and over 50 nationally/internationally released jazz recordings. Outside of Joel's efforts as a *Zildjian Artist-Clinician*, he currently serves as a full-time Assistant Professor of Music in the highly acclaimed Jazz Studies Program in the School of Music at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Joel Spencer's career as a jazz artist continues to provide him with an extensive palette of performances and recordings, as he has performed with artists from virtually *every* era and genre of jazz!

Todd Kelly (Trumpet)



Dr. Todd Kelly is the Chair of the Department of Music at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. Dr. Kelly teaches trumpet, directs the Bradley Jazz Ensembles and Hilltop Combo, teaches Jazz Improvisation, and serves as an advisor for the Music Business program. The jazz program at Bradley includes a big band, a New Orleans brass band, a combo, and courses in Jazz Improvisation and American Music History.

Dr. Kelly maintains a busy performing schedule in the Central Illinois area with the Water Street Stompers, Brazillionaires, the Todd Kelly Jazz Quintet, the Central Illinois Jazz Orchestra, Four Other Brothers, JC and the Redemption, Inner Light, and as a freelance jazz and classical musician. He has toured throughout the United States with Indian tabla artist Sandip Burman. He has also performed with Wayne Newton, Jerry Lewis, Charo, the Fifth Dimension, Lesley Gore, Mannheim Steamroller, Maria Schneider, and the national touring companies of *Hairspray*, *Wicked*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Rat Pack is Back*, *Billy Elliot*, *Chicago*, *White Christmas*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Book of Mormon*, and *La La Land*. Dr. Kelly has been published in Teaching Music, Band World, Downbeat, JAZZed, and The

Instrumentalist. His book, "Chet Baker: 21 Selected Solos" is available through Jamey Aebersold Jazz and ejazzlines.com, and he is a contributing author to *The Jazzer's Cookbook*, published by Meredith Music, and *Teaching Music Through Performance in Jazz for Beginning Ensembles*, published by GIA Music. In the spring of 2013, Dr. Kelly received the Slane College of Fine Arts Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 2018 he received the Slane College Award for Excellence in Scholarship. He is the second faculty member in the history of the college to receive both awards. In 2019-2020, Dr. Kelly was the Artist in Residence with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra, performing the American premiere of *Iain Hamilton's Concerto for Jazz Trumpet and Orchestra*.

Todd Kelly is an artist/clinician for Conn/Selmer in Elkhart, Indiana. He and his wife Kirsten are the proud parents of Connor and Maren.