

**BUTLER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC**  
**DUCKWALL ARTIST SERIES**  
*presents*

**OPEN SKY**

**Matt Pivec, saxophones**  
**Gary Walters, piano**  
**Sandy Williams, guitar**  
**Jesse Williams, bass**  
**Kenny Phelps, drums**

**Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall**  
**Tuesday, September 1, 2020 • 7:30 P.M.**

*The first program of the Butler University School of Music 2020-21 season*

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***PROGRAM***

Repertoire will be announced from the stage.

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***BIOS***

**MATT PIVEC**

As a performer of jazz and popular music, Matt has worked with Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, Dave Rivello, Bob Brookmeyer, Peter Erskine, Maria Schneider, Julia Dollison, Melvin Rhyne, the Buselli-Wallarab Jazz Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Pops Orchestra, and the national touring companies of *Hairspray*, *42nd Street*, and *The Producers*. As a band leader and soloist, Matt has performed at jazz festivals and venues throughout the United States. He has three albums to his credit: *Live at Snider Hall*, *Psalm Songs*, and the recently released *Time and Direction*.

Currently, Matt is the Director of Jazz Studies at Butler University where he leads the Jazz Ensemble and teaches courses in the jazz studies curriculum. Under his direction, Butler ensembles have performed with world-renowned guest artists such as Kurt Elling, Christian McBride, Bobby Sanabria, Donny McCaslin, Fred Sturm, Melvin Rhyne, Steve Allee, Ted Poor, and the Wee Trio.

Matt received the Doctor of Musical Arts (Saxophone Performance and Literature) and Master of Music (Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media) degrees from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. While at Eastman, Matt studied with Ramon Ricker. He performed with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, the Eastman Graduate Saxophone Quartet, and served as lead alto saxophone of the Eastman Jazz Ensemble. Matt received the Bachelor of Music Education degree with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Matt has presented educational clinics and research at the Jazz Education Network Conference, the International Association for Jazz Education Conference, the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, and the Indiana Music Educators Association Conference. His publications have been featured in *Jazzed* magazine and [www.jazzradio247.com](http://www.jazzradio247.com).

Matt is a member of the national music honor society, Pi Kappa Lambda, and in 2013, he received the Mortar Board, Excellence in Teaching Award from the Jordan College of the Arts. He is also a past president of the Indiana Jazz Education Association.

In February 2009, Matt founded the Butler Youth Jazz Program and Butler Summer Jazz Camp. From these programs, students have progressed to study at some of the top music conservatories and colleges in the United States.

## **GARY WALTERS**

Gary Walters is a performing and recording musician, composer, arranger, and educator. He has been touring and recording with Carrie Newcomer for over sixteen years. He has performed and recorded with many of Central Indiana's finest musicians, including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. His compositions range from jazz pieces, works for chamber groups, and small orchestras incorporating elements of post-Modernism and improvisation. He is a retired member of the faculty at Butler University, having taught applied Jazz Piano as well as directing several jazz combos. Gary has released two solo recordings, *Moments in Time* and *The Way Through*, reflecting his varied musical influences and original compositions, and a band project with The Icarus Ensemble. Gary played piano and arranged orchestral settings for Butler jazz faculty member Erin Benedict's album *Steal Away*. He has appeared on many nationally released recordings including seven with Carrie Newcomer. Gary was also arranger and music director for the 2016 production of *Betty's Diner: The Musical*. Beginning in 2013 Gary joined with author Parker J. Palmer and musician Carrie Newcomer to create two nationally touring stage shows, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, and *What We Need is Here: Hope Hard Times and the Human Possibility*.

## **SANDY WILLIAMS**

Sandy Williams has been a fixture on the Indiana music scene for several decades. His live performance credits include performing with Idina Menzel, John Waters, Liza Minnelli, Marvin Hamlisch, alt-country rocker Steve Earle, Michael Feinstein's live PBS special, the Steve Allee Big Band, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. He has performed in the pit orchestra for a number of touring Broadway shows, including, *The Lion King*, *Chicago*, *Legally Blonde*, *Motown*, and *Beautiful*. As a studio musician, his credits include The Rounder Records box-set (with Carrie Newcomer), jazz arranger John Clayton, John Mellencamp's movie soundtrack *Falling from Grace* (with Larry Crane), Hal Leonard publications' *Essential Elements* series, hundreds of jingles, and gospel singers Sandi Patti and Bill Gaither. He is the author of *Live Sound for Guitar* (pub.Cengage Learning) and technical editor for many of the *Guitar for Dummies* series. In November 2014, he performed four concerts in Guangzhou, China, with jazz pianist Steve Allee.

## **JESSE WITTMAN**

Jesse Wittman is a bassist, composer, educator, and recording artist based out of Indianapolis, Indiana. He holds a degree in Jazz Studies from Indiana University, where he studied with David Baker and Bruce Bransby. He also holds a master's degree in Composition from Butler University, where he studied with James Aikman and Michael Schelle. He currently teaches jazz bass at Butler University, and has had the pleasure of working with great musicians around the country such as Nicole Henry, Marvin Hamlisch, Steve Houton, Anne Hampton Callaway, and trombonist Steve Davis.

## **KENNY PHELPS**

Kenny Phelps is the CEO of the Owl Music Group, a humanitarian arts organization that cares about the future of artists and their communities. He is a member of the faculty at Butler University.

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### **JCA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge that we gather here at Butler University on the traditional land of indigenous peoples including the Potawatomi, Miami, Delaware, and Shawnee. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the indigenous peoples past and present who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit, while also acknowledging that some were brought to this land not by choice.

The Butler University School of Music is proud to acknowledge  
**Meridian Piano Movers**  
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