

BUTLER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
DUCKWALL ARTIST SERIES
presents

OPEN SKY
BIRD AT 100: A TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE PARKER

Matt Pivec, saxophones
Jesse Wittman, bass
Sandy Williams, guitar
Kenny Phelps, drums
Steve Allee, piano

Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 • 7:30 P.M.

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

PROGRAM

Repertoire will be announced from the stage.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

STEVE ALLEE

Pianist, composer, and arranger Steve Allee is a veteran of more than 35 years on the music scene, working principally in jazz, writing and performing for syndicated radio programs, network television and motion pictures, and as a music educator. All of his career facets have blended into a distinct musical style that has a very strong visual, almost cinematic flavor because of his skill in capturing or reinforcing important moods or visual elements that inspire his projects.

Steve has released six CDs as a leader, the two most recent being his trio recordings, *Dragonfly* (June 2008) and *Colors* (April 2007) with bassist Bill Moring and drummer Tim Horner. Steve began his professional career at age 19 with the Buddy Rich Orchestra, and has worked with a veritable "Who's

Who” of major jazz artists across the United States and abroad. Recent performances include the Rufus Reid Trio, The Randy Brecker Quartet, David “Fathead” Newman, John Clayton, and The Rich Perry Quartet. He also leads a big band that performs regularly in Indianapolis. Steve’s big band CD, *Downtown Blues*, with bassist John Clayton and drummer John VonOhlen, was nominated for a Grammy® award.

A native son and longtime resident of Indianapolis, Indiana, Steve was fortunate to grow up in the hometown of many jazz greats, including brothers Wes, Buddy, and Monk Montgomery, Slide Hampton, J.J. Johnson, David Baker, Freddie Hubbard, and Melvin Rhyne, among others. His playing style has a touch, sparkling clarity, and improvisational variations reminiscent of the late Bill Evans, as well as a very strong blues influence that Steve credits to his exposure to Buddy Montgomery and Horace Silver.

His other musical accomplishments include being commissioned to write and conduct a four-movement work for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Indianapolis Museum of Art. His score for the film, "New York in the Fifties," was performed live at Switzerland’s acclaimed Montreux Jazz Festival. Steve was co-director and arranger for a J.J. Johnson Tribute Concert featuring trombonist Slide Hampton at the Indy Jazz Fest in 2001.

His writing credits include soundtracks for "New York In The Fifties," the film inspired by the Dan Wakefield book of the same title, as well as "Something To Cheer About," a documentary starring Halle Berry and Oscar Robertson that focused on the 1954-55 Crispus Attucks Tigers basketball team.

As an educator, Steve has taught or lectured at several college and university music programs over the years, including the University of Cincinnati, University of Louisville, University of Illinois, Morehead College, Purdue University, Butler University, University of Indianapolis, Indiana State University, Drury College, and Florida International University. He now teaches at the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops and other master classes and workshops during the year.

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.

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