



College of Fine Arts

presents

UNLV Jazz Ensemble I

Directed by Dave Loeb and Nathan Tanouye

UNLV Alumni Band with Dennis Mackrel, drummer

Directed by Nathan Tanouye

In Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the UNLV Jazz Ensemble

PROGRAM

UNLV Alumni Band

Thad Jones
(1923–1986)

Three And One

Don Menza
(b. 1936)

Rose Tattoo

Russell Freeman
(1926–2002)
arr. by Nathan Tanouye

The Wind

Dennis Mackrel
(b. 1962)

Bus Dust

Dennis Mackrel

Lemon Juice

Jerome Kern
(b. 1936)
arr. by Dennis Mackrel

Yesterdays

INTERMISSION

UNLV Jazz Ensemble I

Cedar Walton
(b. 1934)
arr. by Mike Crotty

Bolivia

John Clayton
(b. 1952)

Nice To Meet You

Nat Adderley
(1931–2000)
arr. by Paul McKee

Old Country

JoBelle Yonely, vocals

Michael Brecker
(1949–2007)
arr. by John Summers

African Skies

Dennis Mackrel

And That's That

Don Menza

Red Men's Revenge

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

7:30 p.m.

**Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
Performing Arts Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

Dennis Mackrel

Drummer/composer/arranger Dennis Mackrel was born in 1962. He graduated from Clark High School in Las Vegas, Nevada and attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the recipient of numerous awards such as "Who's Who in Music", 1979; National Endowment For The Arts grant for composition in 1983; and in 1992, "Outstanding Alumni" from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

While attending UNLV, he was a member of the acclaimed UNLV Jazz Ensemble where his drumming and arranging skills caught the attention of vocalist Joe Williams. In 1981, Dennis moved to New York City and landed a gig as a drummer on Broadway. In January of 1983, Dennis joined the Count Basie Orchestra on the personal recommendation of Mr. Williams. He would become the youngest member of the orchestra and the last drummer to be hired by Mr. Basie personally. Dennis traveled extensively and worked alongside Mr. Basie until his death in April 1984. He continued with the orchestra under the direction of interim leader Eric Dixon followed by Thad Jones. Dennis stayed with the band until 1987.

After leaving the Orchestra, he returned to New York to become the drummer of choice for a number of large ensembles including The American Jazz Orchestra, The Carla Bley Big Band, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, The Dizzy Gillespie All Star Big Band and his own band, The Manhattan Symphony Jazz Orchestra. In addition to becoming a seasoned musician and bandleader, Dennis has also become a highly respected conductor/arranger/educator whose works have been recorded and performed by ensembles such as The WDR Big Band in Koln, Germany, The Klüvers Big Band in Aarhus, Denmark, and most notably The McCoy Tyner Big Band, whose Grammy winning CD's "The Turning Point" and "Journey" included four of Dennis's arrangements. He has also served as a jazz educator in the United States and abroad.

Jo Belle Yonely

Jo Belle Yonely was born into a show business family. Her father was the International musician/comedian "The Great Yonely" and her mother was a singer. She grew up around musicians like Louis Armstrong and Al Hirt. In Chicago, she worked all the clubs with every notable Jazz musician on the scene, including Ira Sullivan, Von Freeman, Eddie Johnson, Johnny Frigo, Willie Pickins, Howard Levy, and John Campbell.

Jo Belle has worked jazz festivals across the country, recorded seven of her own CDs, performed for President Bush Sr. with Lionel Hampton, is a co-founder of Chizil, a Brazilian/Jazz group in Chicago, she's shared the stage with Red Rodney, Claudio Roditi, George Cables, Manfredo Fest, Steve Gilmore, Rufus Reid, Louis Bellson and many more.

Paralleling her jazz career, Jo Belle was the first call studio singer and voiceover for more than 20 years in Chicago. She has recorded thousands of TV and Radio commercials, and is the solo voice on all the spots including McDonalds, United Air Lines, Sears, Wrigleys, Coors, Budweiser, Special K Cereal, Hallmark, Sunkist, Honda, HBO, Lifetime Channel, to name a few.

She moved to New York for seven years, and currently resides in Las Vegas, where she was invited to be on the faculty at UNLV. She continues to perform festivals, concerts, corporate gigs and nightclubs.

UNLV Jazz Ensemble

Since its inception nearly four decades ago, the UNLV Jazz Ensemble has received outstanding reviews from critics, including a five-star rating from Downbeat Magazine. UNLV Jazz Ensemble I garnered coveted Downbeat Magazine Student Music Awards for Graduate College Large Ensemble Outstanding Performance in 2010 and 2013. This exceptional group was one of three university jazz bands selected from distinguished music programs worldwide and Nevada's first collegiate instrumental ensemble invited to participate in the prestigious 65th annual Midwest Clinic and International Band and Orchestra Conference, in Chicago, IL.

With 20 critically acclaimed recordings to its credit, the UNLV Jazz Ensemble traveled internationally including numerous trips to Europe, Africa, Japan, South America, Australia, and performed at The Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival, The Hawaii International Jazz Festival, The Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts in Washington, DC, The Village Vanguard in New York City, The University of Idaho Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, and The Jazz Bakery in Los Angeles. Students from the UNLV Jazz Ensemble received numerous outstanding soloist awards at major festivals including the Reno Jazz Festival and the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival and played with The Count Basie Orchestra in concert directed by UNLV alumni Dennis Mackrel.

In addition, students in the UNLV Jazz Ensemble won significant jazz composition and arranging accolades

from Downbeat Magazine and ASCAP. The UNLV Jazz Ensemble has performed or recorded with many legendary jazz artists including Bobby Shew, Bob Sheppard, George Garzone, Chris Potter, Tim Hagans, Peter Erskine, James Moody, Phil Woods, Harvey Mason, Ron Carter, Kenny Burrell, Clay Jenkins, Rich Perry, Wayne Bergeron, Marlena Shaw, Monty Alexander, Marvin Stamm, Joe LaBarbera, Brandon Fields, Eric Marienthal, Ruth Brown, Joe Williams, Don Menza, and Manhattan Transfer.

Students from the UNLV Jazz Ensemble performed with Academy and Tony Award-winning entertainers including Ben Vereen, Bebe Neuwirth, Marvin Hamlisch, Tommy Tune, the cast of Forbidden Broadway and Jekyll and Hyde for the UNLV Performing Arts Center concert series. Alumni from the UNLV Jazz Ensemble appeared in concerts with artists including Frank Sinatra, John Scofield, The Dizzy Gillespie All Stars, Santana, Steve Winwood, Jackson Brown, Celine Dion, Bette Midler and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Acknowledgements

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UNLV Alumni Band

Saxophones

Phil Wigfall
Dan Philippus
Rob Stone
Jay Rasmussen
John Summers
Julian Tanaka
Brian Murphy
Steve Dawson

Trumpets

Glenn Colby
Tony Crapis
Gary Cordell
Dan Johnson

Trombones

Andy Newell
Neil Maxa
Dave Philippus
Sonny Hernandez

Guitar

Jarret Myers

Piano

Frank Salerno
Otto Ehling
Etsuko Mader

Bass

Geoff Newman

Drums

Paul Ringenbach
Dennis Mackrel

UNLV Jazz Ensemble I

Saxophones

Patrick Garcia
Eben Arias
Juan Carlos Mata-Alvarez
Jamaal Howard
Emilio Rivera

Trumpets

Richard Paugh
Kevin Tague
Hazen Mayo
Jorge Machain

Trombones

Nick Veslany
Paul Olesuk
Dylan Musso
Keith Larsen

Guitar

Andrew Silva

Piano

Jason Corpuz
Alec Bart

Bass

Nick Schmitt
R.J. Reyes

Drums

Austin Pooley
Gyasi Greer