

# THE CHICAGO | JAZZ | ENSEMBLE

in residence at Columbia College Chicago since 1965

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## **THE CHICAGO JAZZ ENSEMBLE WITH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DANA HALL WELCOMES GRAMMY-NOMINATED SAXOPHONIST MIGUEL ZENÓN TO CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF CHARLIE PARKER**

CHICAGO, IL - The Chicago Jazz Ensemble (CJE) with Artistic Director **Dana Hall** concludes its 2011-12 Harris Theater performance season with a concert featuring Grammy-nominated Puerto Rican saxophonist **Miguel Zenón** celebrating the great **Charlie "Bird" Parker**. *Ornithology: The Music of Charlie "Bird" Parker* takes place Friday, **February 24**, 2012 at 7:30pm at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance.

For this program, selections from the classic 1950s Parker recording *Bird with Strings* will be featured, with a ten-piece **guest string ensemble** joining the CJE. Some pieces will feature the original arrangements, performed with strings, and some will be presented in newer arrangements.

"A lot has been said about what Miguel is doing with his own music," CJE Artistic Director **Dana Hall** says. "He really uses the influences of his own culture to think about the saxophone and composition – informed by classical music, but also informed by Bird, and by the bebop language. Although Bird is really known for his small groups, the strings album is probably his most popular. We want to look at his mastery of that format, but we'll also try to re-cast some of his small-ensemble material to reflect modern-day rhythmic concepts."

Often regarded as the greatest single improviser in all of jazz, saxophonist **Charlie Parker** fomented the bebop revolution in the mid-1940s, working with like-minded legends like Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, and Max Roach to create bebop, which brought a cymbal crash down on the Swing Era and laid the groundwork for the next half-century of jazz. He was a highly influential instrumentalist who gained wide recognition for his brilliant solos and innovative improvisations.

**Miguel Zenón**, a recipient of both a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship and a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant," has used his mastery of jazz to illuminate the folk music of his native Puerto Rico, most recently on the Grammy-nominated 2011 album *Alma Adentro*. He is a founding member of the groundbreaking SFJAZZ Collective; in 2012, Zenón's association with SFJAZZ will expand to include his new role as resident artistic co-director. Zenón's six recordings as a leader represent his ability to constantly evolve and reinvent himself as a musician, conceptualist, and producer.

Zenón will also present a **FREE Listening Session** on Thursday, **February 23** from 12-1:30pm, location TBA. Listening Sessions are the CJE's signature series of informal gatherings in which Artistic Director Dana Hall, jazz artists, educators, and/or critics lead an interactive discussion around a particular topic in jazz. Sessions often feature live music demos, multi-media components, and music recordings. More information on this series can be found at [chicagojazzensemble.com/season/Listening\\_Sessions.php](http://chicagojazzensemble.com/season/Listening_Sessions.php).

The CJE's final concert of the 2011-12 performance season is Friday, **April 6** at 7:30pm at the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium in the Harold Washington Library. *Jazz and Literature*, the second program in the CJE's Small Ensemble Concert series, will explore the intersection of jazz and the spoken and written word. Special guests to be announced.

**Tickets** for the February 24 Harris Theater performance are \$18 - \$48 general admission and \$5 for students (with valid ID). Call 312-334-7777 or visit [HarrisTheaterChicago.org](http://HarrisTheaterChicago.org). **Tickets** for the April 6 performance at the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium are \$25 general and \$5 for students (with valid ID), available via [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com), 800-838-3006. *(At the door at this venue, we're only able to accept cash/check payments. Please buy your tickets online by noon the day of the show if you want to pay by credit card.)*

More information at [ChicagoJazzEnsemble.com](http://ChicagoJazzEnsemble.com), where you can download our electronic press kit.

#### **CJE ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

The Chicago Jazz Ensemble is **Dana Hall**, Artistic Director and drums; **Dan Nicholson** and **Jarrard Harris**, alto saxophone; **Pat Mallinger** and **Rob Denty**, tenor saxophone and clarinet; **Tim McNamara**, baritone saxophone; **Andy Baker**, **Tim Coffman**, **Tom Garling**, and **Thomas Matta**, trombone; **Mark Olen**, **Larry Bowen**, **Art Hoyle**, and **Pharez Whitted**, trumpet; **Jeremy Kahn**, piano; **Jeff Parker**, guitar; **Dan Anderson**, bass; and **Bobbi Wilsyn**, vocals.

The CJE is proud to have been in residence at **Columbia College Chicago** since 1965. Its 2011-12 performance season is made possible in part by grants from the MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, the Fanny R. Wurlitzer Foundation, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Chicago Jazz Ensemble's educational programs, including the Louis Armstrong Legacy Program and Celebration, are supported in part by the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, Citi Foundation, the Crown Family, the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, and the Polk Bros. Foundation. The CJE is also sponsored by Downbeat Magazine and media sponsor 90.9fm WDCB Public Radio.

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