

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 CONTINUES ITS LISTENING SESSIONS SERIES THIS SPRING WITH SPECIAL GUESTS MIGUEL ZENON & WYCLIFFE GORDON

CHICAGO, IL – This Spring, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble (CJE) continues its signature series of **Listening Sessions** for the 2011-12 season, featuring **Artistic Director Dana Hall** and the season's special guest artists. These informal gatherings, **free and open to the public**, bring together jazz artists, educators, and/or critics to lead an interactive discussion around a particular topic in jazz.

Most often held in conjunction with a CJE concert and its associated programming and special guests, Listening Sessions create unique opportunities for the public to learn more about jazz music and musicians in an intimate, casual setting. Sessions include discussion, playing of records and sound clips, live music demos, Q&A, and multi-media components. Attendees are welcome to bring their own topically-related recordings to play and discuss. Programs generally run an hour to an hour and a half.

On Saturday, **February 18 at 2pm**, Dana Hall will present a Listening Session titled *"The Genius of Louis Armstrong"* at the **Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted Street**. In this session, a special event for **African American History Month**, Hall will play records and lead a discussion about the life and legacy of trumpet virtuoso Louis Armstrong. Armstrong was the first important soloist to emerge in jazz, and he became perhaps the most influential musician in the music's history. His playing, beginning with the 1920s studio recordings made with his *Hot Five* and *Hot Seven* ensembles here in Chicago, charted a future for jazz in highly imaginative, emotionally charged improvisation. He maintains enduring significance as a statesman for music – jazz and beyond.

On Thursday, **February 23 at noon**, Hall and Puerto Rican saxophonist and composer **Miguel Zenón** will present a Listening Session at Columbia College Chicago's "Stage Two" auditorium on the 2nd floor of **618 S. Michigan Avenue**. This session will explore Zenón's life and career, Latin jazz, and Charlie Parker as it relates to the CJE's February 24 concert featuring Zenón. A recipient of both a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship and a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant," he 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 SFJazz Collective and was appointed this year as resident Artistic Director at SFJazz.

Zenón appears in concert with the CJE Friday, **February 24 in Ornithology: The Music of Charlie "Bird" Parker** at 7:30pm at the **Harris Theater for Music and Dance**. Some selections from the classic 1950s Parker recording *Bird with Strings* will be performed with a guest string ensemble. General admission is \$18 - \$48 and student admission is \$5 (with valid ID). For tickets, call 312-334-7777 or visit HarrisTheaterChicago.org.

On Saturday, **April 7 at noon**, trombonist, composer, and internationally renowned educator **Wycliffe Gordon** will present a solo Listening Session at the **Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Avenue**. Gordon was named the Jazz Journalists Association's 2011 Trombonist of the Year, and this session will explore his work and as well as that of legendary jazz statesman Louis Armstrong as it relates to Gordon's appointment as Artist In Residence for the 2012 Louis Armstrong Legacy Program, the CJE's signature education program in the Chicago Public Schools. In September Gordon released *Hello Pops!*, a tribute album to Armstrong, his favorite artist and a significant musical influence.

More information at ChicagoJazzEnsemble.com, where you can also download an 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 Farny 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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