

2011 — 2012

THE CHICAGO | JAZZ | ENSEMBLE

with Artistic Director Dana Hall

With Special Guests

RANDY
WESTON

CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE &
MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO

MIGUEL
ZENÓN

ETIENNE
CHARLES

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Welcome

The Chicago Jazz Ensemble has a rich history of world premier performances, one of a kind collaborations, and keen juxtapositions of the old with the new. Founded by William Russo in 1965 and in residence at Columbia College Chicago, the ensemble has been principally concerned with two ideas — modernity and exploration of the new. More than a composer, arranger, and conductor, Bill was a conceptualizer. He personified new. He was a pioneer and a modernist. The season I have created for you celebrates the merits of Maestro William Russo by presenting music and artists that are progressive, modern, and exploratory of the new.

NEA Jazz Master, composer, arranger, and pianist Randy Weston is a spiritually guided visionary of the highest order. One of the first and certainly the most thorough of jazz artists to seriously and comprehensively explore the African Diasporic traditions so elemental to this music, Mr. Weston has for more than four decades worked beyond the mere dalliances of fusion, understanding that the musics of the African continent, and those musics of those of us displaced from the Motherland, are connected through a shared history, story, and song. We open our season and the 2011 Chicago Jazz Festival celebrating this musical iconoclast, as well as his long musical collaboration with trombonist and arranger Melba Liston, using scores from the archives of Columbia College Chicago's own Center for Black Music Research.

The season continues our exploration of the African Diaspora — this time, focused on the tradition of Calypso and the musics of Trinidad

and Tobago. Trumpeter Etienne Charles seeks not to fuse the music of his native Trinidad with North American Jazz, but instead explores the rich tradition of his native island using sound, intellect, and the grit of an improviser. A gifted composer and bandleader, Etienne joins the CJE in a concert of new arrangements and premier performances of his music and works by William Russo, Dizzy Gillespie, and other composers of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Jazz music has historically been entangled with many of our nation's most serious questions concerning civil rights and social justice. Charles Mingus, and the musical world he developed, is the jazz artist most aligned with drafting a music that squarely confronts these serious questions in both word and song. His music is rich and varied, demanding of its performers the ability to shapeshift from a swinging trad-jazz ensemble to the most progressive, elastic big band of the day. For our third concert of the season, the CJE welcomes bassist Christian McBride and bassist/vocalist Meshell Ndegeocello as guests, two musicians who individually have a history of interesting and diverse collaborations, global musical interests, and formidable artistry. They join us to perform classic works by Charles Mingus, including interpretations and new arrangements from his collaboration with the legendary songstress Joni Mitchell.

We close our full ensemble programs with one of the founders of the modern language of jazz and one of the most unique, intelligent,

and creative musicians of the 20th century. It is safe to say that without Charlie Parker's important contributions to this music, jazz would not be played as it is today. Bird cemented his legacy primarily through his performances in jazz combos. For this concert, the CJE will explore the few works that presented Parker in larger ensemble configurations, including his transcendent performances featuring strings. Our guest for this performance aptly sums up the essence of our season. Saxophonist and composer Miguel Zenón is an award-winning musician who in 2008 was selected as both a Guggenheim Fellow and a recipient of the coveted MacArthur Grant. Of Zenón, the MacArthur Foundation state "...this young musician and composer is at once reestablishing the artistic, cultural, and social traditions of jazz while creating an entirely new jazz language for the 21st century." Amen to that.

I am also pleased to introduce a new set of programs in which we explore smaller ensemble formats. These programs feature the CJE musicians and other Chicago artists in intimate settings. In the upcoming season, we explore the music of Art Blakey and delve into the historic collaborations between jazz and literature. Finally, I hope you will join us for our free Listening Sessions programs. These programs are an entirely unique opportunity to hear from, and talk with, some of contemporary music's most interesting artists.

We look forward to seeing you!

Dana Hall
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Photo by Jacob Hand

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Dana Hall

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Tenor Saxophone

Rob Denty

Tenor Saxophone

Tim McNamara

Baritone Saxophone

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Trumpet

Larry Bowen

Trumpet

Pharez Whitted

Trumpet

Art Hoyle

Trumpet

Andy Baker

Trombone

Tim Coffman

Trombone

Tom Garling

Trombone

Thomas Matta

Bass Trombone

Bobbi Wilsyn

Vocals

Jeff Parker

Guitar

Jeremy Kahn

Piano

Dan Anderson

Double Bass

STAFF

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Kate Dumbleton

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Dana Hall

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Laura Paisley

EDUCATION DIRECTOR AND MUSIC LIBRARIAN

Darius Hampton

MORE INFO

chicagojazzensemble.com

Learn more about the Chicago Jazz Ensemble's 2011-12 schedule, guest artists, Listening Sessions, master classes, and related programs at our website. You can also call us at 312.369.6270. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please e-mail lpaisley@colum.edu.



THANK YOU

The CJE's 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 CJE's educational programs, including the Louis Armstrong Legacy Program and Celebration, are supported in part by the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, ASCAP, Citi Foundation, the Crown Family, the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, and the Polk Bros. Foundation.

The CJE is proud to be sponsored by Downbeat Magazine and media sponsor 90.9fm WDCB Public Radio.

The Chicago Jazz Ensemble's 2011-12 performance season is partially made possible by the Harris Theater's Rental Subsidy Program and we extend our thanks to them.

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Keep informed by subscribing to CJE e-news. Hear about upcoming concerts and other events in addition to receiving exclusive discount offers. Sign up at chicagojazzensemble.com or e-mail lpaisley@colum.edu.

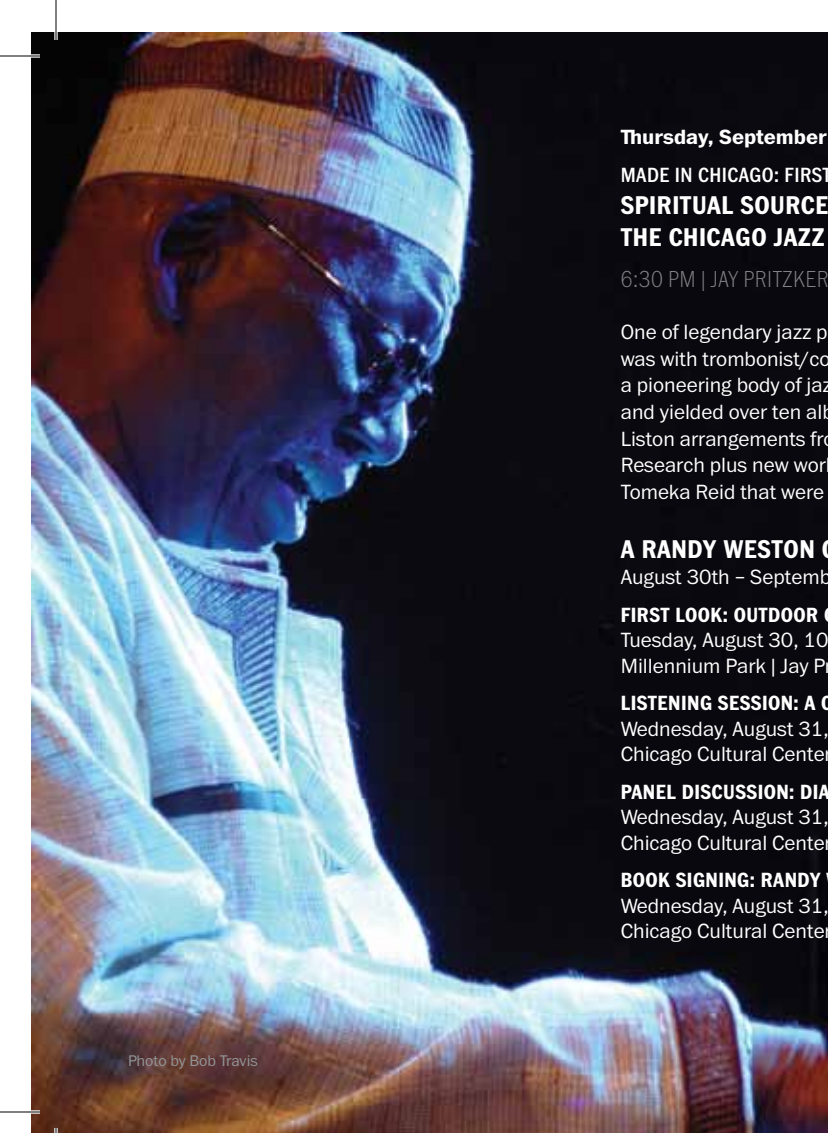


Photo by Bob Travis

Thursday, September 1, 2011

**MADE IN CHICAGO: FIRST NIGHT OF THE 33RD CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL:
SPIRITUAL SOURCE: PIANIST RANDY WESTON WITH
THE CHICAGO JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

6:30 PM | JAY PRITZKER PAVILION, MILLENNIUM PARK

**FREE
SHOW**

One of legendary jazz pianist Randy Weston's most significant collaborations was with trombonist/composer/arranger Melba Liston. Together they created a pioneering body of jazz music that explored music from the African Diaspora and yielded over ten albums. For this program, Weston joins the CJE to perform Liston arrangements from the music library at the Center for Black Music Research plus new works by CJE Artistic Director Dana Hall and Chicago cellist Tomeka Reid that were specially commissioned for this concert.

A RANDY WESTON CELEBRATION

August 30th - September 1st

FIRST LOOK: OUTDOOR OPEN REHEARSAL WITH RANDY WESTON AND THE CJE

Tuesday, August 30, 10 am - 2 pm
Millennium Park | Jay Pritzker Pavilion Stage

LISTENING SESSION: A CONVERSATION WITH RANDY WESTON AND DANA HALL

Wednesday, August 31, 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Chicago Cultural Center | Cassidy Theater

PANEL DISCUSSION: DIASPORIC CONNECTIONS

Wednesday, August 31, 10 am - 11:30 am
Chicago Cultural Center | Cassidy Theater

BOOK SIGNING: RANDY WESTON'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY AFRICAN RHYTHMS

Wednesday, August 31, 1:30 pm - 2:15 pm
Chicago Cultural Center | Cassidy Theater

Presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, in partnership with the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture, the Jazz Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble, and the Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College Chicago.

Friday, January 20, 2012

**BENEATH THE UNDERDOG: THE MUSICAL
WORLD OF CHARLES MINGUS**

WITH CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE, BASS AND
MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO, BASS/VOCALS

7:30 PM | HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE

In this compelling pairing, Christian McBride and Messhell Ndegeocello join the CJE for an evening of music by the legendary bassist and composer Charles Mingus, including some of his final compositions which were written in collaboration with vocalist Joni Mitchell in the late 1970s. McBride was named 2011 Bassist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association and has worked with the likes of Freddie Hubbard, Sonny Rollins, J.J. Johnson, McCoy Tyner, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, and Pat Metheny. Ndegeocello is a singer-songwriter, rapper, bassist, and vocalist whose artistry has earned her ten Grammy Award nominations.



Friday, February 24, 2012

**ORNITHOLOGY: THE MUSIC OF
CHARLIE "BIRD" PARKER**

WITH MIGUEL ZENÓN, SAXOPHONE

7:30 PM | HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE

This program features Grammy-nominated Puerto Rican saxophonist Miguel Zenón in a celebration of Charlie "Bird" Parker's rich musical legacy. Selections from the classic Parker recording *Bird with Strings* will be performed with a guest string ensemble. Zenón was one of the founding members of the SFJAZZ Collective, and in 2005 he was honored by Billboard magazine as one of the "Faces to Watch - 30 Under 30: Top Young Acts." In 2008 he received a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and later that year he received a coveted MacArthur Grant, aka the "Genius Grant." He was a 2011 nominee for Alto Saxophonist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association.



Friday, October 7, 2011

MUSICA PANAMERICANO

WITH ETIENNE CHARLES, TRUMPET/PERCUSSION

7:30 PM | HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE

Trinidadian trumpeter and percussionist Etienne Charles stands at the vanguard of a new generation of Caribbean musicians with a fresh, broad-ranging artistic vision. He won the National Trumpet Competition in 2006 and has performed and recorded with Wynton Marsalis, Monty Alexander, Marcus Roberts, Roberta Flack, and the Count Basie Orchestra, among others. NPR named his second recording, *Folklore*, one of the top ten jazz albums of 2009. *Kaiso*, which explores Caribbean Songbook classics, was released this summer. Charles' program with the CJE delves into music from the Caribbean and the Americas, fusing original music with classic Caribbean influences such as Calypso, reggae, and Latin, plus compositions by CJE Founder William Russo.

Photo by Laura Ferreira



TICKET INFORMATION

BUY TICKETS @ THE HARRIS THEATER

Box Office: 312.334.7777

harristheaterchicago.org/buytickets

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» In addition to our very best discounts, exclusive season ticket benefits include priority seating, cost savings on handling fees, bonus tickets, a free subscription to *Downbeat* magazine, complimentary wine receptions during intermission, restaurant discounts, plus invitations to attend Open Rehearsals and other special events.

» All subscription packages must be purchased by phone via the Harris Theater. Call 312.334.7777 between 12 - 6 pm, Monday - Friday.

Photo by Jody Warner

SMALL ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

Introducing the CJE's inaugural Small Ensemble Concert series. Experience the music in a more intimate setting. Tickets available at chicagojazzensemble.com

Thursday, December 15, 2011

BUHAINA'S DELIGHT: ART BLAKEY AND THE MESSAGE OF JAZZ

7:30 PM, CINDY PRITZKER AUDITORIUM, HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY

\$5 Student Tickets / \$18-\$48 General Public

This special program presents the CJE in quintet and sextet formats and features arrangements from the hard bop era, particularly music associated with Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. The concert will present a historic overview of this music, its significant figures, and the conceptual foundations of hard bop, so central to Blakey's musical aesthetic.

Friday, April 6, 2012

JAZZ AND LITERATURE

7:30 PM, CINDY PRITZKER AUDITORIUM, HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY

\$5 Student Tickets / \$18-\$48 General Public

American literary figures such as Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, and Toni Morrison have infused the language of jazz into their writing, extending the oral tradition and elaborating on the call and response of improvisation. This program explores historical and contemporary collaborations between word and sound. Special guest TBA.

LISTENING SESSIONS

Please refer to Community Education section for full program description.

Thursday, October 6

ETIENNE CHARLES WITH DANA HALL

12-1:30 pm | Location TBA

Thursday, January 19

CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE AND MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO WITH DANA HALL

12-1:30 pm | Location TBA

Thursday, February 23

MIGUEL ZENÓN WITH DANA HALL

12-1:30 pm | Location TBA



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Both on and beyond the Columbia College Chicago campus, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble demonstrates its ongoing commitment to music education in general, and to jazz studies in particular. For more information on our educational programs, contact dhampton@colum.edu.

For Everyone

The **Listening Sessions** program is our signature series of informal gatherings in which a panel of jazz performers, educators, and critics — often including Artistic Director Dana Hall and guest artists for an upcoming show — play records and lead an interactive discussion around a particular topic in jazz. These sessions create unique and enriching opportunities to learn more about music and to think creatively about jazz. Listening Sessions are free and open to the public and take place in conjunction with a CJE concert. Attendees are invited to bring recordings of their own to play and discuss.

For Columbia College Chicago Students

Many of our special guest musicians conduct master classes and clinics at Columbia College in addition to their concert appearances. These educational events bring professional artists together with Columbia students to share ideas, experiences, and technique. Some of our concerts feature Columbia students performing alongside the CJE and our guests.

For Music Educators and Adults

The Jazz Institute of Chicago's Straight Ahead Summer Jazz Camp takes place in July at the Columbia College Music Center with the Chicago Jazz Ensemble in residence for one week. The camp emphasizes the enhancement of skills, techniques, and methodology that music teachers can utilize in their classrooms and is open to any adult with basic musical training. CJE members and other prominent musicians and educators lead classes and clinics on a variety of topics related to pedagogy and the jazz world in general.

Photos by Jody Warner

For Chicago Public School Students

The Louis Armstrong Legacy Program and Celebration (LALPC) sends musicians from the CJE into nearly a dozen Chicago Public Schools as mentors twice a month each spring semester to share the artistic legacy and spirit of Louis Armstrong. This year we're honored to welcome renowned trombonist, composer, and arranger **Wycliffe Gordon** as artist-in-residence for the 2012 LALPC program. He will work directly with students and educators in the schools leading up to the program culmination in May: the Celebration performance by the students for their teachers, families, and the public.

LALPC 2012 Artist-In-Residence Wycliffe Gordon

Gordon has solidified a place in musical history as one of the top trombonists of his generation. The Jazz Journalists Association has named him Trombonist of the Year six times in the last ten years, and in addition to a successful solo career he tours regularly, leading the Wycliffe Gordon Quartet. He is a former member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and has also been a featured guest artist on Billy Taylor's "Jazz at the Kennedy Center" series. Gordon currently serves on the faculty of the Jazz Arts Program at Manhattan School of Music. His work with young musicians and audiences from elementary schools to universities worldwide includes master classes, clinics, workshops, and lectures.



THE
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