

EIGHTH CANIA VISITING ARTISTS

MARCH 15, 2024 | HOSMER HALL

#### Eighth Cania Visiting Artists

#### "SING & SWING"

#### A Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents production

March 15, 2024 at 7:30 PM HOSMER CONCERT HALL, SUNY POTSDAM, POTSDAM, NEW YORK

Bria Skonberg Trumpet/Vocals/Co-Music Director
Benny Benack III Trumpet/Vocals/Co-Music Director
Jocelyn Gould Guitar
Mark Lewandowski Bass
Mathis Picard Piano
Darrian Douglas Drums
Haley Freedlund Tour Manager

- subject to change -

Let Me Off Uptown (Earl Bostic)

Cheek To Cheek (Irving Berlin)

Our Love is Here To Stay (George Gershwin)

And Then She Stopped (Dizzy Gillespie)

Change Partners (Irving Berlin)

I Wish I Hadn't Forgotten (Bria Skonberg)

Mood Indigo (Duke Ellington)

Stompin' At the Savoy (Duke Ellington)

Medley: I Can't Get Started (Vernon Duke & Ira Gershwin) / Embraceable You (George Gershwin)

The Nearness of You (Hoagy Carmichael)

Third Time's the Charm (Benny Benack III)

Banana Split For My Baby (Louis Prima)

Comes Love (Sam Stept)

In a Mellow Tone (Duke Ellington)

**JALC Presents** appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, LLC, 7 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. 212-994-3500

PLEASE SILENCE ALL MOBILE DEVICES BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE BEGINS.

PHOTOGRAPHY OR RECORDING OF ANY PERFORMANCE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE MANAGEMENT.

FOR ACCESSIBILITY ASSISTANCE, PLEASE NOTIFY THE BOX OFFICE IN ADVANCE OF THE START OF THE PERFORMANCE.

FIRE NOTICE: IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, WALK TO THE EXIT NEAREST TO THE SEAT YOU OCCUPY AND LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO BRICK & MORTAR MUSIC FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO EVENT - HUNDREDS OF 4TH GRADE MUSICIANS HAD THE ABSOLUTE BEST DAY BECAUSE OF YOU!



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## FROM THE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE SERIES DIRECTOR

I hope you've enjoyed the 34th Season of Community Performance Series!

Thank you for choosing to support the performing arts by spending your time with us today. It is truly an honor to serve as a connection point for our SUNY

Potsdam students and regional community members to enjoy the work of brilliant musicians, performers and artists right here on these stages.

Sharing live performances together is a poignant reminder of how essential art and creative expression are to our collective human experience. You, our steadfast audience, bring unique life and energy into these spaces. A recent study by Wolfgang Tschacher, a professor at the University of Bern in Switzerland, confirmed that concert audiences synchronize breathing, heartbeats and movements as part of a shared experience. There truly is nothing like a live performance - so may your hearts beat together on this special night of music and concert magic.

By supporting these experiences with your gifts of presence, volunteerism, and generosity, you are ensuring our community remains enriched with the beauty of live art. I am truly grateful for your commitment to keeping the arts alive in our region.

Enjoy our Spring performance and I hope to see you back at a one of the many fantastic events here at SUNY Potsdam.

With appreciation,

Vanessa N. Vaverchak









## Crane Youth Music

June 30 - July 6, 2024

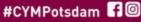
Open enrollment music program for middle and high school student musicians ages 12-18

Instrumental, choral, piano, harp, large ensembles, master classes,elective classes, concerts and more!

> Open enrollment until instruments fill.



For more information, visit www.potsdam.edu/cym







### Community Performance Series 2023-24 SEASON

IN RESIDENCE AT SUNY POTSDAM SINCE 1989, COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE SERIES IS A COLLEGE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP THAT PRESENTS DISTINCTIVE AND RENOWNED PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS IN NORTHERN NEW YORK.

The Mission of Community Performance Series (CPS) is to be a leader toward a vibrant arts culture at SUNY Potsdam and the surrounding Northern New York region by offering a robust and distinct annual, public performing arts season of exceptional artists and musicians. CPS also enhances educational experiences through high-quality masterclasses, internships, workshops, artistic collaborations, and performing arts programming for students and community members at every learning stage.

#### **CPS Staff**

Director
Assistant Director

Vanessa Vaverchak Meghan Stever

#### **CPS Interns**

Marketing Intern
Box Office Attendant
LoKo Arts Coordinator
Box Office Attendant
Marketing Intern
Assistant LoKo Arts Coordinator
Youth Programming Coordinator

Denaisha Clarke '25 Daniela Caldas Guaman '27 Holland Goddard '25 Ethan Hurst '26 Emily Levy '25 Hudson Smith '27 Michael Wong '26

#### **Special Thanks to:**

PACES Catering | SUNY Potsdam Office of College Advancement
Performing Arts Center Facilities Manager, Tom Grabowski
Assistant Facilities Manager (Concert Sound Engineer), Josh Barkley '21
Volunteer Ushers & Support Crew

#### Crane School of Music, especially:

Dean, Dr. William Gibbons | Associate Dean, Dr. David Heuser Assistant Professor: Jazz Studies, Dr. Michael R. Dudley Jr. | Adjunct Instructor: String Bass, John Geggie | Visiting Assistant Professor: Percussion, Dr. Robert M. Sanderl Audio & Streaming Engineer, Douglas McKinnie | Crane Students: especially Shawn Berman & Intern Stage Crew

#### **CPS Advisory Board**

Founding Director: Sal Cania, Jr. '79

#### **Advisory Board Members**

Dr. Robin Collen Salvatore Cania '79 Dr. William Gibbons Dean, Crane School of Music Josh Barkley '21 Jerry Manor '78 Kerri Canedy

Jill Rubio Aidan Sherwood '25 Mona Ouimet Vroman '85





#### CPS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS WHO MAKE THESE EVENTS POSSIBLE.

#### **Endowed Annual Performances**













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Contributions from July 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024



Scan to Donate!

Thank you for your generosity For more information and to make your gift in support of our programming, please visit **CPSpotsdam.org** 

Looking to make a significant and long lasting impact to sustain the future of performing arts events in our community?

Reach out to Director, Vanessa Vaverchak, to set up a meeting at 315-267-2612 or vavercvn@potsdam.edu

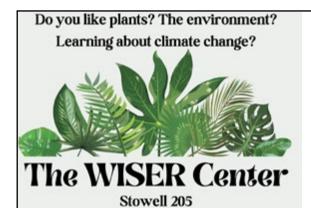


Potsdam, NY is in the direct path of the 2024 total solar eclipse on April 28th, 2024. SUNY Potsdam will mark this once-in-a-lifetime event with a viewing party and educational activities for our campus and community. Please join us for this incredible experience.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GREAT NORTH AMERICAN ECLIPSE EVENTS ON CAMPUS https://www.potsdam.edu/about/our-campus/study-stem/totality-2024

2017 Solar Eclipse in Madras, Oregon - Photo courtesy of NASA, Photographer: Aubrey Gemignani 2017 Solar Eclipse in Banner, Wyoming - Composite photo courtesy of NASA, Photographer: Joel Kowsky



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#### BRIA SKONBERG

#### TRUMPET, VOCALS, CO-MUSIC DIRECTOR

Born in British Columbia, Canada and now residing in New York City, Bria has been a featured artist at hundreds of festivals and stages the world over, including New Orleans Jazz & Heritage, Kobe, Monterey, Breda, Newport and Montreal Jazz Festivals. Described as "one of the most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation" (Wall Street Journal), she has performed with Jon Batiste, Wycliffe Gordon, Stephane Wrembel, Steven Bernstein, U2 & Sun Ra Arkestra, The American Pops and Vancouver Symphony Orchestras, The Blacksmiths "We Insist" Band, and once sang the "Star Spangled Banner" at Madison Square Garden for a NY Rangers game. The "shining hope of hot jazz" (NY Times) has been at the forefront of a revival of classic American music as both a performer and educator, programming concerts and workshops for students of all ages. A 3x Juno Award Nominee, Bria's debut LP on Sony Masterworks won for Best Jazz Vocal Album and made the Top 5 on Billboard jazz charts. Bria has recorded on over 25 albums and recently released her sixth studio solo album "Nothing Never Happens" consisting of mostly original compositions; Her music has garnered over 13 million streams online and over 85000 social media followers. A 6x Downbeat Rising Star, further accolades include the Jazz at Lincoln Center Swing Award, Best Vocal and Best Trumpet from Hot House Jazz Magazine and Outstanding Jazz Artist at the Bistro Awards. She tours constantly bringing her own signature sounds of fiery trumpet playing, smoky vocals and storytelling together with adventurous concoctions of classic and new.

The daughter of teachers, Bria is passionate about education and the learning experience. She was introduced to jazz by a spirited public school band program and local festival in her hometown of Chilliwack. She earned her degree in Jazz Trumpet Performance from Capilano University in Vancouver where she studied with Kevin Elaschuk, Alan Matheson, and independently with Australian cornetist Simon Stribling, all while balancing a full road schedule and managing two bands. Following graduation she performed for four years with Canada's King of Swing Dal Richards and was taken under the wing of music producer Paul Airey who cultivated her love of song writing. She traveled extensively, performing in China, Japan and throughout Europe as a featured artist in traditional jazz circles. Seeking new challenges, Bria moved to New York in 2010 and studied privately with renowned trumpeter Warren Vache for two years. She now appears often as a guest faculty member and clinician, giving masterclasses and private instruction as well as directing and performing with student ensembles at all levels. Bria is a Co-Founder/Director of the NY Hot Jazz Camp and has served as faculty at the Teagarden Jazz Camp (Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation), Centrum Jazz Camp, Geri Allen Jazz Camp and Junior Jazz Academy (JALC). She has performed hundreds of educational concerts and workshops for students of all ages, has led an ensemble for Jazz at Lincoln Center's "Jazz for Young People" outreach program and is an Educational Advisor to the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Queens. She has been an Artist in Residence collaborating with Syracuse University, Ball State University, UNC Greensborough, Jazz Arts Group in Columbus, Cape May Regional Schools, and more. In 2018 Lincoln Center sought out her leadership for a tribute to the first integrated all female big band, the International Sweethearts of Rhythm, which launched her acclaimed

group Sisterhood of Swing. In 2019 she was a featured member of Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour for 26 dates alongside Cecile McLorin Salvant, Christian Sands, Melissa Aldana and Jamison Ross. She is an active member of the Women in Jazz Organization, Jazz Education Network, a Bach Conn-Selmer artist, a board member of the International Trumpet Guild, and a new mother.

#### **BENNY BENACK III**

#### TRUMPET, VOCALS, CO-MUSIC DIRECTOR

By age 31, Emmy-nominated trumpeter and singer Benny Benack III has proven to be that rarest of talents: not only a fiery trumpet player with a stirring command of the post-bop trumpet vernacular in the vein of Kenny Dorham and Freddie Hubbard, but also a singer with a sly, mature, naturally expressive delivery in the post-Sinatra mold, performing standards and his own astute songs with a thrilling sense of showmanship. This duel-threat ability was recognized by the 2022 Downbeat Critics Poll where he appeared as not only the #2 Rising Star Male Vocalist, but a top Rising Star Trumpeter as well. His superb intonation and bracing virtuosity enable him to handle astounding feats of originally composed vocalese (complex solos with written lyrics). On top of it all, he's a highly capable pianist as well.

Benny has performed internationally as an Emcee/Host for the YouTube sensation Postmodern Jukebox, and achieved his own viral success amassing millions of views for his crooning alongside the Grammy-award winning "8-Bit Big Band". In early 2020 he released A Lot of Livin' to Do, the follow-up to his well-received 2017 debut One of a Kind. This sophomore effort, richly varied in mood and brimming with bop inflection, features bassist extraordinaire and jazz ambassador Christian McBride (whose Grammy-award winning Big Band frequently calls upon Benny in the trumpet section) and drummer/producer Ulysses Owens, Jr., as well as the radiant Takeshi Ohbayashi on piano and Rhodes. His vocalese duet on "Social Call" from this album alongside fellow young star vocalist Veronica Swift became an instant smash hit single, being transcribed and learned by jazz vocalists around the world.

Alongside his global touring as a straight-ahead/contemporary bandleader, Benny has appeared as a trumpet soloist in more commercial circles alongside Josh Groban, Ben Folds, fashion icon Isaac Mizrahi, Ann Hampton Callaway and more. He's been featured at Birdland, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Mezzrow, Bemelmans Bar at the Carlyle and other leading New York venues and has also been a special guest with the Pittsburgh Symphony Pops Orchestra, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, and the Minsk Philharmonic Orchestra. He made his television debut in NBC's short-lived, SNL-inspired variety show "Maya & Marty" playing in the in-studio band led by acclaimed bassist & Broadway arranger Charlie Rosen. His global recognition has been bolstered by recent live-streaming concerts at Smalls Jazz Club, where he maintains a weekly residency, as well as frequent appearances on fellow young lion Emmet Cohen's "Emmet's Place" weekly show.

Third in a generational line of Pittsburgh jazz notables, Benny follows in the footsteps of his trumpeter/bandleader grandfather, Benny Benack, Sr. (1921-86), and his father Benny Benack, Jr., a saxophonist/clarinetist who gave the young Benny his first professional experience. Benny, Sr. hailed from a Pittsburgh lineage

that also produced Roy Eldridge, Earl Hines, Art Blakey, Billy Strayhorn and so many more. He recorded the Pittsburgh Pirates' 1960 theme song "Beat 'Em Bucs" and toured with Tommy Dorsey and Raymond Scott, among others. Benny III returns to Pittsburgh often to perform, saluting his family forebears and the jazz heritage as a whole, nonetheless staking his bold and highly individual artistic claim. He is an endorsing artist with Torpedo Bags cases, CarolBrass flugelhorns, as well as various menswear fashion lines including X-Suit, Alain Dupetit, Proper Cloth & Vittone.

#### JOCELYN GOULD GUITAR

2021 JUNO Award winner Jocelyn Gould has been called "a leader in the next generation of great mainstream jazz guitarists" by Howard Paul, CEO of Benedetto Guitars. Her joyful energy has captivated audiences around the world and her passion for music is as infectious as her unique ability to connect with audiences. Jocelyn has absorbed the influences of the jazz guitar greats and has woven them into an exciting personal sound, citing Wes Montgomery, Grant Green, Joe Pass and Kenny Burrell as primary influences on the guitar. Jocelyn has performed and recorded internationally as a leader and with GRAMMY-nominated vocalist Freddy Cole, JUNO-winning trumpeter and vocalist Bria Skonberg, Downbeat Rising Star trombonist Michael Dease, Etienne Charles, Jon Gordon, Rodney Whitaker, Randy Napoleon and Diego Rivera. Jocelyn's debut album, Elegant Traveler, won the 2021 JUNO Award for Jazz Album of the Year: Solo. Golden Hour, Jocelyn's sophomore album, showcases her virtuosic guitar playing and dynamic compositions, and introduces her voice. It has received international critical acclaim and radio play including extensive play on Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Golden Hour reached #1 on Canadian and #9 on North American college radio jazz charts. Jocelyn's Golden Hour Tour took place in June 2022 with performances at 11 Canadian Jazz Festivals. Jocelyn toured extensively in 2022, including a 6-week American tour featuring the music of Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Nina Simone. She will begin 2023 with a two-month North American tour from Florida to Alaska as one of four guitarists featured in a concert of solo guitar. Jocelyn is a Professor and Head of Guitar Department at Humber College in Toronto. She is a Benedetto-endorsed artist.

#### MARK LEWANDOWSKI BASS

Award winning New York City based bassist and composer Mark Lewandowski originally hails from Nottingham, England. A graduate of the Guildhall School of Music in London and New York's prestigious Juilliard School, he has earned the respect of his peers and elders alike as a creative, supportive and individual sideman and bandleader. Lewandowski has also performed frequently as a member of Pulitzer Prize winning trumpeter Wynton Marsalis' quartet including performances in such esteemed venues and festivals as London's Barbican Hall, Cheltenham Festival and The Institute of Peace, Washington D.C. Mark's work as a bandleader include two releases, Waller (2017), an exploration of the music of one of the early innovators of the jazz genre, Thomas 'Fats' Waller, and Under One

Sky (2021), comprised of exclusively original material. Lewandowski's unique and personal compositional style is at the foreground of this album which was described by the UK's renowned critic, John Fordham (The Guardian, Jazzwise Magazine) as 'a sublime confection on compositional class and individual improv skill."

#### **MATHIS PICARD**

PIANO

Mathis Picard is a French-Malagasy pianist, composer, producer, and bandleader who currently resides in New York City. Rooted in the tradition of live acoustic performance while incorporating the latest technology, Mathis creates his own musical style influenced by his multi-national background. Mathis, who began playing the piano at the age of 3, was immediately passionate about music's healing quality and now focuses on sharing that passion globally. Mathis currently leads a solo project, a trio project and his orchestra, The Sound Orchestra. Mathis has had the honor of working with artists such as Ron Carter, Lillias White, Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, Lee Ritenour, Daniel J. Watts, DJ Kindness, Braxton Cook, Veronica Swift, Etienne Charles, and more.

#### **DARRIAN DOUGLAS**

#### DRUMS

Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, and now based in New York City, Darrian Douglas has established himself as a prominent figure in the jazz music scene, performing with various groups in New Orleans and New York City. His musical journey began at age 11 at the Academic and Performing Arts Center, under the guidance of Dr. Perry Combs and other esteemed educators. In 2008, Darrian relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana, to join Ellis Marsalis's quartet as the drummer. He reflects on this experience as a period of significant growth and exploration in his musical career. Darrian continued with the quartet until his move from New Orleans in December 2012. Darrian is not only a skilled drummer but also a composer and the bandleader of The Session, a group formed with musicians he met while playing in the Jason Marsalis Vibes Quartet. He has performed at over 30 festivals worldwide and at renowned venues such as The Kennedy Center, Herbst Theatre, Saenger Theatre, Aladdin Theater, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Snug Harbor, Smoke Jazz Club, and Irvin Mayfield's Jazz Playhouse. His recording credits include works with Ellis Marsalis (Live at New Orleans Jazz Fest 2011), Greggory Agid (Mystery Blues), The Session (This Is Who We Are), Sam Zeanah Band (self-titled), Bria Skonberg (Nothing Never Happens), and Regeneration Brass Band (Body and Soul). In addition to his performance career, Darrian has a strong passion for education, having taught percussion at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. For the past eight years, he has been the co-founder and Executive Director of the Second Line Arts Collective, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive arts education programs.



## A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

Proscenium Theater in the Performing Arts Center

Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 19 at 9:30 a.m. (Show for schools, contact Jay Pecora for reservations (315) 267-2547)

**Saturday, April 20** at 7:30 p.m. (This show will have ASL interpretation.)

Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are free and available at the door 30 minutes prior to showtime.

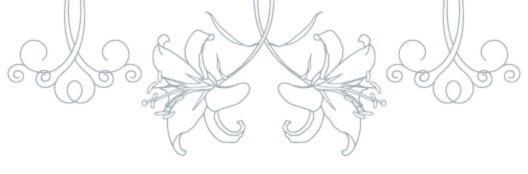


#### **ABOUT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER**

Jazz at Lincoln Center is dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences for jazz. With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and a comprehensive array of guest artists, Jazz at Lincoln Center advances a unique vision for the continued development of the art of jazz by producing a yearround schedule of performance, education, and broadcast events for audiences of all ages. These productions include concerts, national and international tours, residencies, weekly national radio programs, television broadcasts, recordings, publications, an annual high school jazz band competition and festival, a band director academy, jazz appreciation curricula for students, music publishing, children's concerts and classes, lectures, adult education courses, student and educator workshops, a record label, and interactive websites. Under the leadership of Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, Chairman Clarence Otis, and Executive Director Greg Scholl, Jazz at Lincoln Center produces thousands of events each season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and around the world. For more information, visit jazz.org.

#### **ABOUT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER**

**IMG Artists** is a global leader of performing arts, social media, and festival and events management. For more than thirty years, the company has set the standard for excellence across fields of artist and celebrity management, touring, dance and attractions, festival and event management and cultural consulting. Their specialists in offices across four continents offer unparalleled international reach and depth of experience to the company's artists, clients and partners.



The SUNY Potsdam College Council
requests the honor of your presence
at the inauguration of
Dr. Suzanne R. Smith
as the 18th President of
The State University of New York at Potsdam

Friday, April 19, 2024

Installation Ceremony

1:30 p.m. in Helen M. Hosmer Concert Hall

**Campus Celebration** 

3 p.m. in the Robert and Beverly Washburn Rehearsal Room



RSVP, learn more and celebrate President Smith potsdam.edu/inauguration











#### LoKo Arts Festival: April 30 - May 5, 2024

Featuring a range of free events highlighting the beauty and complexity of the visual, language and performing arts. Performances, workshops, gallery exhibitions, visiting artists and more. Visit **potsdam.edu/loko** for information and details.

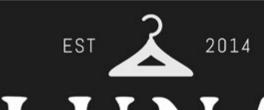
#### UPCOMING SPRING 2024 ROLLING LOKO ARTS EVENTS:

#### **Team NV Winter Showcase**

Friday, March 22, 2024 at 7:30 – 9 p.m. Black Box Theatre, Performing Arts Center

#### **Broadway Showcase: Hits and Misfits**

April 20 & 21, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. Washburn Rehearsal Room, Crane School of Music



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