



**CWRU MUSIC**

2025/26 CONCERT SEASON

# *Swing, Blues & New Sounds*

## **Jazz Ensembles I & II**

**Paul Ferguson**, director

**Michele Corcella**, guest conductor

**7:30 PM • Sunday, October 5, 2025**

**Florence Memorial Harkness Chapel**

11118 Bellflower Road Cleveland, OH



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE**  
UNIVERSITY

**Department of Music**  
[case.edu/artsci/music](http://case.edu/artsci/music)

# PROGRAM

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE II

Bouncin'	Paul Ferguson
Last Tango in Paris	Gato Barbieri, arr. Corcella
Blues for New Orleans	Duke Ellington, ed. Corcella
Portrait of Sidney Bechet	Duke Ellington, ed. Corcella
Blues in Orbit	Billy Strayhorn, ed. Corcella
Theloniously	Michele Corcella

### Saxes & Clarinet

Asel Uswatte, alto • Kamil Malinowski, alto • Brendan Lindberg, alto  
Matthew Danter, alto • Gabby Olivares, alto • Niklas Carlson, alto  
Logan McIntyre, tenor • Sidharth Rao, tenor • Tao Ke, clarinet

### Trumpets

Matthew Miele • James Poscillo • Steven Landsittel  
Caden Cummings • Jack Overman

### Bones & Tuba

John McGonegal • Robbie Shepherd • Cade Kuhlins  
Adam Lindsey, tuba

### Rhythm

David Rho, bass • Pia Sachdev, bass  
Carson Whitehouse, piano • Kasey Wei, piano • Avery Stager, violin  
Jericho Yates, drums • Daniel Kim, drums • Sachit Kshatriya, drums

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

As Is	Matthew Smutney
Dreamer	Laufey Lin Jonsdottir, arr. Noa Ming
Mo' Joe	Joe Henderson, arr. Corcella
Jinrikisha	Joe Henderson, arr. Corcella
Masks	Paul Ferguson
Dawn	Michele Corcella

### Saxes

Matt Smutney, alto • Taichi Okumura, alto • Kurt Rehm, alto  
Henry Nonnemaker, tenor • Aine Thomas, tenor • Cameron Toscano, bar

### Trumpets

Adam Brooks • Lachlan Robertson • Jonathan Ko • Ari Jacobsen • Genevieve Fritz

### Bones

Aaron Hart • Quinn Taylor • Alex Karstadt • Jay Ann • Devin Spaulding

### Rhythm

Aaditya Natarajan, guitar • Yusang Bejarano, guitar  
Kent Manion, bass • Neil Nori, bass • Carey Calder, bass  
Alex Gill, piano • Sofia Rakhimi, piano • Noa Han, piano • Mitch Beckman, vibes  
Nicholas Nazak, drums • Emilio Izquierdo, drums

# ABOUT THE GUEST CONDUCTOR

**Michele Corcella** is a multi-award-winning composer, arranger, and conductor. He graduated in Musical Studies (DAMS) at the University of Bologna, defending a thesis on Duke Ellington's soundtracks. At the international level, Corcella has won numerous composition awards such as Eddie Lang (2009), 2 Agosto (2009), Jazzverk (2010), Bargajazz (2012), Scrivere in Jazz (2014), Siae Libera il Jazz (2015), European Jazz Composers Competition (2018).

Michele has worked as composer, arranger or conductor with Kenny Wheeler, David Liebman and Orchestra Jazz della Sardegna. In the classical field, he has worked with Altenberg Trio Wien and Orchestra Sinfonica del Teatro Comunale di Bologna. Since 2015 he has been the conductor of the Martini Big Band. Currently Michele is working with world-famous pianist and composer Enrico Pieranunzi in a tribute to John Lewis and the Modern Jazz Quartet arranged for jazz trio and symphony orchestra, which has been programmed in some of the most famous Italian jazz festivals. Michele specializes in Duke Ellington's composition techniques and has given lectures at several editions of the Duke Ellington International Conferences in Amsterdam (2014), New York (2016), Birmingham (2018) and at the International Jazz Composers' Symposium in Tampa (2017). He also held a workshop on Gil Evans' orchestration techniques at the International Jazz Composers' Symposium 2019 in Greeley, Colorado, USA. He is a tenured teacher of jazz composition at the Conservatorio Antonio Buzzolla di Adria.

# ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

**Paul Ferguson**, senior instructor (CWRU), is Artistic Director of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra and serves as trombonist and arranger for the Cleveland Pops Orchestra. A recipient of the 1995 Gil Evans Fellowship in Jazz Composition, he first met Michele Corcella when they were both finalists at the ART-EZ Jazz Composition Contest in Holland in 2012.

An Eastman School of Music graduate, Ferguson toured extensively with the Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey bands during the 1980s. Beyond his work as a composer, conductor, and educator, he is also an avid hiker and golfer.

# ABOUT HARKNESS CHAPEL

**Florence Harkness Memorial Chapel** was built in 1902 to honor Florence Harkness Severance, daughter of Stephen V. Harkness and Anna M. Richardson Harkness, and wife of Louis Henry Severance.

Designed by noted architect Charles F. Schweinfurth—famous for his work on many of Cleveland's Euclid Avenue mansions—the chapel is a stunning example of neo-Gothic architecture. It features soaring arches, intricate woodwork, and exquisite Tiffany stained-glass windows. Located on the Mather Quad, this historic and acoustically resonant space provides a warm, intimate setting for Department of Music performances and special events.

 Silence phones & devices •  No flash photos or recording •  No food/beverages  
 Restrooms in foyer •  **Emergencies:** follow staff/call 216-368-3333

*Thank you for joining us today. Enjoy the performance!*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**7:30 PM • October 6, 2025**

*Contemporary American Voices – Symphonic Winds*  
Silver Hall • Maltz Performing Arts Center

**7:30 PM • October 10, 2025**

*Americana – Homecoming Prism Concert*  
Silver Hall • Maltz Performing Arts Center

**7:30 PM • October 13, 2025**

*Revolution – World Premiere of River on Fire (Corey Rubin)*  
Case Concert Choir & Cleveland Heights A Cappella Choir  
Mixon Hall • Cleveland Institute of Music

**7:30 PM • October 14, 2025**

University Chorale & Case Glee Club  
Florence Harkness Memorial Chapel

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