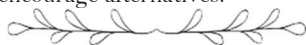


## JMU School of Music Statement of Community and Belonging

Difference in identity enriches our community, fosters artistic and intellectual growth, and is vital to creating thriving venues for expression in a global world. In addition to welcoming all individuals and perspectives regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, or citizenship status, we wish to make the following acknowledgements and affirmations, adapted from Americans for the Arts:

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result. We resolve to educate ourselves, keep vigilant watch, and act to bring an end to systemic oppression.
- Cultural equity--which embodies values, practices, and policies that ensure all people have access to, and are represented in, the arts--is critical to the sustained engagement of music in society.
- Acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of musicians in society can challenge inequities and encourage alternatives.



## Music and You

### How you can make a difference!

Dear Patron,

Thank you for attending today's performance. The JMU School of Music educates the most talented students from around the world to shape the fabric of society. We are ecstatic to return to our stages to showcase the talent and hard work of our students and faculty.

Scholarship contributions help young musicians blossom into mature artists. With your support, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. If you are interested in supporting our students' passion and dedication, please consider contributing to the Music Scholarship Fund at James Madison University.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support the following foundation account:

**Music General Scholarship Fund #15600**

Make checks payable to JMU Foundation and send to:  
Advancement Gifts and Records, James Madison University  
220 University Boulevard, MSC 3603  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807



[www.jmu.edu/give](http://www.jmu.edu/give)

# FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

### School of Music

*presents Guest Artists*

## The Lillard/Stevens Group

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7 pm  
Recital Hall



There is no intermission.

## Program

This evening's program will be announced from the stage.

## Biographies

Over the past 40 years, Pianist/Composer **Michael Jefry Stevens** has been associated with some of the most important figures in modern jazz. Since 1988, Michael has been in the forefront of the New York City and international improvised music scene, co-leading groups with Dave Douglas, Joe Fonda, Mark Feldman, and Balazs Bagyi, among others.

Michael has released over one hundred CDs featuring his own music and has performed and recorded with many of the top names in jazz, including Dave Liebman, Oliver Lake, Leo Wadada Smith, Matt Wilson, Han Bennink, Steve Wilson, Cecil Bridgewater, and Dame Evelyn Glennie.

**Art Lillard's** touring background includes his experience as house drummer for various musical productions by the Amas Repertory Theater under the leadership of Rosetta Lenoire and several decades with the Theater for the New City. Art has toured Europe with the Broadway show "Ain't Misbehavin'", including performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy and the Pori Festival in Finland, and touring Europe and South America with an original production of "Phantom of the Opera." The Lillard/Stevens Group is the most recent collaboration between pianist Michael Jefry Stevens and drummer Art Lillard.

An active performer, educator and recording artist, saxophonist **Don Aliquo** has released several recordings and has performed with jazz luminaries including Greg Osby, Pete Christlieb, Scott Robinson, and Marvin Stamm. He has taught and performed at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, the Promising Artists of the 21st Century Jazz Camp in Medellin and Pereira, Colombia, the Conservatori Superior de Música "Joaquín Rodrigo" in Valencia, Spain. Aliquo is a member of the Jazz Studies faculty at Middle Tennessee State University; he is a Conn-Selmer and Vandoren artist.

## Biographies *continued*

Arranger, composer, trumpeter, and educator **Jamey Simmons** is currently Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches courses in jazz and directs Jazz Ensemble I. As a trumpet player, Simmons is active on the Nashville professional music scene, and has made appearances with artists as diversified as the Temptations, Dave Weckl, Buddy DeFranco, Lee Konitz, Duffy Jackson, Vince Gill, Debby Boone, and the

Nashville Jazz Orchestra. He has written arrangements and compositions that have been performed by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buffalo Symphony Pops, the Nashville Jazz Orchestra, Brussels Jazz Orchestra and numerous university and high school ensembles. His first original jazz sextet CD features New York saxophonist Scott Robinson.

**Rick Simerly** has been described by David Baker as "...one of the most exciting and consistently creative trombonists in jazz today." The Online Trombone Journal states "Rick Simerly is in the upper ranks of contemporary trombonists", while the Jazz Review declares "...when jazz fans think about great trombone players, only a few names come to mind, J.J. Johnson, Steve Turre, or maybe Bill Watrous. Soon jazz fans will be praising the slide horn of Rick Simerly."

Rick has toured with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and has performed with jazz artists Billy Taylor, James Moody, Slide Hampton, Rufus Reid, Jon Faddis, Bobby Shew, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Milt Hinton, Eric Alexander, Dave McKenna, Butch Miles, Adam Nussbaum, Pat LaBarbera, Steve Wilson, Bobby Watson and many others.

**Jack Aylor** is a performing bassist in Nashville, Tennessee. During his time in New York, he studied with bassists Ron Carter, Ben Wolfe, Ugonna Okegwo, and James Genus. He has performed with artists including Delfeayo Marsalis, Chester Thompson, Rahsaan Barber, Roland Barber, Don Sickler, Dave Kikoski, Marc Devine, and Alex Hoffman. Jack is a recent addition to the Middle Tennessee State University jazz faculty.

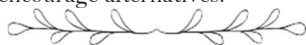
Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones,  
personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

The unauthorized videotaping or any other recording  
of this production is strictly prohibited  
in adherence with Federal copyright laws.

## JMU School of Music Statement of Community and Belonging

Difference in identity enriches our community, fosters artistic and intellectual growth, and is vital to creating thriving venues for expression in a global world. In addition to welcoming all individuals and perspectives regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, or citizenship status, we wish to make the following acknowledgements and affirmations, adapted from Americans for the Arts:

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result. We resolve to educate ourselves, keep vigilant watch, and act to bring an end to systemic oppression.
- Cultural equity--which embodies values, practices, and policies that ensure all people have access to, and are represented in, the arts--is critical to the sustained engagement of music in society.
- Acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of musicians in society can challenge inequities and encourage alternatives.



## Music and You

### How you can make a difference!

Dear Patron,

Thank you for attending today's performance. The JMU School of Music educates the most talented students from around the world to shape the fabric of society. We are ecstatic to return to our stages to showcase the talent and hard work of our students and faculty.

Scholarship contributions help young musicians blossom into mature artists. With your support, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. If you are interested in supporting our students' passion and dedication, please consider contributing to the Music Scholarship Fund at James Madison University.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support the following foundation account:

**Music General Scholarship Fund #15600**

Make checks payable to JMU Foundation and send to:  
Advancement Gifts and Records, James Madison University  
220 University Boulevard, MSC 3603  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807



[www.jmu.edu/give](http://www.jmu.edu/give)

# FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

### School of Music

*presents Guest Artists*

## The Lillard/Stevens Group

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7 pm  
Recital Hall



There is no intermission.

## Program

This evening's program will be announced from the stage.

## Biographies

Over the past 40 years, Pianist/Composer **Michael Jeffry Stevens** has been associated with some of the most important figures in modern jazz. Since 1988, Michael has been in the forefront of the New York City and international improvised music scene, co-leading groups with Dave Douglas, Joe Fonda, Mark Feldman, and Balazs Bagyi, among others.

Michael has released over one hundred CDs featuring his own music and has performed and recorded with many of the top names in jazz, including Dave Liebman, Oliver Lake, Leo Wadada Smith, Matt Wilson, Han Bennink, Steve Wilson, Cecil Bridgewater, and Dame Evelyn Glennie.

**Art Lillard's** touring background includes his experience as house drummer for various musical productions by the Amas Repertory Theater under the leadership of Rosetta Lenoire and several decades with the Theater for the New City. Art has toured Europe with the Broadway show "Ain't Misbehavin'", including performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy and the Pori Festival in Finland, and touring Europe and South America with an original production of "Phantom of the Opera." The Lillard/Stevens Group is the most recent collaboration between pianist Michael Jeffry Stevens and drummer Art Lillard.

An active performer, educator and recording artist, saxophonist **Don Aliquo** has released several recordings and has performed with jazz luminaries including Greg Osby, Pete Christlieb, Scott Robinson, and Marvin Stamm. He has taught and performed at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, the Promising Artists of the 21st Century Jazz Camp in Medellin and Pereira, Colombia, the Conservatori Superior de Música "Joaquín Rodrigo" in Valencia, Spain. Aliquo is a member of the Jazz Studies faculty at Middle Tennessee State University; he is a Conn-Selmer and Vandoren artist.

## Biographies *continued*

Arranger, composer, trumpeter, and educator **Jamey Simmons** is currently Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches courses in jazz and directs Jazz Ensemble I. As a trumpet player, Simmons is active on the Nashville professional music scene, and has made appearances with artists as diversified as the Temptations, Dave Weckl, Buddy DeFranco, Lee Konitz, Duffy Jackson, Vince Gill, Debby Boone, and the

Nashville Jazz Orchestra. He has written arrangements and compositions that have been performed by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buffalo Symphony Pops, the Nashville Jazz Orchestra, Brussels Jazz Orchestra and numerous university and high school ensembles. His first original jazz sextet CD features New York saxophonist Scott Robinson.

**Rick Simerly** has been described by David Baker as "...one of the most exciting and consistently creative trombonists in jazz today." The Online Trombone Journal states "Rick Simerly is in the upper ranks of contemporary trombonists", while the Jazz Review declares "...when jazz fans think about great trombone players, only a few names come to mind, J.J. Johnson, Steve Turre, or maybe Bill Watrous. Soon jazz fans will be praising the slide horn of Rick Simerly."

Rick has toured with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and has performed with jazz artists Billy Taylor, James Moody, Slide Hampton, Rufus Reid, Jon Faddis, Bobby Shew, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Milt Hinton, Eric Alexander, Dave McKenna, Butch Miles, Adam Nussbaum, Pat LaBarbera, Steve Wilson, Bobby Watson and many others.

**Jack Aylor** is a performing bassist in Nashville, Tennessee. During his time in New York, he studied with bassists Ron Carter, Ben Wolfe, Ugonna Okegwo, and James Genus. He has performed with artists including Delfeayo Marsalis, Chester Thompson, Rahsaan Barber, Roland Barber, Don Sickler, Dave Kikoski, Marc Devine, and Alex Hoffman. Jack is a recent addition to the Middle Tennessee State University jazz faculty.

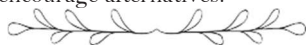
Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones,  
personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

The unauthorized videotaping or any other recording  
of this production is strictly prohibited  
in adherence with Federal copyright laws.

## JMU School of Music Statement of Community and Belonging

Difference in identity enriches our community, fosters artistic and intellectual growth, and is vital to creating thriving venues for expression in a global world. In addition to welcoming all individuals and perspectives regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, or citizenship status, we wish to make the following acknowledgements and affirmations, adapted from Americans for the Arts:

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result. We resolve to educate ourselves, keep vigilant watch, and act to bring an end to systemic oppression.
- Cultural equity--which embodies values, practices, and policies that ensure all people have access to, and are represented in, the arts--is critical to the sustained engagement of music in society.
- Acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of musicians in society can challenge inequities and encourage alternatives.



## Music and You

### How you can make a difference!

Dear Patron,

Thank you for attending today's performance. The JMU School of Music educates the most talented students from around the world to shape the fabric of society. We are ecstatic to return to our stages to showcase the talent and hard work of our students and faculty.

Scholarship contributions help young musicians blossom into mature artists. With your support, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. If you are interested in supporting our students' passion and dedication, please consider contributing to the Music Scholarship Fund at James Madison University.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support the following foundation account:

**Music General Scholarship Fund #15600**

Make checks payable to JMU Foundation and send to:  
Advancement Gifts and Records, James Madison University  
220 University Boulevard, MSC 3603  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807



[www.jmu.edu/give](http://www.jmu.edu/give)

# FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

### School of Music

*presents Guest Artists*

## The Lillard/Stevens Group

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7 pm  
Recital Hall



There is no intermission.

## Program

This evening's program will be announced from the stage.

## Biographies

Over the past 40 years, Pianist/Composer **Michael Jeffry Stevens** has been associated with some of the most important figures in modern jazz. Since 1988, Michael has been in the forefront of the New York City and international improvised music scene, co-leading groups with Dave Douglas, Joe Fonda, Mark Feldman, and Balazs Bagyi, among others.

Michael has released over one hundred CDs featuring his own music and has performed and recorded with many of the top names in jazz, including Dave Liebman, Oliver Lake, Leo Wadada Smith, Matt Wilson, Han Bennink, Steve Wilson, Cecil Bridgewater, and Dame Evelyn Glennie.

**Art Lillard's** touring background includes his experience as house drummer for various musical productions by the Amas Repertory Theater under the leadership of Rosetta Lenoire and several decades with the Theater for the New City. Art has toured Europe with the Broadway show "Ain't Misbehavin'", including performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy and the Pori Festival in Finland, and touring Europe and South America with an original production of "Phantom of the Opera." The Lillard/Stevens Group is the most recent collaboration between pianist Michael Jeffry Stevens and drummer Art Lillard.

An active performer, educator and recording artist, saxophonist **Don Aliquo** has released several recordings and has performed with jazz luminaries including Greg Osby, Pete Christlieb, Scott Robinson, and Marvin Stamm. He has taught and performed at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, the Promising Artists of the 21st Century Jazz Camp in Medellin and Pereira, Colombia, the Conservatori Superior de Música "Joaquín Rodrigo" in Valencia, Spain. Aliquo is a member of the Jazz Studies faculty at Middle Tennessee State University; he is a Conn-Selmer and Vandoren artist.

## Biographies *continued*

Arranger, composer, trumpeter, and educator **Jamey Simmons** is currently Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches courses in jazz and directs Jazz Ensemble I. As a trumpet player, Simmons is active on the Nashville professional music scene, and has made appearances with artists as diversified as the Temptations, Dave Weckl, Buddy DeFranco, Lee Konitz, Duffy Jackson, Vince Gill, Debby Boone, and the

Nashville Jazz Orchestra. He has written arrangements and compositions that have been performed by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buffalo Symphony Pops, the Nashville Jazz Orchestra, Brussels Jazz Orchestra and numerous university and high school ensembles. His first original jazz sextet CD features New York saxophonist Scott Robinson.

**Rick Simerly** has been described by David Baker as "...one of the most exciting and consistently creative trombonists in jazz today." The Online Trombone Journal states "Rick Simerly is in the upper ranks of contemporary trombonists", while the Jazz Review declares "...when jazz fans think about great trombone players, only a few names come to mind, J.J. Johnson, Steve Turre, or maybe Bill Watrous. Soon jazz fans will be praising the slide horn of Rick Simerly."

Rick has toured with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and has performed with jazz artists Billy Taylor, James Moody, Slide Hampton, Rufus Reid, Jon Faddis, Bobby Shew, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Milt Hinton, Eric Alexander, Dave McKenna, Butch Miles, Adam Nussbaum, Pat LaBarbera, Steve Wilson, Bobby Watson and many others.

**Jack Aylor** is a performing bassist in Nashville, Tennessee. During his time in New York, he studied with bassists Ron Carter, Ben Wolfe, Ugonna Okegwo, and James Genus. He has performed with artists including Delfeayo Marsalis, Chester Thompson, Rahsaan Barber, Roland Barber, Don Sickler, Dave Kikoski, Marc Devine, and Alex Hoffman. Jack is a recent addition to the Middle Tennessee State University jazz faculty.

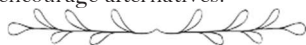
Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones,  
personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

The unauthorized videotaping or any other recording  
of this production is strictly prohibited  
in adherence with Federal copyright laws.

## JMU School of Music Statement of Community and Belonging

Difference in identity enriches our community, fosters artistic and intellectual growth, and is vital to creating thriving venues for expression in a global world. In addition to welcoming all individuals and perspectives regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, or citizenship status, we wish to make the following acknowledgements and affirmations, adapted from Americans for the Arts:

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result. We resolve to educate ourselves, keep vigilant watch, and act to bring an end to systemic oppression.
- Cultural equity--which embodies values, practices, and policies that ensure all people have access to, and are represented in, the arts--is critical to the sustained engagement of music in society.
- Acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of musicians in society can challenge inequities and encourage alternatives.



## Music and You

### How you can make a difference!

Dear Patron,

Thank you for attending today's performance. The JMU School of Music educates the most talented students from around the world to shape the fabric of society. We are ecstatic to return to our stages to showcase the talent and hard work of our students and faculty.

Scholarship contributions help young musicians blossom into mature artists. With your support, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. If you are interested in supporting our students' passion and dedication, please consider contributing to the Music Scholarship Fund at James Madison University.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support the following foundation account:

**Music General Scholarship Fund #15600**

Make checks payable to JMU Foundation and send to:  
Advancement Gifts and Records, James Madison University  
220 University Boulevard, MSC 3603  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807



[www.jmu.edu/give](http://www.jmu.edu/give)

# FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

### School of Music

*presents Guest Artists*

## The Lillard/Stevens Group

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7 pm  
Recital Hall



There is no intermission.

## Program

This evening's program will be announced from the stage.

## Biographies

Over the past 40 years, Pianist/Composer **Michael Jefry Stevens** has been associated with some of the most important figures in modern jazz. Since 1988, Michael has been in the forefront of the New York City and international improvised music scene, co-leading groups with Dave Douglas, Joe Fonda, Mark Feldman, and Balazs Bagyi, among others.

Michael has released over one hundred CDs featuring his own music and has performed and recorded with many of the top names in jazz, including Dave Liebman, Oliver Lake, Leo Wadada Smith, Matt Wilson, Han Bennink, Steve Wilson, Cecil Bridgewater, and Dame Evelyn Glennie.

**Art Lillard's** touring background includes his experience as house drummer for various musical productions by the Amas Repertory Theater under the leadership of Rosetta Lenoire and several decades with the Theater for the New City. Art has toured Europe with the Broadway show "Ain't Misbehavin'", including performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy and the Pori Festival in Finland, and touring Europe and South America with an original production of "Phantom of the Opera." The Lillard/Stevens Group is the most recent collaboration between pianist Michael Jefry Stevens and drummer Art Lillard.

An active performer, educator and recording artist, saxophonist **Don Aliquo** has released several recordings and has performed with jazz luminaries including Greg Osby, Pete Christlieb, Scott Robinson, and Marvin Stamm. He has taught and performed at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, the Promising Artists of the 21st Century Jazz Camp in Medellin and Pereira, Colombia, the Conservatori Superior de Música "Joaquín Rodrigo" in Valencia, Spain. Aliquo is a member of the Jazz Studies faculty at Middle Tennessee State University; he is a Conn-Selmer and Vandoren artist.

## Biographies *continued*

Arranger, composer, trumpeter, and educator **Jamey Simmons** is currently Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches courses in jazz and directs Jazz Ensemble I. As a trumpet player, Simmons is active on the Nashville professional music scene, and has made appearances with artists as diversified as the Temptations, Dave Weckl, Buddy DeFranco, Lee Konitz, Duffy Jackson, Vince Gill, Debby Boone, and the

Nashville Jazz Orchestra. He has written arrangements and compositions that have been performed by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buffalo Symphony Pops, the Nashville Jazz Orchestra, Brussels Jazz Orchestra and numerous university and high school ensembles. His first original jazz sextet CD features New York saxophonist Scott Robinson.

**Rick Simerly** has been described by David Baker as "...one of the most exciting and consistently creative trombonists in jazz today." The Online Trombone Journal states "Rick Simerly is in the upper ranks of contemporary trombonists", while the Jazz Review declares "...when jazz fans think about great trombone players, only a few names come to mind, J.J. Johnson, Steve Turre, or maybe Bill Watrous. Soon jazz fans will be praising the slide horn of Rick Simerly."

Rick has toured with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and has performed with jazz artists Billy Taylor, James Moody, Slide Hampton, Rufus Reid, Jon Faddis, Bobby Shew, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Milt Hinton, Eric Alexander, Dave McKenna, Butch Miles, Adam Nussbaum, Pat LaBarbera, Steve Wilson, Bobby Watson and many others.

**Jack Aylor** is a performing bassist in Nashville, Tennessee. During his time in New York, he studied with bassists Ron Carter, Ben Wolfe, Ugonna Okegwo, and James Genus. He has performed with artists including Delfeayo Marsalis, Chester Thompson, Rahsaan Barber, Roland Barber, Don Sickler, Dave Kikoski, Marc Devine, and Alex Hoffman. Jack is a recent addition to the Middle Tennessee State University jazz faculty.

Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones,  
personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

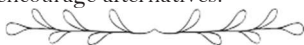
The unauthorized videotaping or any other recording  
of this production is strictly prohibited  
in adherence with Federal copyright laws.



## JMU School of Music Statement of Community and Belonging

Difference in identity enriches our community, fosters artistic and intellectual growth, and is vital to creating thriving venues for expression in a global world. In addition to welcoming all individuals and perspectives regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, or citizenship status, we wish to make the following acknowledgements and affirmations, adapted from Americans for the Arts:

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result. We resolve to educate ourselves, keep vigilant watch, and act to bring an end to systemic oppression.
- Cultural equity--which embodies values, practices, and policies that ensure all people have access to, and are represented in, the arts--is critical to the sustained engagement of music in society.
- Acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of musicians in society can challenge inequities and encourage alternatives.



## Music and You

### How you can make a difference!

Dear Patron,

Thank you for attending today's performance. The JMU School of Music educates the most talented students from around the world to shape the fabric of society. We are ecstatic to return to our stages to showcase the talent and hard work of our students and faculty.

Scholarship contributions help young musicians blossom into mature artists. With your support, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. If you are interested in supporting our students' passion and dedication, please consider contributing to the Music Scholarship Fund at James Madison University.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support the following foundation account:

**Music General Scholarship Fund #15600**

Make checks payable to JMU Foundation and send to:  
Advancement Gifts and Records, James Madison University  
220 University Boulevard, MSC 3603  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807



[www.jmu.edu/give](http://www.jmu.edu/give)

# FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

### School of Music

*presents Guest Artists*

## The Lillard/Stevens Group

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7 pm  
Recital Hall



There is no intermission.

## Program

This evening's program will be announced from the stage.

## Biographies

Over the past 40 years, Pianist/Composer **Michael Jeffry Stevens** has been associated with some of the most important figures in modern jazz. Since 1988, Michael has been in the forefront of the New York City and international improvised music scene, co-leading groups with Dave Douglas, Joe Fonda, Mark Feldman, and Balazs Bagyi, among others.

Michael has released over one hundred CDs featuring his own music and has performed and recorded with many of the top names in jazz, including Dave Liebman, Oliver Lake, Leo Wadada Smith, Matt Wilson, Han Bennink, Steve Wilson, Cecil Bridgewater, and Dame Evelyn Glennie.

**Art Lillard's** touring background includes his experience as house drummer for various musical productions by the Amas Repertory Theater under the leadership of Rosetta Lenoire and several decades with the Theater for the New City. Art has toured Europe with the Broadway show "Ain't Misbehavin'", including performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy and the Pori Festival in Finland, and touring Europe and South America with an original production of "Phantom of the Opera." The Lillard/Stevens Group is the most recent collaboration between pianist Michael Jeffry Stevens and drummer Art Lillard.

An active performer, educator and recording artist, saxophonist **Don Aliquo** has released several recordings and has performed with jazz luminaries including Greg Osby, Pete Christlieb, Scott Robinson, and Marvin Stamm. He has taught and performed at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, the Promising Artists of the 21st Century Jazz Camp in Medellin and Pereira, Colombia, the Conservatori Superior de Música "Joaquín Rodrigo" in Valencia, Spain. Aliquo is a member of the Jazz Studies faculty at Middle Tennessee State University; he is a Conn-Selmer and Vandoren artist.

## Biographies *continued*

Arranger, composer, trumpeter, and educator **Jamey Simmons** is currently Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches courses in jazz and directs Jazz Ensemble I. As a trumpet player, Simmons is active on the Nashville professional music scene, and has made appearances with artists as diversified as the Temptations, Dave Weckl, Buddy DeFranco, Lee Konitz, Duffy Jackson, Vince Gill, Debby Boone, and the

Nashville Jazz Orchestra. He has written arrangements and compositions that have been performed by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buffalo Symphony Pops, the Nashville Jazz Orchestra, Brussels Jazz Orchestra and numerous university and high school ensembles. His first original jazz sextet CD features New York saxophonist Scott Robinson.

**Rick Simerly** has been described by David Baker as "...one of the most exciting and consistently creative trombonists in jazz today." The Online Trombone Journal states "Rick Simerly is in the upper ranks of contemporary trombonists", while the Jazz Review declares "...when jazz fans think about great trombone players, only a few names come to mind, J.J. Johnson, Steve Turre, or maybe Bill Watrous. Soon jazz fans will be praising the slide horn of Rick Simerly."

Rick has toured with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and has performed with jazz artists Billy Taylor, James Moody, Slide Hampton, Rufus Reid, Jon Faddis, Bobby Shew, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Milt Hinton, Eric Alexander, Dave McKenna, Butch Miles, Adam Nussbaum, Pat LaBarbera, Steve Wilson, Bobby Watson and many others.

**Jack Aylor** is a performing bassist in Nashville, Tennessee. During his time in New York, he studied with bassists Ron Carter, Ben Wolfe, Ugonna Okegwo, and James Genus. He has performed with artists including Delfeayo Marsalis, Chester Thompson, Rahsaan Barber, Roland Barber, Don Sickler, Dave Kikoski, Marc Devine, and Alex Hoffman. Jack is a recent addition to the Middle Tennessee State University jazz faculty.

Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones, personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

The unauthorized videotaping or any other recording of this production is strictly prohibited in adherence with Federal copyright laws.