

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
**JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®**

*presents*

**Melissa Aldana,**  
*tenor saxophone*

*featuring*

**The Madison Jazz Collective**

David Pope, *saxophones*

Andrew Connell, *clarinet*

Oliver Scott, *piano*

Adam Larrabee, *guitar*

Sam Suggs, *bass*

Emre Kartari, *drums*

Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 7 pm  
Recital Hall

There is no intermission.

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The 2022-2023 Masterpiece Season is sponsored  
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# Program

*Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.*

## About Melissa Aldana

*Melissa Aldana's JMU Residency is funded by a College of Visual and Performing Arts Cultural Connections Artist in Residence grant. Ms. Aldana will also be performing with the James Madison University Jazz Ensemble at 8:00 pm on Friday, October 7 in the Forbes Center Concert Hall.*

Melissa Aldana, a Brooklyn-based tenor saxophonist and composer from Chile has garnered international recognition for her visionary work as a band leader, as well as her deeply meditative interpretation of language and vocabulary.

Aldana was born in Santiago, Chile, and grew up in a musical family. Both her father and grandfather were saxophonists, and she took up the instrument at age six under her father Marcos' tutelage. Aldana began on alto, influenced by artists such as Charlie Parker and Cannonball Adderley, but switched to tenor upon first hearing the music of Sonny Rollins, who would become a hero and mentor. She performed in Santiago jazz clubs in her early teens and was invited by pianist Danilo Pérez to play at the Panama Jazz Festival in 2005.

Aldana moved to the U.S. to attend the Berklee College of Music, and the year after graduating she released her first album "Free Fall" in 2010, followed by "Second Cycle" in 2012. In 2013, at age twenty-four, she became the first female instrumentalist and the first South American musician to win the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition, in which her father had been a semi-finalist in 1991. Aldana is also an in-demand clinician and educator and has recently been appointed to the faculty of the New England Conservatory's Jazz Studies Department.

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## Faculty Bios

Professor of Saxophone, **David Pope** has been on the JMU faculty since 2000. He is the Distinguished Teacher of the College of Visual and Performing Arts for 2012–2013. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with additional studies at the University of Miami. David has extensively trained as a classical and a jazz saxophonist and is an active composer and author. He has penned the regular column “Creative Jazz Improvisation” for *Saxophone Journal* since 1995. In demand as a performer and clinician, he has appeared at the World Saxophone Congress, North American Saxophone Alliance, College Band Directors National Association, and the Virginia Music Educators Association. He has presented masterclasses and recitals at the Eastman School of Music, University of Southampton, California State University, Fresno, University of Northern Colorado, University of Northern Iowa, University of Massachusetts, and Bucknell University. He has also been a featured artist at the New England Saxophone Symposium. David Pope plays R.S. Berkeley “Virtuoso” saxophones and endorses Applied Microphone Technology.

**Oliver Scott** is a jazz pianist, educator, arranger, and composer. Originally from Maine, and receiving his bachelor’s degree in Music Education and Jazz Studies at Ithaca College, he recently graduated with his master’s degree in Jazz Studies from the Eastman School of Music. At Eastman, Oliver taught jazz piano classes and private lessons, received the Ray Wright Prize, was a member of the Eastman Jazz Ensemble, and performed with bassist John Clayton. He is a member of the Generations Trio, featuring drummer Rich Thompson. Arranging credits include small group writing, works for the Eastman Studio Orchestra, Ithaca College Jazz Band, Choir, and Wind Ensemble. Having performed throughout the states as well as internationally, Oliver is known for his collaborative skills, musicianship, and technical proficiency. Outside of jazz, he is experienced in classical and gospel genres, and has recording experience as a leader and side-man.

Born into a family of musicians and artists in Ankara, Turkey, **Emre Kartari** moved to the United States when he was nine years old. Soon after, he began to study drums, which led to receiving his bachelor’s degree from VCU and an M.A. in jazz performance and composition from New York University. He has performed and recorded with David Liebman, Darius Jones, Trevor Dunn, Paul Pieper, John D’earth, Howard Curtis, Mike Richmond, Justin Kauflin, Chris Brydge, Paul Langosch, Chris Whiteman, Royce Cambell, and Houston Person, among others. In 2009, with the support of the American Embassy in Turkey, Emre formed Ankara State Conservatory’s jazz degree program. In 2011 he became the Director of Jazz Studies at Yasar University in Izmir, Turkey, directing the VCU Izmir International Jazz Camp in 2012 and 2013. He formed the group “Sazli-Cazli,” featuring VCU alumni Taylor Barnett and Kevin Simpson, to perform along with Turkish musicians for state-sponsored tours in Turkey in 2015 and 2016. Emre completed his Doctoral Studies from Yasar University in 2019, and teaches Applied Drumset at James Madison University, in addition to maintaining an active teaching and performance regimen in the Richmond area.

**Andrew Connell** is an ethnomusicologist whose primary research is in Brazilian popular instrumental music, focusing on issues of identity and musical globalization. As a performer, Dr. Connell plays saxophone and clarinet in ensembles ranging from jazz to classical chamber music to Brazilian chorinho. He has played with the Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Toledo (Ohio) Symphonies, and has appeared at the Monterey, Montreux-Detroit, and San Francisco jazz festivals, and the Spoleto Festival USA. In addition, Dr. Connell has performed with a wide range of artists including Luciano Pavarotti, Dave Leibman, Lou Rawls, Mike Marshall, and Hermeto Pascoal. At JMU, Dr. Connell teaches courses in American music, the history of jazz, world music, and coaches small jazz ensembles.

## Faculty Bios (cont'd)

**Adam Larrabee** has appeared as a sideman on Bruce Hornsby's album "Spirit Trail" and has involved himself in a wide variety of projects from playing banjo in the bluegrass group "Joy Kills Sorrow," guitar in the chamber-jazz group "Andromeda," classical mandolin with "The Richmond Classical Guitar Quartet" and mandocello with "Enigmatica," recording and performing with rising jazz prodigy Grace Kelly, and his exploration of the music of Central France with "Le Bon Vent." In October 2009, Adam played banjo with "Love Canon," backing up rising pop/folk star Josh Ritter on a sold out two week tour of Ireland. In October 2010, Adam traveled to Ankara, Turkey for the Hacettepe Conservatory Jazz Festival and played in the premiere of "Ben Seni Variations" a work for Orchestra and Jazz Octet by Doug Richards. Adam taught jazz theory, composition and arranging at The New England Conservatory in Boston for nine years. Adam currently lives in Charlottesville, Virginia and is the Applied Classical and Jazz Guitar studio professor at James Madison University.

JMU Professor of Bass **Sam Suggs** was recently named New Artist of the Month by Musical America and earned the grand prize at the 2015 International Society of Bassists Solo Competition performing many of his own compositions. Suggs received a Presser Foundation Award towards his doctoral studies at Yale University. As a collaborative bassist, he has performed at Chamber Music Northwest, Yellow Barn, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, his jazz/fusion trio Triplepoint has toured in West Africa and Northern Europe, and his band Foundry was named a laureate winner in the inaugural M-Prize Competition. Suggs recently served as principal bass of the Oregon Bach Festival Berwick Academy for Historical Performance and earned honors in music theory and cognition from Northwestern University while working as the youngest principal bass of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

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|--|------------|
| JMU Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band<br>Featuring Melissa Aldana, saxophone | Oct. 7     |
| Cuarteto Latinoamericano<br><i>Mexico: A Musical Journey</i>           | Oct. 8     |
| JMU Contemporary Music Festival  | Oct. 17-19 |

### NOVEMBER

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| Tenebrae Choir  | Nov. 10    |
| <i>The Rake's Progress</i><br>Featuring the JMU Opera Theater<br>By Igor Stravinsky | Nov. 11-13 |

For tickets and further information, visit [www.jmuforbescenter.com](http://www.jmuforbescenter.com) or call the Forbes Center Box Office at (540) 568-7000.