



## Jazz Festival 2022

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 8:00 PM

Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

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# Jazz Small Groups I and A

**Angelica Sanchez, Director**

**Rudresh Mahanthappa, Director**

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**For more information about the Department of Music and other upcoming events, and to sign-up for our mailing list, please visit [music.princeton.edu](https://music.princeton.edu).**

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**April 27: Jazz Vocal Collective at 7:30 PM**  
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall | Free, Unticketed

**April 28: Small Groups X and Z at 7:30 PM**  
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall | Free, Unticketed

**April 30: Small Groups I and A at 8:00 PM**  
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall | Ticketed

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## PROGRAM

Selections from below will be announced from the stage:

### **Small Group I**

**with guest saxophonist Tony Malaby.**

**Remolino** — Tony Malaby

**Birdcall** — Tony Malaby

**Cosas** — Tony Malaby

**Anemone** — Tony Malaby

**Dorotea la Cautiva** — Ariel Ramírez/Félix Luna

**Floating Head** — Tony Malaby

### **Small Group A**

**with guest saxophonist Seamus Blake**

**Along Together** — Arthur Schwartz with lyrics by Howard Dietz

**Bellwether** — Seamus Blake

**Fear of Roaming** — Seamus Blake

**Guardians of the Heart Machine** — Seamus Blake

**The Call** — Seamus Blake

**The Song That Lives Inside** — Seamus Blake

**Way Out Willy** — Seamus Blake

**Willow Weep for Me** — Ann Ronell

## PERFORMERS

### **Small Group I:**

Evan DeTurk '23 Alto Saxophone

Jeff Gordon '22, Guitar

Akiva Jacobs '22, Bass

Anson Jones '22, Voice

Jack Johnson '23, Tenor Saxophone

Maya Keren '22, Piano

Maya Stepansky '22, Drums

Guest Saxophonist - Tony Malaby

### **Small Group A:**

Jimmy Waltman '23, Voice

Kakuyon Mataeh '23, Trumpet

Isaac Yi '24, Tenor Saxophone

Adithya Sriram '24, Baritone Saxophone

Noah Daniel '23, Guitar

Alex Moravcsik '23, Piano

Chloe Raichle '23, Bass

Mark Skepasts '22, Drums

Guest Saxophonist - Seamus Blake

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**Scan this QR code with your smartphone to access an expanded program with bios, notes, and more.**



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## ABOUT

**Jazz Program Director, Rudresh Mahanthappa:** Hailed by *Pitchfork* as “jaw-dropping... one of the finest saxophonists going,” alto saxophonist, composer and educator Rudresh Mahanthappa is widely known as one of the premier voices in jazz of the 21st century. He has over a dozen albums to his credit, including the acclaimed *Bird Calls*, which topped many critics’ best-of-year lists for 2015 and was hailed by *PopMatters* as “complex, rhythmically vital, free in spirit while still criss-crossed with mutating structures.” His most recent release, *Hero Trio*, was considered to be one of the best jazz albums of 2020 by critics and fans alike. Rudresh has been named alto saxophonist of the year for nine of the last eleven years running in *Downbeat Magazine’s* International Critics’ Polls (2011-2013, 2015-2018, 2020-1), and for five consecutive years by the Jazz Journalists’ Association (2009-2013) and again in 2016. He won alto saxophonist of the year in the 2015-2018 & 2020 *JazzTimes Magazine* Critics’ Polls and was named the *Village Voice’s* “Best Jazz Artist” in 2015. He has also received the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, among other honors, and is currently the Anthony H. P. Lee ’79 Director of Jazz at Princeton University.

Born in Trieste, Italy to Indian émigrés in 1971, Mahanthappa was brought up in Boulder, Colorado, and gained proficiency playing everything from current pop to Dixieland. He went on to studies at North Texas, Berklee and DePaul University (as well as the Stanford Jazz Workshop) and came to settle in Chicago. Soon after moving to New York in 1997 he formed his own quartet featuring pianist Vijay Iyer. The band recorded an enduring sequence of albums, *Black Water*, *Mother Tongue* and *Codebook*, each highlighting Mahanthappa’s inventive methodologies and deeply personal approach to composition. He and Iyer also formed the duo Raw Materials.

Coming deeper into contact with the Carnatic music of his parents’ native southern India, Mahanthappa partnered in 2008 with fellow altoist Kadri Gopalnath and the Dakshina Ensemble for Kinsmen, garnering wide acclaim. Apti, the first outing by Mahanthappa’s Indo-Pak Coalition (with Pakistani-born Rez Abbasi on guitar and Dan Weiss on tabla), saw release the same year; Agrima followed nine years later and considerably expanded the trio’s sonic ambitions. In 2020, Rudresh released *Hero Trio*, an album of “covers” paying tribute to his musical heroes. He also co-led a project celebrating the centenary of Charlie Parker with the blessing of the Parker estate.

Mahanthappa has also worked with Jack DeJohnette, Mark Dresser, Danilo Pérez, Arturo O’Farrill’s Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, the collaborative trios MSG and Mauger, the co-led quintet Dual Identity with fellow altoist Steve Lehman, and another co-led quintet with fellow altoist and Chicago stalwart Bunky Green (Apex). His exploratory guitar-driven quartets on Samdhi and Gamak featured David Gilmore and Dave “Fuze” Fiuczynski, respectively. In 2015 he was commissioned by Ragamala Dance to create Song of the Jasmine for dancers and a hybrid jazz/South Indian ensemble. He was also commissioned

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by the PRISM Saxophone Quartet to compose a chamber piece, "I Will Not Apologize for My Tone Tonight," which can be heard on the quartet's 2015 double-disc release Heritage/Evolution, Volume 1.

Mahanthappa is a Yamaha artist and uses Vandoren reeds exclusively.

**Guest Artist, Seamus Blake:** New York based saxophonist/composer Seamus Blake is recognized as one of the finest exponents of contemporary jazz. His music is known for its sophistication, bold improvisations and "sheer swagger." John Scofield, who hired Seamus for his "Quiet Band," called him "extraordinary, a total saxophonist." Throughout his 24-year career, Seamus has garnered critical praise for his masterful playing, his fine compositional skills and for his facility as a leader.

Since moving to Paris in February 2018, Seamus has been invited to perform the music of his recent CD, "Superconductor" with a number of European Jazz Bands. Beginning with the Latvian Radio Jazz Band early in 2018, Seamus has performed with the Trondheim Big Band and The Sibis Alumni Big Band (Sibelius Institute , Helsinki).

In 2017, Seamus assembled a new quartet, The French Connection. The band (Seamus, Tony Tixier piano, Florent Nisse, bass, and Gautier Garrigue, drums) recorded their first CD in Paris in November 2017 and have toured in France and Spain. The CD will be released on the Whirlwind label.

*Superconductor* is Seamus' most ambitious project to date and was released in December 2015. The talent includes Nate Smith, Matt Garrison, Scott Kinsey, a 7-piece orchestral ensemble, as well as special guest appearances by John Scofield and Gonzalo Rubalcaba. The album marks the debut of Seamus on EWI (electronic wind instrument). Seamus plays on the 2015 Grammy nominated *Camino* by pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba.

Seamus Blake was born December 1970, in England and raised in Vancouver, Canada. At age 21, while still a student at Boston's prestigious Berklee College, he was asked to record with legendary drummer Victor Lewis. After graduation, he moved to New York, where he rapidly established himself on the New York jazz scene. In February 2002, Seamus took first place in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition in Washington D. C. As the winner, he performed with Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock.

As a leader/co-leader, Seamus has released 16 albums. He is featured as a sideman on over 70 CDs.

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Seamus has played on six of the Grammy-nominated Mingus bands' albums. He continues to play and record with Bill Stewart, Kevin Hays, David Kikoski and Alex Sipiagin. Seamus is frequently featured as a guest artist. In 2010, he was guest of honor at the International Saxophone Symposium in Washington hosted by the U.S. Navy Band. Seamus was a member of John Scofield's Quiet Band and toured and recorded with Dave Douglas. Some of the many other artists he has worked with include Eric Reed, Ethan Iverson, Chris Cheek, and Matt Penman.

**Small Group | Director, Angelica Sanchez:** Pianist/Composer/Educator Angelica Sanchez moved to New York from Arizona in 1994. Since moving to the East Coast Sanchez has collaborated with such notable artists as Wadada Leo Smith, Paul Motian, Richard Davis, Jamaladeen Tacuma, Nicole Mitchell, Rob Mazurek, Tim Berne, Mario Pavone, and Ben Monder, amongst others. Sanchez leads numerous groups, the most recent being her trio with Billy Hart and Michael Formanek on the Sunnyside Label.

Her music has been recognized in national and international publications including *Jazz Times*, *The New York Times*, and *Chicago Tribune*, amongst others. She was also the 2008 recipient of a French/American Chamber Music America grant, the 2011 Rockefeller Brothers Pocantico artist residency, and the 2021 Civitella Fellowship, Italy.

Sanchez's debut solo CD "A Little House" was featured on *NPR's* Weekend Edition and her recording "Wires & Moss" featuring her Quintet was chosen as one of best Releases of 2012 in "The New York City Jazz Record (formerly AllAboutJazz-New York)." Her recording "Twine Forest" a duo with Wadada Leo Smith, received Honorable Mention as one of the best releases of 2013 in "The New York City Jazz Record." Her latest trio project "Float The Edge" features Michael Formanek and Tyshawn Sorey and has garnered wide critical acclaim. Her new piano duo "How to Turn the Moon," with Marilyn Crispell was voted as one of the top 50 best recordings in 2020, according to *NPR* critics poll.

**Guest Artist, Tony Malaby:** In his two decades as an integral member of the thriving improvised music community of New York City, saxophonist and composer Tony Malaby has emerged as a wholly unique and singular voice. Malaby was recently named one of *Downbeat's* "80 Coolest Things in Jazz," saying that, "[Malaby] is a formidably accomplished soprano and tenor saxophonist with enviable tone and an endless font of compelling ideas, yet he steers his music away from perfection," and that "his considerable gifts as a melodist tend to sneak up on you." *Jazztimes* added that Malaby is, "a hero of today's improvised music scene."

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This outpour of praise is unsurprising given the number of projects which Malaby has been involved since his arrival in New York in the early-1990s. In recent years, Malaby has led and recorded many of his own projects—his Tamarindo Trio with Nasheet Waits and William Parker, TubaCello with John Hollenbeck, Chris Hoffman and Dan Peck, Palomo Recio with Ben Monder, Eivind Opsvik, and Nasheet Waits and the improvising trio with Angelica Sanchez and Tom Rainey. Malaby is also a stalwart sideman, and has lent his talents to such groups as the Paul Motian Electric Be-Bop Band, Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra, Fred Hersch's Quintet and Walt Whitman Project, Mark Helias' Open Loose, Chris Lightcap's Bigmouth, Eivind Opsvik's Overseas , Ches Smith's These Arches, Michael Formanek's Elusion Quartet and Kris Davis' Diatom Ribbons Quintet.

**JAZZ AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY** serves to promote this uniquely American music as a contemporary and relevant art form. Its goals are to convey the vast musical and social history of jazz, establish a strong theoretical and stylistic foundation with regard to improvisation and composition, and emphasize the development of individual expression and creativity. Offerings of this program include academic course work, performing ensembles, master classes, private study, and independent projects. Jazz at Princeton University thanks you for joining them on this evening's journey of beauty, exploration, discovery, and hope.