



Saturday, December 9, 2023, 8:00 PM
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

Princeton University

Creative Large Ensemble

Darcy James Argue, Conductor

About the Department of Music:

The Department of Music at Princeton University provides its undergraduates—whether they major or minor in Music—the opportunity to learn from a world-renowned faculty of scholars and composers. Performance opportunities include student-led and departmental ensembles like symphony orchestras, multi-genre choruses, jazz, contemporary music, African music, steel band, laptop orchestra, and much more, and students have access to private instrumental and voice lessons from eminent performing artists. The graduate program offers two distinct and prestigious Ph.D. programs in composition or musicology; graduate students receive fully-funded, immersive experiences conducting research, advancing their craft, and collaborating with faculty within Princeton University’s inspiring, interdisciplinary campus.

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.

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.

Upcoming Jazz Events:



December 14: Small Groups I and X at 7:30 PM
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall | Free, Unticketed

February 10: Jazz Vocal Collective at 8:00 PM
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall | Ticketed

PROGRAM

Selections from the following to be announced from the stage:

Anitra's Dance from <i>The Peer Gynt Suite</i>	Edvard Grieg <i>arr. Billy Strayhorn</i>
The Artist's Rightful Place	Oliver Nelson
Better Days Ahead	Pat Metheny <i>arr. Gary Lindsay</i>
Congo Mulence	A.K. Salim
Freckle Face	Sammy Nestico
Hyperballad	Björk <i>arr. Alan Ferber</i>
Mount Harissa	Duke Ellington
Shafi	Mary Lou Williams/Shafi Hadi <i>arr. Mary Lou Williams</i>
Swingtime in the Rockies	Jimmy Mundy
Tokyo Confidential	Miho Hazama

The use of photographic, video, or audio equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

PERFORMERS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CREATIVE LARGE ENSEMBLE

Conducted by Darcy James Argue

WINDS

Milan Sastry '26: soprano sax, alto sax

Harrison Xu '27: alto sax

Konstantin Howard '24: tenor sax

Jacob Jackson '26: tenor sax, flute,
clarinet

Adithya Sriram '24: baritone sax, bass
clarinet

TRUMPETS

John Polanco *

Gabriel Chalick '24

Avery Pambianchi *

Liam Sutcliffe *

TROMBONES

Thomas Verrill '25

Pranav Vadapalli '25

Gloria Simmons '27

Wesley Sanders '26

GUITAR

Rohit Oomman '24

PIANO

Charles Dutta '27

BASS

Ari Freedman GS

DRUMS

Ryder Walsh '26

* **Guest Artist**

ABOUT

Darcy James Argue, Conductor

Darcy James Argue, “one of the top big band composers of our time” (*Stereophile*), is best known for Secret Society, an 18-piece group “renowned in the jazz world” (*New York Times*). Argue brings an outwardly anachronistic ensemble into the 21st century through his “ability to combine his love of jazz’s past with more contemporary sonics” and is celebrated as “a syncretic creator who avoids obvious imitation” (*Pitchfork*). Acclaimed as an “innovative composer, arranger, and big band leader” by *The New Yorker*, Argue’s accolades include multiple GRAMMY nominations and a Latin GRAMMY Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Doris Duke Artist Award, and countless commissions and fellowships.

Dynamic Maximum Tension, Argue’s latest album with Secret Society and his label debut on Nonesuch Records, is named after the three words that inventor and futurist R. Buckminster Fuller combined to form his personal brand: “Dymaxion” — a term reflecting Bucky’s desire to get the most out of his materials, the utopian vision of his designs, and his quest to improve the pattern of daily life. The recording earned Argue his fourth consecutive GRAMMY nomination for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album, and was named one of the 50 Best Albums of 2023 by NPR, who called it “a double album that reinvigorates the big-band tradition with a modern metabolism.”

Argue’s affinity for blurring genres and deftly weaving sociopolitical ideas into ambitious, culturally resonant work is exemplified in the “stunningly original” (*Wall Street Journal*) song cycle *Ogresse*, a collaboration with GRAMMY-winning vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant, and in the multimedia performance *Real Enemies*, a “breathtaking” (*JazzNu*) production co-created with writer-director Isaac Butler and filmmaker Peter Nigrini that premiered in 2015 at the BAM Next Wave Festival.

Argue has been named Composer of the Year and Secret Society named Big Band of the Year by the *Down Beat* International Critics Poll. He has been commissioned by the MAP Fund, the Fromm Music Foundation, the Newport Festival Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, BAM, and the Jazz Gallery, as well as ensembles including the Danish Radio Big Band, the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra, NYO Jazz, the Hard Rubber Orchestra, the West Point Jazz Knights, and the Orquestra Jazz de Matosinhos. He is the recipient of grants and fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, New Music USA, Composers Now, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, the Canada Council for the Arts, and MacDowell.

Rudresh Mahanthappa, Program Director

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.
