



Saturday, December 7, 2024, 8:00 PM
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

Creative Large Ensemble

Fall Concert

Darcy James Argue, Conductor

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

PROGRAM

Emancipation Blues	Oliver Nelson
Fresh Impression	Carla Bley
Manteca	Gil Fuller, Dizzy Gillespie, Chano Pozo
Wave *	Antonio Carlos Jobim <i>arr. Thomas Verrill '25</i>
Diplomat's Dilemma *	Matthew Cline '27
Burning Patience *	Hope Littwin GS
Mirai He (To The Future) *	Paolo Montoya '25
Stablemates	Benny Golson
A Single Sky	Dave Douglas <i>arr. Jim McNeely</i>
Big Jim Blues	Mary Lou Williams
Just Kidding	Eliane Elias <i>arr. Bob Brookmeyer</i>

** World Premiere*

PERFORMERS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CREATIVE LARGE ENSEMBLE

Conducted by Darcy James Argue

WINDS

Milan Sastry '26
Elle Lazarski '26
Noah LaBelle '28
Matt Schulz GS
Marcello Troncoso '27

TRUMPETS

Sean Hack *
Theodore Peebles '28
John Cureton '26
Lucas Comesaña *
Cueyoung Lee '27

TROMBONES

Thomas Verrill '25
Matthew Ghaim *
Gloria Simmons '27
Wesley Sanders '26
William Parson '28 (on "Just Kidding")

GUITAR

Isadora Knutsen '25

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 Arranger of the Year and Composer of the Year, and Secret Society named Big Band of the Year by the DownBeat 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.

ABOUT

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.

JAZZ AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY serves to promote this uniquely American genre of 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.



Jazz Ensembles

The Creative Large Ensemble, the Jazz Small Groups, and the Jazz Vocal Ensemble at Princeton engage the grand history of jazz as well as its modern forms and approaches. Performances take place both on and off campus. Guest artists are often in residence for a week conducting master classes and visiting ensembles and classrooms in addition to rehearsing with students. These have included Archie Shepp, Billy Childs, Theo Beckmann, Gerald Clayton, and Danilo Perez to name just a few. In some cases, guests have been commissioned to compose new work that is then premiered in concert.

Upcoming Jazz performances at Princeton

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 7:30 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Jazz at Princeton presents: Jazz Small Groups A and Z

Jazz at Princeton presents performances by Small Groups A and Z directed by Matthew Parrish and Miles Okazaki. | Free, unticketed

Saturday, February 15, 2024, 8:00 PM, Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

Jazz Vocal Ensemble with special guest Becca Stevens

Join Jazz at Princeton for a performance by Jazz Vocal Ensemble. | Ticketed

Saturday, April 12, 2024, full day event, Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

jPrinceton University Jazz Festival

Jazz at Princeton presents a full day of jazz music and festivities. Featured performances include a mixture of student ensembles and many special guests, leading up to the headlining event with the Creative Large Ensemble.

Keep up to date about Princeton Jazz events on the Performance & Events page of the Princeton Music Department website music.princeton.edu or the Jazz at Princeton website jazzatprinceton.com.
