



Saturday, November 23, 2024, 2:00 PM
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Jazz Vocal Ensemble

1959:

Music from the greatest year in jazz

Michelle Lordi, Director

*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.***

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for the inaugural performance of the Princeton Jazz Vocal Ensemble (formerly known as the Jazz Vocal Collective) and for celebrating my first concert as Director of the Ensemble.

The shift from "Collective" to "Ensemble" reflects important changes in our approach:

- **Collaborative Vision:** We're focused on building a strong musical connection between singers and instrumentalists, fostering performances where both joyfully interact with each other. This collaboration is grounded in a shared understanding of jazz history, culture, language, and repertoire and serves what the music needs first.
- **Engaging Concerts:** Our goal is to create performances that are not only cohesive but also thought-provoking, exploring a broad range of themes across diverse jazz styles.

For our first performance, I've chosen the theme 1959. All the pieces you will hear tonight were released or recorded in this pivotal year. 1959 is widely regarded as the "greatest year in jazz" due to the groundbreaking albums that emerged, albums that not only defined the genre but also left an indelible mark on the future of music. That year, Miles Davis released *Kind of Blue*, which introduced modal jazz and became one of the best-selling jazz albums of all time. John Coltrane's *Giant Steps* redefined harmonic complexity and improvisation, while the Dave Brubeck Quartet's *Time Out* brought unconventional time signatures to the mainstream along with the biggest selling jazz single of all time. Ornette Coleman's *The Shape of Jazz to Come* challenged traditional concepts of melody and harmony, laying the groundwork for free jazz. Together, these albums shaped the sound of the era and ensured that 1959 would go down in history as a defining moment in the evolution of jazz.

We hope you enjoy the performance and the music that continues to inspire us all.

Sincerely,
Michelle Lordi
Lecturer of Music
Director, Princeton Jazz Vocal Ensemble

PROGRAM

- Four** Music by Miles Davis
Lyrics by Jon Hendricks
Ensemble
- 'Tis Autumn** Music and lyrics by Henry Nemo
Soloist: Adia Allison '25
- All Blues** Music by Miles Davis
Lyrics by Oscar Brown Jr.
Soloist: Adia Allison '25
- I Loves You, Porgy** Music by George Gershwin
Lyrics by Ira Gershwin
Soloist: Adia Allison '25
- Honeysuckle Rose/Scrapple
From The Apple** Music by Thomas "Fats" Waller
Lyrics by Andy Razaf
"Scrapple From The Apple" (vocal solo) by
Charlie Parker
Soloist: Isabella Checa '25
- Chega De Saudade** Music by Antonio Carlos Jobim
Lyrics by Vinicius de Moraes
Soloist: Isabella Checa '25
& Ensemble
- Strange Meadowlark** Music by Dave Brubeck
Lyrics by Lola Brubeck
Soloist: Melody Choi '25
& Ensemble
- Blue Skies** Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin
Soloist: Melody Choi '25
& Ensemble
- Lucky to be Me** Music by Leonard Bernstein
Lyrics by Adolph Green and Betty
Comden
Soloist: Vincent Gerardi '25
- On the Sunny Side of the
Street** Music by Jimmy McHugh
Lyrics by Dorothy Fields
Soloist: Vincent Gerardi '25
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PROGRAM

Isn't It Romantic	Music by Richard Rodgers Lyrics by Lorenz Hart Soloist: Laura Kahu '27
Isn't It A Pity	Music by George Gershwin Lyrics by Ira Gershwin Soloist: Laura Kahu '27
Lonely Woman	Music by Ornette Coleman Lyrics by Margo Guryan Soloist: Sophia Varughese '26 & Ensemble
You Make Me Feel So Young	Music by Josef Myrow Lyrics by Mack Gordon Soloist: Sophia Varughese '26
Goody Goody	Music by Matty Malneck Lyrics by Johnny Mercer Soloist: Sophia Varughese '26 & Ensemble

FEATURING

Vocalists

Vincent Gerardi '25
Isabella Checa '25
Adia Allison '25
Melody Choi '25
Sophia Varughese '26
Laura Kahu '27

Instrumentalists

Alessandro Troncoso '25 – Alto Sax/flute
Daniela Vita '25-guitar
Otto Trueman '27-piano
Quinn Dorward '27 - drums
Ian Kenselaar -bass

Directed by Michelle Lordi

ABOUT

MICHELLE LORDI

Vocalist, educator, songwriter, bandleader Michelle Lordi has received international accolades and heavy rotation on jazz/AAA radio stations in the US and abroad for her jazz and genre bending recording projects. Lordi has performed in jazz clubs, festivals and performance venues across the US and in Europe. Her projects have garnered favorable reviews in Downbeat, JazzTimes, Jazziz (US), NYC Jazz Record, Jazz Journal, JazzWise (UK), JazzLife & Jaz.In (Japan). Lordi's music has been featured by NPR Music Live Sessions and Fresh Air with Terry Gross. Whether Lordi is performing American Songbook standards with jazz legends or exploring experimental soundscapes in her original music, a profound love of the music she chooses to sing and the musicians she creates with is evident in her vividly expressive and elegantly communicative voice. Lordi brings the insightful connection, creativity, and artistic collaboration that she has honed on the bandstand to her teaching here at Princeton University.

JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE (JVE) is a small jazz ensemble that features solo and ensemble voices with rhythm section (i.e. piano, guitar, bass, and drums) along with horns. This elite group of Princeton singers collaborates, creates and composes with their jazz instrumentalist counterparts. JVE hosts acclaimed professional jazz musicians and performs engaging concerts with a focus on jazz history, culture, storytelling and stage craft. For more information, contact jazz@princeton.edu.

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

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 7:30 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Jazz at Princeton presents: Jazz Small Groups I and X

Jazz at Princeton presents performances by Small Groups I and X directed by Rudresh Mahanthappa and Ted Chubb. | *Free, unticketed*

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

Jazz at Princeton presents: Creative Large Ensemble Fall Concert

Jazz at Princeton's Creative Large Ensemble, directed by Darcy James Argue, presents a varied program of large ensemble jazz. | *Tickets: \$15 General, \$5 Student*

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*

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.
