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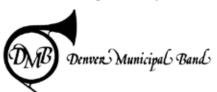
The 59th Annual Mile High Jazz Fest

February 7th-9th, 2024

Featuring Guest Artist The Westerlies

With noon masterclasses and performances by the The Adam Bartczak Democracy and The MSU JAIM Faculty

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IN THE OR TO UPGRADE

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Fifty-Ninth Annual

Mile High Jazz Fest

Celebrating "Jazz, Art, and Education in the Heart of Downtown Denver."

Featuring performances by Colorado's finest middle school and high school instrumental combos and big bands; special guests; The Westerlies, The Adam Bartczak Democracy, and MSU Denver's Jazz and American Improvised Music faculty; and professional artists and adjudicators. Our hope is that each musician leaves here having gained a sense of inspiration and a better understanding of America's classical music: **Jazz!**

Presented by

Flesher-Hinton Music,
Metropolitan State University of Denver
School of Letters, Arts, and Sciences
Department of Music,
and the Denver Municiple Band.

Thanks to KUVO Jazz as our media partner

Production Staff

Ken Anderson Charla Bevan Dawn Clement Dave Simpkins Geoff Newton Andy Salas

MSU Denver JAIM Students

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Dear Directors and Performers,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Metropolitan State University of Denver campus for the 59th annual Mile High Jazz Festival. The Mile High Jazz Festival and Flesher Hinton Music have been central to the legacy of excellence in music education in Colorado and we are honored to be a part of that long tradition.

Students will be performing in the King Center Concert Hall which we share with UCD and CCD. It is a wonderful space that has hosted many amazing performers!

The Westerlies, "an arty quartet...mixing ideas from jazz, new classical, and Appalachian folk" (New York Times) are a New York-based brass quartet and the featured performers at this year's festival! Festival participants will have the opportunity to hear the Westerlies in several different scenarios throughout the week including:

THURSDAY 2/8: noon presentation (King Center Concert Hall) FRIDAY 2/9: 10:30am, workshop with MSU Denver brass students (Emmanuel Gallery), 1pm, workshop with MSU Denver composition students (Emmanuel Gallery), 7:30pm, evening concert (King Center Concert Hall)

Earlier in the week, participants will also have a chance to enjoy noon concerts in the King Center featuring our very own Jazz and American Improvised Music Faculty (Wednesday 2/7) and Adam Bartczak's "Democracy" (Friday 2/9) sponsored by the Denver Municipal Band.

We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

Dawn Clement
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Associate Professor and Area Coordinator
Jazz and American Improvised Music
she, her, hers





MILE HIGH JAZZ FEST MEMORIES

The 2024 Mile High Jazz Festival continues a Colorado Jazz tradition dating back almost 60 years. The first jazz festival was first held in 1965 in Akron, Colorado, sponsored by Simmons Music of Denver, John Shaw representative and Akron High School, Don Smith-Director.



Akron Stage Band Festival 1965

In 1966, John became part of Flesher-Hinton Music and we became the sponsor of the festival. Mel and Geraldine Flesher lovingly endorsed the festival. One year there was a major blizzard and many of the schools had a difficult time returning to the Denver area and asked us to move the festival closer. John Shaw continued as the festival manager.

In 1975 the Colorado School of Mines was the host and the festival became the Rocky Mountain Jazz Festival in cooperation with CSM, John Shannon and Kappa Kappa Psi. In 1977, the festival moved to Northglenn High School and became the Mile High Jazz Festival and the guest artist was Tonight Show drummer Ed Shaughessy. Don Burdaux host. The festival then moved to Thornton High School and Merritt Hutton Junior High and included vocal jazz ensembles for a short period of time. Ray Sheehan, Dennis Sullivan, Doug Harris and Tom Rudd were the hosts. John Thomas was named the festival manager in 1983.

Smoky Hill High School became the site in 1992, and Joe Brice the host with assistance from Larry West. In 1995, Alameda High School was the site with Ken Sawyer host. In 2000 Ralston Valley High School was under construction and Ken Sawyer was announced as the band director. After viewing the new facilities at Ralston Valley it was decided to move the festival there in 2001. Ken Sawyer continued as the host until 2014, hosting for 20 years! Ken Anderson was named the festival manager in 2006. In 2017, the festival moved to the CU-Boulder Campus and the Thompson Jazz Studies becomes the co-sponsor, John Gunther is co-director. It continued there until 2019.

2020 marked the first year that the Metropolitan State University of Denver sponsored the Festival at the King Center for the Performing Arts with hosts Dawn Clement and Charla Bevan.

The Mile High Jazz Festival would not happen without the many people named above and we thank them.

Since it's founding, the Mile High Jazz Festival has seen its share of big name performers on stage. Past guests have included:

Ed Shaughnessy, Frank Rosolino, Jim Coffin, Don Menza, Mike Vax, Lou Marini, Cat Anderson, Free Flight, Gary Foster, Bobby Shew, DU Lamont Jazz with Lynn Baker, Phil Wilson, Buddy Baker, Bill Porter, Roger Pemberton, the US Air Force Falconaires, Ed Soph, Rich Matteson, Greg Gisbert, Jon Faddis, Bill Watrous, Butch Miles, Chris Vadala, the UNC Jazz Lab Band I with John Davis and Gene Aitken, UCD with Walter Barr, God's Trombones, the Neophonic Jazz Orchestra, "The Sax Section", the Jazz Spectrum Big Band, the University of Colorado at Boulder Jazz Ensemble I and Concert Jazz Ensemble with directors John Gunther, Brad Goode, John Davis and Paul McKee; Mitch Holder, Rocky and Lutie Lombardo, Ruthie Lombardo, Rich Chiaraluce, Ken Walker, Jill Fredericksen, Ron Wilkins, Byron Stripling, Jerry Bergonzi, Convergence, the Pete Olstad-Bob Montgomery Big Band, The Swing Brothers with Rich Chiaraluce and Jack LaForte, Conrad Herwig, The Darren Kramer Organization (DKO), Bobby Shew, Denis DiBlasio, Dan Barrett and The Queen City Jazz Band, Maria Schneider, Derrick Hodge, Joel Ross, Rainbow Sign with Brian Blade, Bill Frisell, Jason Moran and Thomas Morgan, and now, the Westerlies!

FESTIVAL AWARDS ENSEMBLE AWARDS

To recognize all participating bands and combos, each group performing in the festival will receive a commemorative plaque presented by Flesher-Hinton Music Company.

MHJF AWARD CERTIFICATES:

Each performing group will have its outstanding musicians recognized with an official Mile High Jazz Festival Award Certificate. These certificates will be duly authorized and signed by the awarding adjudicators and festival director.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PLAQUES:

From the above certificate recipients, twenty-four individual award plaques will be presented to the most outstanding musicians as selected by the judges.

Guest Artist THE WESTERLIES

Thursday Noon Concert (King Center Concert Hall)
Friday 10:30 am workshop (Emmanuel Gallery),
1:00 pm workshop (Emmanuel Gallery)
7:30 pm evening concert (King Center Concert Hall)



Photo: Kevin W. Condon

Riley Mulherkar, Trumpet Chloe Rowlands, Trumpet Andy Clausen, Trombone Addison Maye-Saxon, Trombone

The Westerlies, "an arty quartet...mixing ideas from jazz, new classical, and Appalachian folk" (New York Times) are a New York-based brass quartet comprised of childhood friends from Seattle: Riley Mulherkar and Chloe Rowlands on trumpet, and Andy Clausen and Addison Maye-Saxon on trombone. From Carnegie Hall to Coachella, The Westerlies navigate a wide array of venues and projects with the precision of a string quartet, the audacity of a rock band, and the charm of a family sing-along.

Formed in 2011, the self-described "accidental brass quartet" takes its name from the prevailing winds that travel from the West to the East. "Skilled interpreters who are also adept improvisers" (NPR's Fresh Air), The Westerlies explore jazz, roots, and chamber music influences to create the rarest of hybrids: music that is both "folk-like and composerly, lovely and intellectually rigorous" (NPR Music).

Buffet Crampon supports the MILE HIGH JAZZ FESTIVAL



























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The Westerlies' 2022-23 engagements include performances at Carnegie Hall Citywide, the Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Clark Art Institute, Celebrity Series, the Lied Center of Kansas, the Bermuda Festival of Performing Arts, and the New York Philharmonic Sidewalk Studio Series, as well as tours with singer-songwriters Haley Heynderickx and Aoife O'Donovan, and indie-folk outfit Fleet Foxes. The ensemble was featured on Fleet Foxes' Shore tour, playing 42 shows across the United States and Europe.

The ensemble has produced numerous critically acclaimed albums of genre-defying music. 2022 saw the release of the EP Songbook Vol. 2 on Westerlies Records, the ensemble's in-house record label. The previous year was a prolific year for the ensemble, with the release of Fireside Brass: A Westerlies Holiday (Westerlies Records), Songbook Vol. 1 (Westerlies Records), and Bricolage (Westerlies Records), a collaborative album of improvisations with pianist/composer Conrad Tao. 2021 also saw the release of This Land, the ensemble's collaboration with GRAMMY-nominated vocalist Theo Bleckmann. The Westerlies have produced three albums of quartet music: their 2014 debut, Wish the Children Would Come On Home: The Music of Wayne Horvitz (Songlines), a 2016 double-CD of primarily original compositions, The Westerlies (Songlines), and their 2020 release, Wherein Lies the Good (Westerlies Records). Sought-after collaborators, The Westerlies are also featured on recordings by Fleet Foxes (Nonesuch), Big Red Machine (Jagjaguwar), Vieux Farka Touré (Six Degrees Records), Common (Lakeshore) and Dave Douglas (Greenleaf).

Education and community engagement are core elements of The Westerlies' mission. In 2021, The Westerlies were named the inaugural small ensemble-in-residence at the School of Jazz and Contemporary Music at The New School. The Westerlies also produce an annual music festival in Seattle called Westerlies Fest, which combines evening performances featuring numerous guest artists, an all-day open-to-the-public creative music jamboree, and workshops in local public schools. The festival's educational programming reaches over 1,000 students in Seattle and surrounding underserved areas every year.

The Westerlies have engaged students of all ages and abilities around the country with their innovative assemblies and masterclasses, promoting the values of cooperation and inclusion through music. They have completed educational residencies with Clefworks (Montgomery, AL), Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival (Orcas Island, WA), the School District of Osceola County (Osceola County, Florida), and Highline Public Schools (Burien, WA), among others. They have also taught masterclasses at The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Yale School of Music, The Colburn School, and a variety of other colleges and universities.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, The Westerlies are on a mission to amplify unheard voices, paint new sonic landscapes, and cultivate a global community. The Westerlies are committed to dismantling racism, sexism, and economic inequality in their field, and aim to reflect their values of diversity and inclusion in the music they make and the spaces they occupy.



Guest Artist Adam Bartczak's Democracy

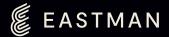
Friday Noon Concert



This energetic modern jazz quintet features all original music by its members, who have collaborated with many great artists in Colorado and beyond. The Democracy was awarded a Pathways to Jazz grant to record its self-titled debut album, recently released its second album, "Second Term" and has been entertaining audiences in venues and festivals since its formation in 2016, constantly evolving with forward looking compositions and exciting interaction among its members.

adambartczak.com

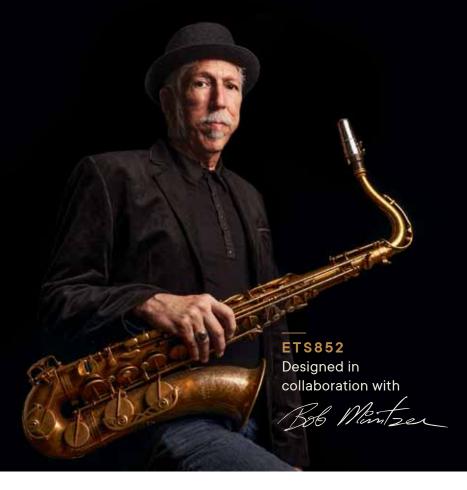
Sam Williams - saxophone Adam Bartczak - trombone Peter Stoltzman - piano Gonzalo Teppa - bass Dru Heller - drums



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Guest Artist

MSU Denver Faculty

Wednesday Noon Concert

MSU Denver's Jazz and American Improvised Music faculty, including:

Dawn Clement (Piano/Voice) Shane Endsley (trumpet) Dave Devine (guitar) Patrick McDevitt (bass) Dru Heller (drums)

https://allevents.in/denver/jazz-and-american-improvised-music-concert-series/200026071893101

Wednesday and Thursday Masterclasses are brought to you by the Denver Municipal Band

The Denver City Band was formed in 1861 to bring culture to a mining town. More than 160 years later, we're still here, but today we're known as the Denver Municipal Band. We're also still bringing music to the Denver-area community. In fact, today, our mission is to bring music to Denver-area residents (from Westminster to Highlands Ranch) for free in parks near them. We also help Denver-area youth develop a passion for music and refine their musical talents.



Distinguished Panel of Judges

Hannah Rodriguez

Hannah Rodriguez is an award winning vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and teacher based in Northern Colorado. Influenced heavily by jazz, rock, and pop, Hannah has a passion for writing songs with blended style and harmonic beauty. Her variety of talents have been recognized by Downbeat Magazine in 2018 and 2022, and by the 2021 Sonic Spotlight competition put on by Fort Collins Museum of Discovery and Bohemian Foundation. She is



currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Jazz Composition at the University of Northern Colorado. You can find her regularly playing with her pop-funk band The Cuddies, swinging with Joe Smith and the Spicy Pickles, and in many other projects all around Colorado.

Ron Bland

Ron Bland has been a professional musician for nearly fifty years, playing virtually all styles of music in every setting from concert hall to theatre to the recording studio. At home on both the electric and double basses, he has performed with jazz greats including Dizzy Gillespie, George Benson, Eddie Daniels, Billy Taylor and Doc Severinson. Ron has appeared with the Colorado Symphony and Colorado



Springs Symphony Orchestras as well as in performance with Earth Wind and Fire,Yes, Andrea Bocelli, Pavarotti, Marvin Hamlisch, Linda Ronstadt, Rosemary Clooney, Billy Crystal and many others. He performs with a "who's who" of jazz guitarists at the Rocky Mountain Archtop Festival every September and he has often been in the pit for touring Broadway shows, including "Legally Blonde", "A Chorus Line" and "The Color Purple."

In 2003, with the Denver Jazz Quartet, Ron performed as a featured headliner at the Queenstown International Jazz Festival in New Zealand. As part of the Rocky Mountain Trio & Park Hill Brass Nonet, Ron has performed at the Jazz in the Vercors Festival in Villard de Lans, France several times. He has also been a clinician for the workshop associated with the festival. In September 2022, Ron played a series of concerts with Purnell Steen and the Five Points Ambassadors in Brest, France and the surrounding area as part of a Sister Cities celebration.

With Moment's Notice Entertainment and other groups Ron has performed extensively throughout the United States, including the 2001 Inaugural Ball in Washington D.C. Internationally, he has performed in Canada, Mexico and Europe.

Ron is on the music faculty at Colorado Christian University & the University of Colorado at Denver and has taught at Metropolitan State University of Denver & Colorado School of Mines. He teaches private applied lessons on acoustic and electric bass and jazz ensembles.



Ron is the director of the Wednesday evening combo and big band at the Colorado Jazz Workshop and he is regularly invited to be an adjudicator/clinician at the Mile High Jazz Festival. Ron has played on numerous recording projects including albums, jingles & soundtracks. He has played on the jazz demo recordings for Kendor/Excelcia Music for more than thirty-five years.

Dave Wiske

A Colorado Native, Dave has been playing trombone in the Denver area for the past 30+ years. He has performed with artists such as Natalie Cole, Linda Ronstadt, Frankie Valli, Rita Moreno, Marvin Hamlish, Jim Neighbors, The Temptations, The Four Tops, and the ghost bands of Woody Herman, Tommy Dorsey, Nelson Riddle, and Benny Goodman. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the University of Northern Colorado and



spent time pursuing a doctoral degree in trombone performance at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Dave recently retired after a 30 year career teaching music in the Thornton, Colorado area, having spent time at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Dru Heller

Dru Heller has made his home in Denver since 2013. He has toured and recorded with some of the greatest names in Jazz, including Don Byron, John Ellis, Ron Miles, Art Lande, and others. Dru keeps up a busy schedule as bandleader and sideman in a multitude of projects and can be seen frequently in different clubs, festivals and concert halls in Denver. As an educator Dru been



an artist in residence for many colleges, high schools, and music festivals around the country. He has a private teaching studio of all ages and ability levels, and is a music faculty member of Metropolitan State University of Denver. Dru attended the University of Colorado in Boulder where he received an M.M. in Jazz Performance/Pedagogy.

Shane Endsley

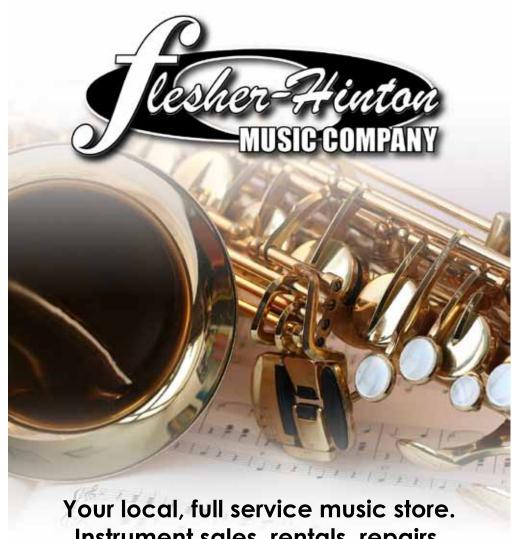
DownBeat magazine named him as one of the "Top 25" trumpeters of his generation and he was cited as a Rising Star in the 2013 Critics Poll. A truly modern and dynamic musician, he can be found on recordings with innovative jazz instrumentalists like Steve Coleman, Mark Guiliana, Donny McCaslin, and Ben Allison as well as appearances with folk, rock, and pop icons like Ani DiFranco, Pearl Jam, and Shakira.



Shane is a founding member of the Grammy nominated group Kneebody. They have released ten recordings and have been playing premier festivals, concert halls, and clubs for over a decade.

Shane has made two solo albums, one of which was voted in the LA Times' Top Ten of the Year. He is also an accomplished drummer and can be found on recordings with trumpeter Ralph Alessi.

Shane is a lecturer in the MSU Denver Jazz and American Improvised Music (JAIM) program.



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Mile High Jazz Fest Schedule

Wednesday, February 7th

Judges - Ron Bland, Dave Wiske, Dru Heller, Hannah Rodriguez, Shane Endsley

8:50	Littleton High School Jazz Combo	4A	Don Emmons
9:15	Rampart High School Jazz I	4A	David Altman
9:40	Littleton HS Jazz Ensemble	4A	Don Emmons
10:05	Horizon High School Jazz III	5A	Tim Dailey
10:30	Rampart HS Advanced Jazz	4A	Keith Acuncius
10:55	Century MS Comet Jazz II	MS	Jared Crump-Bertram
11:20	Horizon High School Jazz II	5A	Tim Dailey

Noon Concert

MSU Denver's Jazz and American Improvised Music Faculty

1:30	Standley Lake HS Gator Blues	3A	Crissy Duran
1:55	Horizon High School Jazz I	5A	Tim Dailey
2:20	Century MS Comet Jazz I	MS	Jared Crump-Bertram
2:45	Pueblo County HS Jazz Band	3A	Josh Muller
3:10	Conifer HS Lab Jazz Band	3A	Sean Cartner
3:35	Grandview HS Jazz Ensemble I	5A	Keith Farmer
4:00	East Grand MS Jazz Ensemble	MS	Byron Church
4:25	Pueblo East HS Jazz Band	3A	Christopher Herron





Mile High Jazz Fest Schedule Thursday, February 8th

Judges - Ron Bland, Dave Wiske, Dru Heller, Hannah Rodriguez, Shane Endsley

8:25	Rocky Top MS Jazz Band	MS	Colin Roberts
8:50	Alameda Int'l HS Jazz Band	2A	Andrew Cogswell
9:15	Castle View HS Jazz Ensemble	5A	Mark Cellar
9:40	Dakota Ridge HS Jazz Band	4A	Dylan Ford
10:05	Pine Creek HS Jazz Ensemble II	5A	Stoney Black
10:30	Arvada West HS Jazz Band	5A	Laura Wiarda
10:55	Westlake MS Wolverine Jazz Ens.	MS	Michael Windham
11:20	Pine Creek HS Jazz Ensemble I	5A	Stoney Black

Noon ConcertThe Westerlies

1:30	Standley Lake HS Signature Jazz	3A	Crissy Duran
1:55	Monarch High School Jazz I	4A	Chuck Stephen
2:20	Englewood HS Jazz Ensemble I	2A	Spencer Malott
2:45	Pine Creek HS Jazz Combo	5A	Stoney Black
3:10	Euclid Middle School Jazz Band	MS	Andrew Holcombe
3:35	Broomfield HS Jazz Band	4A	Sarah Wagner
4:00	Prairie View HS Jazz Ensemble	5A	Armando Solis
4:25	Wheat Ridge HS Jazz Ensemble	3A	Kendra Graf

The MSU Denver Jazz & American Improvised Music Concert Series



February 7: Open Mic Night February 21: Jazz Combos

March 6: Jazz Combos

April 3: Jazz Combos & MSU Denver Big Band

April 17: Visiting Artist: Kenny Warren's Sweet World

May 1: MSU Denver Faculty Concert

All concerts are held at 6:00 pm at 800 Kalamath Street in Denver, \$12 suggested donation.



Mile High Jazz Fest Schedule Friday, February 9th

Judges - Ron Bland, Dave Wiske, Dru Heller, Hannah Rodriguez, Shane Endsley

8:25	JK Mullen HS Jazz Band	4A	Heather Davis, Mike Farrell
8:50	Arapahoe HS Jazz Band	5A	Shawn Funk
9:15	Denver Christian HS Jazz Band	1A	Aimee Delnero
9:40	Heritage HS Jazz Ensemble II	5A	Garren Cuthrell
10:05	Altona MS Jazz Band	MS	Dana Clanin
10:30	Goddard MS Jazz Bandits	MS	Mike Farrell
10:55	Fairview HS Jazz Combo III	5A	Travis Keller
11:20	Heritage HS Jazz Ensemble I	5A	Garren Cuthrell

Noon Concert Adam Bartczak Democracy

1:15	Legacy HS Lightning Jazz Band	5A	Brian Ebert
1:35	Fairview HS Jazz Combo II	5A	Travis Keller
2:00	Bear Creek HS Jazz Ensemble	4A	Tammy Ahmed
2:25	Eaglecrest HS Jazz II	5A	Jason W. Mabrey
2:50	Fairview HS Jazz Ensemble I	5A	Travis Keller
3:15	Denver South HS Black Combo	5A	Kyle Dobbins
3:40	Eaglecrest HS Jazz I	5A	Jason W. Mabrey
4:05	Rock Canyon HS Jazz Band	5A	Trevor McLaine
4:30	Denver South HS Purple Combo	5A	Kyle Dobbins

Evening Concert

The Westerlies 7:30 pm - See registration about tickets



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