Lamont School of Music & Theatre

Lamont Jazz Orchestra

Celebrating Colorado Jazz Composers

Remy Le Boeuf
Director

Thursday, November 12, 2026
7:30 p.m.
June Swaner Gates Concert Hall





Robert & Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts

Program

Locus — **Wil Swindler**

Side Step — **Zach Rich** (b. 1993)

Song for Pia — **Camilla Vaitaitis** (b. 1994)

Mendocino — **Drew Zaremba** (b. 1991)

Root System — **Remy Le Boeuf** (b. 1986)

INTERMISSION

View From Above — **Micah Miller** (b. 1998)

Summer Spent — **Carter Brickler** (b. 2003)

Dream of the Tide — **Jack Schabert** (b. 2002)

Whimsy — **Annie Booth** (b. 1989)

The Messenger — **Paul McKee** (1958–2026)

Please silence your cell phones

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Lamont Jazz Orchestra

Voice
Abigail Holter

Woodwinds
Ivy Cuda, *flute*
Andrew Maloney, *alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, flute*
Quinn Larkin, *alto saxophone, flute*
Ryan Black, *tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone, clarinet*
Stephen Hogarty, *tenor saxophone, clarinet*
David Reichhardt, *baritone saxophone, bass clarinet*

Trombone/Bass Trombone*
Nathan Smith
Christian Baeck
Tony Ricafort
Jackson Strahan*

Trumpet
Devin Bianchi-Rivera
Tanner Black
Micah Miller
Oscar Hayes Fegley

Guitar
Carter Brickler

Piano
Elliott Hoover

Bass
Merrit Silfer

Drums
Tomáš Zelený

Biographies

Composer and saxophonist **Wil Swindler** resides in Longmont, Colorado, where he leads Wil Swindler's Elevenet, the modern bop quintet GoodRattle, and the Wil Swindler Quartet. He is also an active performer with the Peter Sommer Septet, Al Hood's H2 Big Band, the Colorado Symphony, the Ben Markley Big Band, the Colorado Jazz Orchestra, and the Adam Bartzcak Republic, among others. A recipient of IAJE's 2008 Gil Evans Fellowship, Wil has received numerous commissions from jazz ensembles, military bands, and symphony orchestras. His recordings include *Universe B* (OA2 Records), *The Right Riot* with GoodRattle, and *Chamber Jazz Ensemble*, as well as appearances on albums by Ingrid Michaelson, Steve Owen, Peter Sommer, and others.

Wil is an Instructor of Music and Associate Director of Jazz Bands at Colorado State University, where he has served since 2009. He is an active jazz clinician, adjudicator, and private instructor, and has taught at several universities and summer jazz programs throughout the region.

Originally from Central Texas, Wil began studying music at age five and saxophone at nine. He earned a B.M. in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas in 2001, performing, composing, and recording with the One O'Clock Lab Band. He also studied at the Henry Mancini Institute and participated in the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop in New York City. His early career included performances with Toshiko Akiyoshi and Bill Warfield's NY Fusion Ensemble, as well as a commission for a work premiered at the Hollywood Bowl.

Zach Rich is a multi-award winning composer, trombonist, arranger, and educator based in Denver, Colorado. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Jazz Trombone and Arranging at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music.

Zach has written music for many professional ensembles and organizations including the New York Youth Symphony, the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, the Dallas String Quartet, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas Music Educators Associations, Pathways to Jazz, the Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra, and many universities and high schools throughout the country. Recently, he has worked professionally with Noah Kahan, Billy Childs, Rufus Reid, Steve Wilson, Knower, Shane Endsley, John Clayton, Randy Brecker, Tia Fuller, Rene Marie, Ari Hoenig, Wayne Bergeron, and the Count Basie Jazz Orchestra among others.

His works have received awards from organizations such as ISJAC, the Jazz Education Network, ASCAP, ASMAC, Downbeat Magazine, Pathways to Jazz, the Helsinki Jazz Orchestra, and Jazz at Lincoln Center.

(cont.)

Zach continues to write for and perform with a variety of ensembles throughout the Front Range and beyond.

His debut album as a bandleader, *Solidarity*, released on OA2 Records, is an expansive program of original music orchestrated for his Denver-based jazz quintet and chamber orchestra, blending modern jazz dynamism with contemporary classical counterpoint. The record received widespread critical acclaim, with *33 Third.org* calling it "one of the best large ensembles of 2024" and *Arts Axis Florida* awarding it four stars, noting that listeners will be "shocked that this is his first foray into studio recording as a bandleader." *Solidarity* is available on all streaming platforms.

Camilla Vaitaitis is a versatile pianist, vocalist, guitarist, arranger, and composer based in Denver, CO.

She plays regularly in several different groups, including her indie-psych rock band Barbara and her original jazz project, the Camilla Vaitaitis Quartet. She dedicates time not only to performing throughout Colorado, but also to composing and songwriting for a variety of groups, including big bands, small ensembles, rock bands, and more. She is a published composer with Brava Jazz Publishing. In addition to actively performing, Camilla is a member of the jazz faculty at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. A sought-after educator, she also directs ensembles and teaches courses with the Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts (CCJA) where she additionally serves as the Administrative Director.

Her debut jazz album as a bandleader, *I Grew Up*, was released in 2026.

Musical omnivore **Drew Zaremba** has built a global career around his charismatic conducting, fiery saxophone and keyboard playing, and a compositional fascination with what happens when musical traditions collide. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by the BBC Orchestra, WDR and NDR Big Bands, Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Metropole Orkest, Dallas and Memphis Symphony Orchestras, Airmen of Note, and leading artists including Wayne Bergeron, Carmen Bradford, Wycliffe Gordon, Veronica Swift, and Larry Braggs.

Drew's work is marked by his cross-cultural collaborations and love of trans-genre music, exploring the intersections of jazz with Hindustani music, Brazilian and Caribbean traditions, Western classical music, ballet, and Chinese opera. His most recent major work, *Decadent Desires*, is an 80-minute ballet for jazz chamber orchestra pairing his original compositions with reimaginings of Gershwin, Chopin, Debussy, and Rachmaninoff.

His music has earned numerous honors, including the Sammy Nestico Award, the Sherman/Barsanti Inspiration Award, and three Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards. His compositions are published by Alfred Music, Hal Leonard, and Excelsia Music, with more than 80 additional works available through his website.

Drew is the Artistic Director of the Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado, where he teaches jazz composition and mentors emerging composers. He is especially passionate about writing for young musicians, with his music performed by hundreds of middle and high school ensembles around the world.

Remy Le Boeuf is a Grammy-winning composer and saxophonist whose music is rooted in the jazz tradition and overlaps into contemporary classical and indie-rock realms. Le Boeuf is also the founder of the jazz orchestra, Assembly of Shadows, and the Chief Conductor of the Nordkraft Big Band. He has worked with a range of collaborators including the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Linda Oh, Dayna Stephens, Haim, Knower, JACK Quartet, and his twin brother Pascal, with whom he co-leads the experimental quintet, Le Boeuf Brothers.

Le Boeuf's list of honors include commissions from Chamber Music America, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and the WDR Big Band, as well as a 2026 Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Composition, the BMI Charlie Parker Jazz Prize, and the Copland House Residency Award.

Le Boeuf is the Director of Jazz and Commercial Music Studies and an assistant professor at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music.

Micah Miller is an award-winning composer, performer and educator living in Denver. He grew up in Wyoming, learning piano, trumpet, and voice from a young age. He studied jazz trumpet and voice at the University of Northern Colorado, and earned a Master's in trumpet performance from the University of Wyoming. As a freelancing musician, Micah plays around the Northern Colorado and Wyoming area in a variety of ensembles and musical settings, from original projects to working as a sideman with groups from the Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra to the Wyoming Symphony. Micah is an active educator and holds Adjunct Faculty positions on trumpet at Colorado State University and Regis University.

Carter Brickler is a guitarist, bassist, violist, and composer from Indianapolis, Indiana. He earned a degree in jazz studies from Ball State University and is currently a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Denver while pursuing a master's degree in jazz composition. Carter is studying composition with Grammy-award winning artist, Remy Le Boeuf, to create more genre-bending original compositions for his upcoming projects. In his original compositions, Carter aims to mix his influences in ways that are not as commonly found in the current jazz scene. He grew up listening to a lot of rock and emo music which has greatly influenced how he approaches writing in the jazz idiom as well, attempting to blend these genres with modern jazz language. Carter released his debut album *Ella* in 2025, and it can be found on all streaming platforms.

Jack Schabert is a Twin Cities, MN & Denver, CO based drummer, composer, and educator. He has recently received composition awards from the University of Denver, Ithaca College, and the New York Youth Symphonies. His compositions for Jazz Orchestra have been performed by high school, college, and professional big bands in Minnesota, Colorado, Wisconsin, and New York. He is a member of the Twin Cities Jazz Composer's Workshop, and serves on the Board of Directors of the MetroNOME Foundation and the Twin Cities Jazz Festival. He has an album coming out in March, 2027. For more info visit jackschabertmusic.com.

Award-winning composer, bandleader, pianist, and educator **Annie Booth** is recognized for her distinctive musical voice and her commitment to connecting performance, composition, and jazz education. Her work has received national and international recognition from Chamber Music America, the International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers (ISJAC), ASCAP, and DownBeat Magazine. She is Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies in the Thompson Jazz Studies Program at the University of Colorado Boulder and a CU Sesquicentennial Faculty Scholar.

Booth's compositions span small-group jazz, big band, chamber music, film, and orchestra, with commissions from professional ensembles, festivals, universities, and educational organizations across the country. Her music is published by Alfred Music and Brava Jazz Publishing and performed by ensembles worldwide. As a pianist and bandleader, she has appeared at festivals and venues throughout the United States, including the Telluride Jazz Festival, Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, and SXSW. She has released eight albums as a leader.

A passionate educator, Booth is a sought-after guest artist, conductor, and clinician. In 2017, she founded the SheBop Young Women in Jazz Workshop, creating opportunities for girls and non-binary students to build confidence and community through jazz.

In 2023, Booth co-founded Brava Jazz Publishing with Alan Baylock, a publishing company dedicated to amplifying the work of women jazz composers and arrangers. She serves on the boards of the Telluride Society for Jazz and the Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts.

Booth holds BM and MM degrees from the University of Colorado Boulder and is a Yamaha Artist.

Paul McKee (1958–2026) was an Associate Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, earned a BME from the University of Northern Iowa and an MM in Composition from the University of Texas at Austin.

Paul was a member of Woody Herman's Thundering Herd and appeared on several Grammy-nominated recordings. Over the years, McKee has served on the jazz faculty at schools including DePaul University, Youngstown State University, Northern Illinois University, the University of Missouri at Kansas City and Florida State University.

McKee maintained a busy schedule as a clinician and guest artist, and his arrangements and compositions have been performed and recorded by professional and academic jazz ensembles worldwide. His recording "Gallery" was released to critical acclaim and features performances by Carl Fontana, Bobby Shew, Tim Ries and Ron Stout. McKee appeared on the recording "Back When It Was Fun" with 7 on 7, a group comprising musician-educators from colleges across the country. Additional recordings include big band projects by Dan Gailey (University of Kansas) and Steve Owen (University of Oregon).

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Lamont Society

Donors to the Lamont School of Music & Theatre are an integral part of the Lamont community. Since 1983, the Lamont Society has provided financial and other support that has sustained our program's excellence. It has enabled us to purchase instruments, underwrite masterclasses and guest artist performances, support touring ensembles, provide students with professional development funds, support faculty initiatives, maintain scholarships for our deserving students, and much more. We are deeply grateful for this philanthropy!

To support Lamont, please contact Laura Mack, Director of Development, at 303.871.6267 or laura.mack@du.edu.

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Upcoming Events

Friday, November 13, 4:30 p.m.
Collegiate Choir Festival
Gates Concert Hall
Free admission, no ticket required

Saturday, November 14, 4:30 p.m.
Student Recital: Robert Nael, bassoon
Hamilton Recital Hall
Free admission, no ticket required

Sunday, November 15, 3:00 p.m.
Student Carillon Concert
Williams Carillon, Ritchie Center Lawn
Free Admission, no ticket required

Full events list: liberalarts.du.edu/lamont/performances-events



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