

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
MCINTIRE DEPARTMENT of **music**

&

THE UVA JAZZ ENSEMBLE

present

In Memoriam
A Tribute to Greg Howard

Directed by John D'earth

featuring

Special Guest Violinist David Sariti

Friday, November 17, 2023

8:00 pm

Old Cabell Hall

University of Virginia

Program

Set I

See the World

Pat Metheny
Arr. Robert Curnow

Still Water

Greg Howard
Arr. John D'earth

The Offering

Greg Howard
Arr. John D'earth

Dissent

Greg Howard
Arr. John D'earth

Cottontail

Duke Ellington
Arr. John LaBarbera

~ INTERMISSION ~

Set II

Every Tub

Count Basie

Mean to Me

Alert and Turk
Arr. Frank Mantooth

Nutville

Horace Silver
Arr. Greg Hopkins

Whirly Bird

Neal Hefti
Arr. Sammy Nestico

The UVA Jazz Ensemble

Directed by John D'earth

Saxophones

Connor Rose, alto
Bobby Downey, alto
Jack Peacock, tenor
Matthew Williams, tenor
Tucker Benton, baritone

Trombones

Lauren Vaillancourt
Jason Zermani
Kyle Wilson
Eddie Macgill
Blake Cabral

Trumpets

Grant GianGrasso
Jared Levenson
Johnny Willey
Kam Johannsen
Ami Falk

Rhythm Section

Ben Berry, piano
Alex Halpern, piano
Tyler Burkhardt, guitar
Grant MacMillan, guitar
Evan DiCosmo, bass
Raghav Vesudeva, drums
Kyle Gresko, drums

Flute

Cole Smith

A Note from the Director

A Note from the Director –

Tonight's concert celebrates the musical life of Greg Howard, a world-renowned Chapman Stick player, composer, and producer. He was also a close friend of many of us here tonight. His prolific output, as well as his leadership of the international Stick community, caused news of his sudden death from cancer last summer to be felt deeply locally and worldwide.

The Chapman Stick is a modern stringed instrument invented by Emmet Chapman less than 50 years ago. A master and leading practitioner/teacher of the touch-sensitive stick, Greg worked with Emmet Chapman for decades, wrote the basic instructional manual for the instrument and subsequent books that explored and expanded the stick's potential. He was a leader, if not the leader, of the burgeoning international stick community. Closer to home, Greg graduated from the University of Virginia and remained affiliated with the music department. He taught the stick at UVA, directed the New Music Ensemble, ran sound for departmental ensembles and acquired a Chapman Stick for the University. He was a tireless composer and producer. The absence of the Chapman Stick in our concert tonight is symbolic of the absence of Greg.

Central to the concert will be a trio of Greg Howard compositions that we arranged many years ago for Greg's early guest artist appearance with the band: *Still Water*, *The Offering*, and *Dissent*. These three pieces constitute a kind of three-movement Greg Howard symphony for jazz ensemble.

Greg was a strong presence in the Charlottesville jazz scene and a key supporter of the UVA jazz program, so the concert will also feature a cross-section of classic big band jazz. Greg loved the classics and so do we. But, like Greg Howard, we aspire to the creativity embodied in the music; we embrace the imaginative possibilities of creative music making. That's one wonderful reason that we are playing some of his music tonight.

We will be aided in finding imaginative possibilities by our guest violinist, David Sariti. David is principle second violin in the Charlottesville Symphony and a professor of violin at UVA, where he is also the Director of Performance. He is an improvising classical musician, who is a longtime collaborator of both Greg Howard and me. David bridges the worlds of classical music and the improvising universe that jazz musicians inhabit.

The Jazz Ensemble has come together around this project enthusiastically, with a lot of creative input. We are particularly thrilled with our full trombone section! I want to thank each of our musicians, the veterans and the newcomers, for creating the excitement you will hear onstage. It's a joyful noise! We hope you will enjoy it!

—John D'earth

Acknowledgements

A special remembrance to the late founder of our Jazz Program, Marita McClymonds, and special thanks to The Department of Music, Scott DeVeaux, Bonnie Gordon, Mike Rosensky, Jeff Decker, Peter Spaar, Robert Jospe, JoVia Armstrong, Calvin Brown, Nicole Mitchell, Rus Perry, Brian Keena, Nathan Moore and Peter Jones of WTJU, Jeanne Fradianni, *The Jazz Society*, *The Daily Progress*, our ushers, house managers, Box Office personnel, and all the students, interns, and volunteers who help make these performances possible.

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