

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
MCINTIRE DEPARTMENT of **music**

&

THE UVA JAZZ ENSEMBLE

present

Play It Forward!

Directed by John D'earth

Featuring Guest Artists:

Composer/Percussionist

JoVia Armstrong

&

Violinist

Leslie DeShazor

Friday, November 4, 2022

8:00 pm

Old Cabell Hall

University of Virginia

The UVA Jazz Ensemble

Saxophones

Nicholas Wu, alto
Connor Rose, alto
Jack Peacock, tenor
Andrew Wittman, tenor
Tucker Benton, baritone

Trombones

Sully Higgins
Kathryn Meldrum
Lauren Vaillancourt
Will Rimicci
Braden Ciszek

Rhythm Section

Ben Berry, piano
Alexander Halpern, piano
Michael McNulty, guitar
Tyler Burkhardt, guitar
Ellis Nolan, bass
Joe Kerrigan, bass
Carl Hamilton, drums
Alex Schaefer, drums

Trumpets

Grant GianGrosso
Jared Levenson
Will Novak
Alice Pandaleon
Johnny Willey
Samuel Manford

Flute

Cole Smith

Guest Artists

Leslie DeShazor, violin
JoVia Armstrong, composition/cajon

Special Guests

Nicole Mitchell, flute
Carlehr Swanson, voice
Calvin Brown, piano

Director

John D'earth

Program

Set I

The Joker	Lee Morgan Arr. Rob Lussier
Jack The Bear	Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn
Dolphin Dance	Herbie Hancock Arr. Bob Mintzer
Moanin'	Charles Mingus Arr. Sy Johnson
Beyond Belief	John D'earth

Set II

Afrika Rising	Nicole Mitchell, <i>flute</i> Leslie DeShazor, <i>violin</i> Carlehr Swanson, <i>voice</i> Calvin Brown, <i>piano</i> JoVia Armstrong, <i>cajon</i>	Nicole Mitchell
Undiscovered D's		JoVia Armstrong
Reflections		
Babies		
Fly Mvt.II		

A Note from the Director

The band and I are thrilled to be working with JoVia Armstrong on this concert. As soon as I heard her music I had hopes of welcoming her to UVA by inviting her to collaborate with the Jazz Ensemble. As you will hear, those hopes were amply realized.

It is an honor to share the stage with the great Nicole Mitchell, who also has begun teaching in our music department. It is hugely encouraging to find creative musicians and master improvisers like JoVia and Nicole joining our academic faculty!

The band is welcoming several incoming UVA students to the band. First-year tenor players Jack Peacock and Andrew Wittman (whose father played lead alto in the band a generation ago) will be featured along with first year trumpeter Johnny Willey, alto saxophonist Connor Rose, pianist Alex Halpern, drummer Alex Schaefer, and Sammy Manford, a transfer student from Ghana. They will be joining a strong lineup of veteran soloists and section players, including Nick Wu, on lead alto, Will Novak on trumpet, Carl Hamilton on drums, Ben Berry on piano, bassist Ellis Nolan, flutist Cole Smith, and Tucker Benton on baritone sax. The ensemble also welcomes fourth-year bassist, Joe Kerrigan, who will perform the classic Ellington outing for standup bass: Jack The Bear. Grant GianGrosso, a second-year, will be playing lead trumpet, supported by trumpeters Alice Pandeleon and Jared Levenson. After a paucity of trombonists in the past, the band now boasts a five-member bone section, anchored by lead player, Sully Higgins, and joined by veterans Kate Meldrum, and Will Rimicci, and two first-year standouts, Laura Vaillancourt and Braden Cizek.

The Jazz Ensemble is delighted to be back in Old Cabell Hall, live, in front of our audience. Tonight we will hear jazz classics from Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus, Herbie Hancock, and Lee Morgan. We will also hear, as we welcome JoVia Armstrong to UVA and to the bandstand tonight, some of the newest music out there.

Enjoy!

–John D'earth

About Our Guest Artists



Percussionist, sound artist, composer, and educator from Detroit, MI **JoVia Armstrong** is a new faculty member in the Department of Music. An award winning percussionist and composer, she endorses several companies, including Sabian, Gon Bops, QSC, and Icon Pro Audio. In 2015, she won the Best Black Female Percussionist of the Year through the Black Women in Jazz Awards and received the 3Arts Siragusa Foundation Artist Award in 2011 for her work as an educator. JoVia sits on the executive

board of Chicago's AACM as Secretary. She has performed with Omar, Res, Syleena Johnson, Frank McComb, El DeBarge, Eric Roberson, Rahsaan Patterson, Maysa, The Impressions, Nicole Mitchell, Ballaké Sissoko, Babani Kone, JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound, and Chilean artist Joe Vasconcellos. She also served as tour manager and percussionist for Les Nubians and others.

She earned a Ph.D. in the Integrated Composition, Improvisation, and Technology program from the University of California-Irvine in June 2022. Her recently released album, *The Antidote Suite*, has received critical reviews in publications such as *Downbeat Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wire*. The album was listed as a notable release on NPR's *All Things Considered* and Bandcamp Daily's album of the day (July 27, 2022). As a sound artist, she has composed sound for art installations, scored films, and created sound designs for gallery spaces and short independent films.



Named one of thirty Professional Movers and Shakers in the Performing Arts by Musical America in 2019 violist/violinist **Leslie DeShazor** is in demand as a soloist, teacher, and recording artist. Though classically trained, Mrs. DeShazor is a talented and diverse musician. As a soloist, she has performed with the Toledo Symphony. She is a freelance artist who performs and has performed with The Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra, Michigan Sinfonietta, CutTime Simfonica,

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Flint Symphony, The River Raisin Ragtime Revue, and Ann Arbor Symphony, as well as jazz ensembles, Leigh Daniels Ensemble the Detroit-based, Musique Noire, and Straight Ahead. She has performed and recorded with international, Grammy award-winning R&B stars Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Kem, and Aretha Franklin, as well as Grammy award-winning gospel artists Fred Hammond, Michael W. Smith, and Donnie McClurkin. She has also had the pleasure of performing with jazz greats such as Roy Hargrove, Steve Wilson, Sheila Jordan, Diane Schuur, Regina Carter, Xavier Davis, and Marcus Belgrave.

An experienced instructor, she currently teaches students of Detroit with instructional music programs offered through the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Sphinx Organization, and her own private studio. A native of Michigan, Mrs. DeShazor holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

Acknowledgements

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Also, a special thank you to faculty members Nicole Mitchell and Calvin Brown, graduate student Carlehr Swanson, and undergrad Ellis Nolan, for generously stepping up to perform on Afrika Rising.