



*University of Maryland School of Music Presents*

**SPRING CHAMBER JAZZ RECITAL NIGHT 2**  
Maryland Jazz

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 • 7:30PM

LEAH SMITH HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



**SCHOOL OF  
MUSIC**

University of Maryland School of Music Presents

## CHAMBER JAZZ RECITAL NIGHT 2

### CHAMBER JAZZ ENSEMBLES

**Mark Williams**

*Music Director*

#### Leigh Pilzer Combo

<i>Ugetsu (Fantasy in D)</i> .....	Cedar Walton arr. Charles Tolliver
<i>In a Sentimental Mood</i> .....	Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington
<i>Firm Roots</i> .....	Cedar Walton
<i>St. Thomas</i> .....	Sonny Rollins

### INTERMISSION

#### Mark Williams Combo: Tribute to Max Roach

<i>Koko</i> .....	Charlie Parker
<i>Equipose</i> .....	Stanley Cowell
<i>Little Folks</i> .....	Max Roach
<i>Delilah</i> .....	Clifford Brown and Max Roach
<i>Gertrude’s bounce</i> .....	Clifford Brown and Max Roach
<i>I get a kick out of you</i> .....	Cole Porter



Washington, DC native **Leigh Pilzer** is a baritone saxophone specialist, composer, arranger, and educator. Her performance resume includes appearances with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, The DIVA Jazz Orchestra, the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra and Baltimore's Soulful Symphony. She is also a bandleader in her own right, leading bands from duo to septet. Pilzer has presented her groups to enthusiastic audience response at top venues including Blues Alley and Keystone Korner.

Pilzer is an in-demand composer and arranger whose music is performed by jazz ensembles and brass quintets throughout the country. Pilzer is a Brava Jazz Publishing artist, and recent commissions include an arrangement for the University of Maryland Jazz Ensemble's inaugural recording. A current writing project is a library of compositions and arrangements for her seven-piece ensemble Leigh Pilzer's Seven Pointed Star. "Beatin' the Odds," the group's debut recording released in March 2024, includes eight of Pilzer's original compositions and one by long-time colleague, bassist Amy Shook, all arranged by Pilzer.

As an educator, Pilzer has served on the faculties of University of Maryland, George Mason University, and Towson University. In addition to her classroom teaching, Pilzer is an engaging speaker who has presented at the Jazz Education Network conference and for numerous educational initiatives. In recognition for Pilzer's work as a presenter, performer, educator, bandleader, and presenter, in 2023 the Capital Hill Jazz Foundation presented her with the D.C. Jazz Leaders in Service Award.

Pilzer holds a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Composition and Arranging from Berklee College of Music and two master's degrees from the University of Maryland: Jazz Studies and Saxophone Performance. In 2020 Pilzer received a doctorate in Saxophone Performance with Jazz Emphasis from George Mason University.



Five-time Grammy Jazz nominee **Mark "Notesmith" Williams** creates his own lane as a musician, producer, and educator. He shreds his trombone through all music boundaries with a distinctive, soaring sound. *The Mark Williams sound*. His vision as a producer is uniquely his own, fusing hard bop jazz with hip hop hooks to create the *Notesmith* beat. Mark's invaluable work as a teacher/professor to a younger generation of musicians spurs creativity and knowledge to all he mentors.

The Brooklyn native attended both Juilliard MAP's Program and the famed LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts, earning him a full scholarship to prestigious Howard University. While an undergrad, he caught the ear of Chuck Brown, the Godfather of the Washington, DC sound known as "Go-Go". At age 20, Mark was hired after a one show audition. He balanced studies with playing *on the road* with Brown for six years, an education that wasn't taught in the classroom. Williams completed both his BA(Music Education)/and MA(Jazz Studies) at Howard while concurrently playing in one of the most iconic bands in music history.

After leaving Brown, Mark was recruited by the legendary Count Basie Orchestra. He's been *their* trombonist for the past decade, earning his 3<sup>rd</sup> Grammy nomination for his playing on CBO's "*Live at Birdland*"(2022). Mark was also a trombonist on the highly praised *The Baylor Project*,(2022 Grammy nominated album) as his innovative sound helped create an intersection of jazz, blues, and gospel.

The "Notesmith" has also performed or recorded with Gladys Knight, Smokey Robinson, Brad Paisley, Abdullah Ibrahim, Natalie Cole, Kool and the Gang, Demi Lovato, The Skatalites, Talib Kweli, Music Soulchild, David Murray, The Roots, Macy Gray, Orrin Evans, Twyla Tharp, Harry Connick, Chris Martin (Coldplay), Common, CeeLo Green, Ben Williams, Marc Cary, and Lauren Hill.



**Maxwell Lemuel Roach** (January 10, 1924 – August 16, 2007) was an American jazz drummer and composer. A pioneer of bebop, he worked in many other styles of music, and is generally considered one of the most important drummers in history. He worked with many famous jazz musicians, including Clifford Brown, Coleman Hawkins, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Abbey Lincoln, Dinah Washington, Charles Mingus, Billy Eckstine, Stan Getz, Sonny Rollins, Eric Dolphy, and Booker Little. He also played with his

daughter Maxine Roach, Grammy nominated Violist. He was inducted into the *DownBeat* Hall of Fame in 1980 and the *Modern Drummer* Hall of Fame in 1992.

**Leigh Pilzer Combo**

Evan Hancock, *Trumpet*  
Ben Bart, *Alto Saxophone*  
Graham Gleockler, *Alto Saxophone*  
Aaron Jung, *Piano*  
Evan Nowaskey, *Bass*  
Danny Liu, *Drums*

**Mark Williams Combo**

Liam Hurlbut, *Tenor Saxophone*  
Hart Guonjian-Pettit, *Trumpet*  
Jeremiah Awoseye, *Piano*  
Henry Sheppard, *Bass*  
Zachary Dupont, *Drums*