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# Good Evening,

Tonight's performance showcases a unique collaboration between the Charleston Jazz Orchestra and Lowcountry Voices, promising an evening of sheer musical brilliance. Get ready to clap your hands, tap your feet, and let your spirits soar as we unite in celebration of the power of music.

Collaborations foster an environment ripe for innovation and creativity, which you will hear firsthand tonight. We strive for quality and innovative programs that entertain and flex our creative muscles.

If you feel moved by tonight's performance, please consider making a donation to help us continue to present exceptional big band jazz in Charleston. Until May 15, all donations are matched up to \$10,000.

Thank you for being here and supporting the Charleston Jazz Orchestra.

**Executive Director** 

Tatjana Beylotte

"What happened in Charleston, New Orleans, Memphis, Kansas City, Savannah and other cities not only illustrates the fact that jazz was born in America, their stories prove that America is built on the same principles as jazz. It's a kind of real-world metaphor. Jazz is democratic. Everyone can have something to say. It's diverse and inclusive. It's an experiment. There's never been anything like it before. It will always be a work in progress."







# A Note from Robert Lewis:

Two things that set the CJO apart from other big bands are our continued celebration of Charleston as a musical wellspring and our commitment to creating new music for ourselves to present. This show has both at once! It has been a great pleasure to work with Nate Nelson and the Lowcountry Voices. We've never collaborated with a gospel choir before, and this is their first time working with a big band, so it has been fun to figure out exactly how to make this work. Everyone involved is very excited to present the results, it's a great set of music!

We are also enjoying the opportunity to revisit some of our other favorite Charleston-related charts. It is another chance to celebrate Charleston's musical heritage, and some of the most notable jazz musicians to come from this great city. I never get tired of learning about and passing on this fantastic tradition!



Robert

Robert Lewis

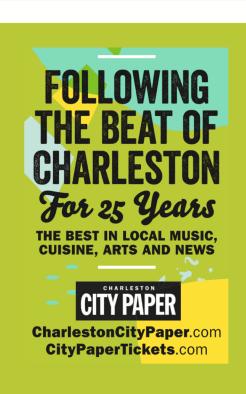
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# **Our Mission**

To grow a local and global community for jazz through performance, education, and outreach while celebrating and preserving Charleston's rich history in jazz.



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# **Musician Bios**



### Robert Lewis, CJO Music Director, Saxophone

This musical polymath plays four instruments for the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, and in his early years became accomplished on both the piano and bassoon. He began his musical journey at the age of eight. Now Director of Jazz Studies at the College of Charleston, Robert is a triple-threat – composing, performing and teaching jazz on a full-time basis.



### Jon Phillips, Alto Saxophone, Flute and Clarinet

Jon started playing music when he was five. By the time he turned 20, Jon had realized that journalism was boring and math was frustrating so he picked up the saxophone, flute, and clarinet. He's a self-taught arranger. "I owe a great debt of gratitude to all my Charleston musician friends who have instructed me along the way." His attention is drawn to smiling faces in the CJO audience.



### Jonathan Kammer Alto and Baritone Saxophone, Flute and Clarinet

Jonathan's first big break as a young musician came when he got the chance to study with Florence-native Chris Hemingway, a top-notch saxophonist fluent in classical and jazz styles. Jonathan finds inspiration from people who seek their vision of "the good" with passion and a sense of constant learning, whether they're a painter, writer, chef or political thinker.



### Mark Sterbank

Tenor and Soprano Saxophone, Clarinet and Flute Children in the Sterbank home got early musical instruction on the piano, but after three years on the keys, nine-year-old Mark picked up his uncle's saxophone. Later, he chose music education as a profession, his mother's career. Mark is a Full Professor of Jazz Studies and Saxophone at Charleston Southern University. He directs the university's jazz ensembles and teaches a variety of subjects.



### Lauren Meccia, Tenor Saxophone, Clarinet and Flute

Lauren Meccia is an instructor of Jazz Studies at the University of South Carolina and a member of the South Carolina Jazz Masterworks Ensemble. Meccia has been featured at the National Association of Music Merchants Show. She has appeared in concert with Kenny Barron, Chris Potter, Jeff Coffin, Wycliffe Gordon, Tommy Igoe, Veronica Swift, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Temptations, Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs, and Jesse Colin Young.



### Melvin Benjamin, Baritone Saxophone

Melvin's professional music career started when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as a tubist. During his time in the military, he learned how to play the saxophone, clarinet, flute, and oboe. Now, he regularly works in the pit orchestra of various musical theater performances presented by The Arts Center for Coastal Carolina, Big Daddy Cade and The Blues Masters, and Tower of Funk & The Choosy Mother's Horns. Melvin currently resides in Ladson, SC.



### Chuck Dalton, Trumpet

Born and bred in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Chuck has been deeply influenced by the gospel and soul music native to rural Kentucky. Chuck's musical resumé is a walk down memory lane - he's performed with Frank Sinatra and Elton John, Tony Bennett and Sammy Davis, Jr., and the list goes on! Chuck works regularly with the Jennifer & Brad Moranz Productions, co-leads the party band 17 SOUTH and subs as trumpet for the Charleston Symphony's pop concerts.



### Kyle Lane, Trumpet

Kyle Lane is a trumpet player, composer, arranger, and General Manager of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Originally from Denver, Kyle received his Bachelor of Music from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and a Master from the Mannes College of Music. He has played with the likes of Doc Severinsen, John Faddis, and Johnny Mathis. Kyle has arranged works for the Charleston Symphony and Ranky Tanky, and he was commissioned to write a fanfare for the opening of the Gaillard Center by the city of Charleston.



#### Cameron Handel, Trumpet

A Charleston native, Cameron attended Laing Middle, Wando High, the University of Georgia, and the College of Charleston. She's been inspired by Louis Armstrong, Wynton Marsalis, and Trombone Shorty, among others. Over the years, she's performed with Adele, Michael Bolton, Seal, Wycliffe Gordon and more. When she's not on stage or caring for her two young children, Cameron gives lessons at local middle schools and Wando High.



### Kevin Hackler, Trumpet

Kevin was born in bluegrass country, Galax, Virginia. Kevin revels in Big Band music, "the style played on Duke Ellington's Live at the Blue Note. It doesn't get any better than that." He first learned Big Band from trumpet legend Flea Campbell, who he first played with at age sixteen. According to Kevin, "Flea taught me 90% of what | know about Big Band section playing." By day, Kevin is a business and litigation attorney.



### Stephen Spaulding, Trombone

Stephen grew up surrounded by music. Hailing from Long Island, New York, and currently living in West Ashley, Stephen studied music at Florida State University. He was inspired by the great Jim Pankow, a trombone player and composer best known as a founding member of the rock band Chicago. Looking back on his storied career, Stephen says he "always recalls fondly the experience of performing in outdoor music festivals for thousands.



### Gavin Smith, Trombone

The music of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong inspired Gavin to pick up a horn and begin his jazz journey. Former Charleston Jazz Orchestra music director, Charlton Singleton, was Gavin's sixth-grade band director, and current member, Ken Foberg, became Gavin's lifelong teacher, mentor, and friend. Smith attended Berklee College of Music. A highlight in his career was recording "Turn It Up" with Hootie & The Blowfish.



### Ken Foburg, Trombone

Ken's musical footprint is broad, wide, and historic. He's performed with some of the all-time greats, including Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, and more. He studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Now passionate about teaching, he works with students at local schools and offers private lessons at home for lower brass. "Playing music energizes my soul," says Ken, "it makes me feel invigorated. It makes me happy!"



### Jonathan Yeager, Bass Trombone

Jon grew up in southern California with parents who supported his musical endeavors. He studied with studio great, George Roberts, during his high school years. Yeager earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Humboldt State University, and he holds Master's and Doctoral degrees in Performance from the University of North Texas. He cites one of the greatest teaching challenges as figuring out how to teach band via Zoom.



### Gerald Gregory, Piano

If you're ever roaming the streets on concert night, and spot a man in a tux, skateboarding at top speed to the Charleston Music Hall, well then, you've probably just seen CJO pianist Gerald Gregory. Born in Roanoke, Virginia, Gerald grew up listening to the likes of Erroll Garner and Oscar Peterson. He studied under both Randy Hurt in Roanoke and Tommy Gill at the College of Charleston. Of late, he's fallen in love with piano trio-style jazz.



### Tyler Ross, Guitar

Tyler was born and bred in Neenah, Wisconsin, and credits his strong work ethic and devotion to music to his upbringing. Tyler took to guitar at age 12, and "as soon as I picked up the guitar, I was writing song. I work on writing every day." His craft was honed at the University of Wisconsin-Steven's Point and Western Illinois University. As a member of the College of Charleston Jazz Faculty, he teaches jazz combo, guitar ensemble, and jazz repertoire class.



### Frank Duvall, Bass

Frank was educated in country, bluegrass, and gospel. "I'm sure it's played a part in my musical development," he says. Duvall has performed with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy Greco, Bill Eckstine, Marian McPartland ("I had the pleasure of performing multiple duo concerts with Marian ... she was a joy to work with, and also had a great sense of humor"), Bob Alberti, Buddy DeFranco, Harry Allen, Scott Hamilton, John Colinai and Bill Charlap.



#### Ron Wiltrout, Drums

Ron studied music at the University of South Carolina. As a professional drummer, Ron has forged long-lasting relationships across many genres. "Some of my greatest achievements are when I spend a week playing six different gigs with six different groups playing six different styles or roles, and they all feel good and natural. It makes people smile at the end."



# Song List

### Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Composed by Kenneth Morris Arranged by Frank Duvall

### Down by the River

Composed by Bishop Ronald E. Brown Arranged by Kevin Patton

### Beams of Heaven

Composed by Charles Tindley Adapted by Robert Lewis

### Oh Happy Day

Composed by Edwin Hawkins Arranged by Kevin Patton

### Summertime, from Porgy and Bess

Composed by Gershwin/Hayward Arranged by Robert Lewis

# A Woman is a Sometime Thing, from Porgy and Bess

Composed by Gershwin/Hayward Arranged by Robert Lewis

### Take Me to the Water

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Robert Lewis

# The Blood Will Never Lose its Power

Composed by Andraé Crouch Arranged by Kevin Patton

### Holy City

Composed and Arranged by Etienne Charles

#### Corner Pocket

Composed by Freddie Green Transcribed by Myles Collins

### Such Sweet Thunder

Composed by Ellington/Strayhorn Adapted by Charlton Singleton

### **Festival Junction**

Composed by Duke Ellington Arranged by Robert Lewis

### The Charleston

Composed by James P. Johnson Arranged by Charlton Singleton

# **Lowcountry Voices**

Lowcountry Voices is a multicultural and ethnically diverse choral performing arts organization. The ensemble performs all genres of choral music with an emphasis on African-American music performed in the South Carolina Lowcountry tradition. Its repertoire includes gospel music, spirituals, hymns, jazz, classical choral music, along with music from the theater and movies.

### Director

Nathan L. Nelson

#### Tenors:

Derrick Chisholm Jacque Frazier Santita Mitchell CeCe Fields Grace Ramsey

#### Sopranos:

Canatrian Nelson Jennifer Ancrum Linda Russell

#### Altos:

Tierra Thompson Monica Hammonds Annette Gadsden



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July 22-26: The Standards



Register: charlestonjazz.com

# Your Giving In Action

Our May Giving Campaign (May 1-15) is in full swing and we'd like to thank the many champions of jazz who are dedicated to uplifting our community. Below are the programs that YOU make possible!

# Jazz Performance

Our vision is to positively impact lives through music within a collaborative community that celebrates and perpetuates jazz. Presenting live jazz performances is central to our purpose of celebrating this great art form. We showcase renowned professional musicians in live jazz performances through the following programs:

## Charleston Jazz Orchestra

Our 18-member ensemble presents a full season featuring renowned guest stars from around the world.



### Momentum

Momentum is what happens when jazz collides with Fusion, R&B, Soul, Jazz, and Gospel! Warning - things might get a little funky, and we can't guarantee you'll stay in your seat!

# **Art of Jazz**

If art was a song, what would it sound like? In this series, jazz composers create original music inspired by works on display at the Gibbes Museum.



### **Charleston Jazz Festival**

Imagine spending four days soaking up world-class jazz! Enjoy a taste of the vibrant local jazz scene and appearances by international headliners.

# **Jazz Education & Outreach**

Our education programs cultivate a community where all people can experience the joy of music and understand and appreciate the value and legacy of jazz. In 2023, we served over 4,200 students.

# **Charleston Jazz Academy**

We provide classes, camps and masterclasses to students of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Typically, 40-60% of students are enrolled on a full financial needsbased scholarship. In 2023, we provided \$86,000 in scholarships.

Our advanced combo will be performing during the Spoleto Festival Opening Ceremony on May 30 at 12pm.



### Jazz in Schools

Do you remember the first time you heard jazz? We present in-school programs, master classes, and performances that educate, inspire and make impactful jazz experiences accessible to schools.



# Jazz Pass Program

K-12 students have access to world-class jazz performances at no cost through our partnerships with area schools. In 2023, we provided 688 jazz passes to students.

# Jazz Day for Kids

1,400+ K-12 students enjoy a live big band performance featuring members of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra and Charlton Singleton at the Gailliard Center.

# **Noteworthy**



This October, we are hosting acclaimed jazz performer and educator Stefon Harris for a one-week residency.

During the residency, he will visit with 6-8 schools to conduct educational programs, teach our students at the Charleston Jazz Academy, and perform with the Charleston Jazz Orchestra.

Stefon Harris is also our guest artist for our annual gala on October 18th at the American Theater. Guests will enjoy performances by Stefon Harris and Charleston Jazz Academy students, as well as a live auction, dinner, open bar, and more! Proceeds will benefit our jazz education programs.



# Jazz May Giving Campaign May 1-15, 2024

May we count on your support?

Join us in raising \$40,000 by May 15 to sustain our vibrant jazz community. A \$10,000 match will double your impact dollar for dollar!



Scan QR code for one-time or recurring giving, or visit: charlestonjazz.com/support

# Thank you to our Community Partners

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My Shining Hour With Manny Houston

# Sept 14

Cha-Cha Charleston! With Gino Castillo + Yusa

## Mar 23

Bop 'Till You Drop

## **Oct 19**

Good Vibes
With Stefon Harris

## May 11

Lowcountry Rhythms
With Lowcountry Voices

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"The CJO is a big factor in maintaining Charleston's status as a world-class city for the arts."

-Peter K., Google Review

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