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# Welcome to an Unforgettable Evening of Jazz!

On behalf of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, I am thrilled to welcome you to a very special evening as we present the legendary Stefon Harris. Tonight, we are honored to have one of the most dynamic and inventive vibraphonists of our time joining the stage, bringing his extraordinary talent and passion for jazz to Charleston.



Stefon Harris is more than a master musician—he's a visionary in the jazz world, celebrated for his impeccable technique and his boundary-pushing artistry. Whether it's through his transformative compositions or his innovative improvisations, Harris has redefined what it means to be a modern jazz artist. His performances are renowned for their emotional depth, rhythmic complexity, and seamless collaboration with the ensemble, and tonight is sure to be no exception.

This evening's concert is a testament to our commitment to bringing world-class musicianship to Charleston while honoring the rich traditions of jazz. It's also a moment to celebrate our ongoing work in jazz education at our Charleston Jazz Academy and the greater community. Stefon Harris has been in residence at the Academy all week conducting masterclasses and performances in seven public schools and mentoring the next generation at the Academy.

We are grateful for your presence tonight and for your continued support of Charleston Jazz.

Enjoy the show!

Tatjana Beylotte
Executive Director





# **Charleston Jazz Team**

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Director
BRENT SWANEY, Director of

Performances

DEMETRIUS DOCTOR, Director of the

Academy

LACY MILLER, Director of Marketing &

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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.

# **Our Mission In Action**

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 a variety of programs.

If you would like to support the work of Charleston Jazz, consider making a donation: charlestonjazz.com/support

# Jazz Performance

## 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.

Around 50% of students are enrolled on a full financial needsbased scholarship. In 2023, we provided \$86,000 in scholarships.



#### Jazz in Schools

We present in-school programs, master classes, and performances that educate, inspire and make impactful jazz experiences accessible to schools throughout our community.

### 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.

# Learn More About Our Programs:

CharlestonJazz.com



# **Charleston Jazz Academy**

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## **SEASON 16**

# Holiday Swing

**Charleston Jazz Orchestra** 



The Most Popular Show of the Season!



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5:00 PM + 8:00 PM
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# Song List

#### Soul Eyes

Composed by Mal Waldron Arranged by Robert Lewis

#### What a Wonderful World

Composed by George Weiss & Bob Thiele Arranged by Scott Arcangel

#### Blues for Denial

Composed by Stefon Harris Adapted by John Mills

#### Ellison's Song

Composed by Stefon Harris Arranged by Scott Arcangel

#### Devil in the Details

Composed by Stefon Harris Arranged by Omar Thomas

#### Cape Verdean Blues

Composed by Horace Silver Arranged by Stefon Harris

#### Summertime

Composed by George Gershwin Arranged by Stefon Harris

# A Note from Robert Lewis:



We are incredibly excited about the 2025 season with the Charleston Jazz Orchestra. We're pushing the boundaries of our performances, blending the timeless essence of jazz with fresh, innovative ideas. From iconic tributes to groundbreaking new compositions, our goal is to take audiences on a musical journey that honors the rich history of jazz while showcasing its ever-evolving future. We have an extraordinary lineup of guest artists and special performances planned, and I can't wait to share the magic of big band jazz with our community.

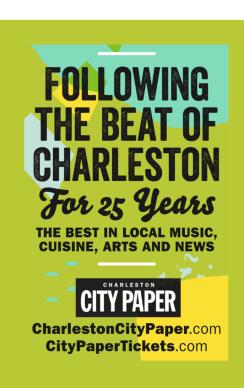
Robert Lewis

Music Director, Charleston Jazz Orchestra



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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 realized that journalism was boring and math was frustrating, so he picked up the saxophone, flute, and clarinet. He is also a self-taught arranger. In Jon's words, "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.



#### Kevin Patton, Tenor Saxophone

Kevin Patton is a composer, saxophonist, and entrepreneur located in Charleston, S.C. He graduated from College of Charleston in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Performance. Since then he has released an album titled "Full Authority" and a new single titled "It All Works Out". In addition to composing and recording, he teaches at Allegro Charter School of Music. Kevin is led by his faith and performs regularly at his church, World Overcomers Ministries.



#### 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 Mothe



#### 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 I 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.



#### Demetrius Docor, Piano

A highly sought-after musician, bandleader, arranger, and producer, Doctor is the Director of the Charleston Jazz Academy and leader of Momentum. Demetrius is a favorite guest performer with the Charleston Jazz Orchestra. He has had the opportunity to work with gospel artists like Tye Tribbett, Jonathan Nelson, and Duranice Pace, as well as jazz musicians like Fred Wesley and Freddy Cole. Doctor has toured Italy, Spain, Croatia, and the United States.



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#### 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."



#### Stefon Harris, Vibraphone

Grammy-nominee Stefon Harris is a jazz vibraphonist, composer, educator, and recording artist signed to the prestigious Blue Note record label. Harris' 2003 album The Grand Unification Theory received the coveted Martin E. Segal Award from Jazz at Lincoln Center. Stefon has collaborated with some of the biggest names in jazz, including Diana Krall, Norah Jones, and Janis Siegle (Manhattan Transfer), and has toured as a member of the SFJazz Collective.

Harris is a passionate educator who has taught at universities throughout the world, led curriculum development at the Brubeck Institute, served as a part of the jazz faculty at New York University, and formerly served as the Associate Dean and Director of Jazz Arts at Manhattan School of Music. He is currently Artistic Advisor of Jazz Education at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) and is a tenured Associate Professor of Music at Rutgers University – Newark.

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# Charleston Jazz Orchestra



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