Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 7:30pm
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY SMALL GROUPS
Rudresh Mahanthappa, Director

PROGRAM
Selections to be announced from the following

SMALL GROUP A
Hackensack by Thelonious Monk
Tenor Madness by Sonny Rollins
Softly as in a Morning Sunrise by Sigmund Romberg and Oscar Hammerstein II
Impressions by John Coltrane

INTERMISSION

SMALL GROUP I
Circus by Rudresh Mahanthappa
Soft by Rudresh Mahanthappa
The Eternal Triangle by Sonny Stitt
Think of One by Thelonious Monk
Tundergarth by Alexander Laurenzi
Las Venas Abiertas by Diego Aldarondo
Jazz at Princeton University serves to promote this uniquely American music as a contemporary and relevant art form. Our goals are to convey the vast musical and social history of jazz, establish a strong theoretical and stylistic foundation with regard to improvisation and composition, and emphasize the development of individual expression and creativity. Offerings of this program include academic course work, performing ensembles, master classes, private study, and independent projects.

We thank you for joining us on this evening’s journey of beauty, exploration, discovery, and hope.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Few musicians share the ability of Rudresh Mahanthappa to embody the expansive possibilities of his music with his culture. The saxophonist/composer hybridizes progressive jazz and South Indian classical music in a fluid and forward-looking form reflecting his own experience growing up a second-generation Indian-American. Just as his personal experience is never wholly lived on one side of the hyphenate or the other, his music speaks in a voice dedicated to forging a new path forward.

The current manifestations of that trajectory include his latest project Bird Calls (2015), which was named #1 jazz album of 2015 by both Downbeat Magazine and NPR Music’s Jazz Critics Poll. This 21st Century tribute to Charlie Parker includes a stellar band of pianist Matt Mitchell, bassist François Moutin, drummer Rudy Royston, and 20-year old trumpet prodigy Adam O’Farrill. The 2013 album Gamak featured guitarist David “Fuze” Fiuczynski, whose own microtonal vocabulary opened new possibilities for Mahanthappa’s compositional imagination, alongside bassist Francois Moutin and drummer Dan Weiss. The 2010 release of Samdhi (ACT Music + Vision), a multi-cultural ensemble that advances Mahanthappa’s blend of jazz and Indian music with modernist electronic music, was described by JazzTimes as “a landmark convergence of styles that didn’t lend itself to easy analysis... new music of this caliber hasn’t been attempted before.” Other recent projects run the gamut from the cross-generational alto summit Apex featuring Bunky Green; trios MSG and Mauger; the quintet Dual Identity co-led with fellow altoist Steve Lehman; and Raw Materials, his long-running duo project with pianist Vijay Iyer. Mahanthappa also continues to partner with Pakistani-American guitarist Rez Abbasi and innovative percussionist Dan Weiss in the Indo-Pak Coalition, while giants in both jazz and South Indian music have recognized his success: he was enlisted by Jack DeJohnette for the legendary drummer’s recent working group, while a collaboration with the renowned Carnatic saxophonist Kadri Gopalnath resulted in Mahanthappa’s critically- acclaimed 2008 CD Kinsmen (Pi).

Hailed by The New York Times as possessing “a roving intellect and a bladelike articulation,” Mahanthapa has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, two New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships, and numerous commissions. Downbeat Magazine’s International Critics Polls and the Jazz Journalists’ Association have named him alto saxophonist of the year numerous times (including 2016). In April 2013, he received a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, one of the most prominent arts awards in the world. In 2015, he was named a United States Artists Fellow. Mahanthappa is the Anthony H. P. Lee ’79 Director of Jazz at Princeton University. Mahanthappa is a Yamaha artist and uses Vandoren reeds exclusively.
Upcoming Music at Princeton Events

Thursday, December 8, 7:30pm
Friday, December 9, 7:30pm
Princeton University Orchestra
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

Sunday, December 11, 3pm
Princeton University Glee Club
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

Monday, December 12, 7:30pm
MUS 215 Projects in Jazz Performance Course Recital
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

Tuesday, December 13, 8pm
Princeton Sound Kitchen
Freelance Concert
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

Wednesday, December 14, 7:30pm
Princeton University Wind Ensemble
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

Tuesday, January 10, 7:30pm
MUS 213: Projects in Chamber Music Performance Final Recital
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

Saturday, January 14, 12noon-6pm
House of Sound Electronic Music Installation
Woolworth Center for Musical Studies

Saturday, January 14, 7:30pm
MUS 219: Opera Performance Scenes from Mozart Operas
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

Wednesday, January 18, 8pm
Takács String Quartet
Beethoven Cycle Concert III
presented by Princeton University Concerts
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

Thursday, January 19, 8pm
Takács String Quartet
Beethoven Cycle Concert IV
presented by Princeton University Concerts
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

Friday, January 20, 8pm
MUS 310 Composition Recital
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

Tuesday, February 7, 8pm
Princeton Sound Kitchen
Shattered Glass String Orchestra
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

Friday, February 10, 1pm
Masterclass with REBEL Baroque Ensemble and members of Early Music Princeton
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

Friday, February 10, 7pm
REBEL Baroque Ensemble
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

For more information visit princeton.edu/music