

Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 8:00pm  
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

# **JAZZ** at **PRINCETON** UNIVERSITY

## **JAZZ AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY SMALL GROUPS**

Rudresh Mahanthappa, Director

### **SMALL GROUP I**

Alex Laurenzi '20, *Alto Saxophone*  
John "Jack" Johnson '23, *Tenor Saxophone*  
Jeffrey Gordon '22, *Guitar*  
Phillip Taylor '21, *Piano*  
Chloe Raichle '23, *Bass*  
Maya Stepanksy '22, *Drums*

### **SMALL GROUP A**

Will Grear '20, *Trumpet*  
Preston Lust, '23, *Alto Saxophone*  
Evan Deturk '23, *Tenor Saxophone*  
Maya Keren '22, *Piano*  
Max Manicone '21, *Guitar*  
Akiva Jacobs '22, *Bass*  
Ben Alessio '21, *Drums*

*Selections to be announced from the stage*

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Hailed by *Pitchfork* as “jaw-dropping... one of the finest saxophonists going,” alto saxophonist, composer, and educator **Rudresh Mahanthappa** is widely known as one of the premier voices in jazz of the 21st century. He has over a dozen albums to his credit, including the acclaimed *Bird Calls*, which topped many critics’ best-of-year lists for 2015 and was hailed by *PopMatters* as “complex, rhythmically vital, free in spirit while still criss-crossed with mutating structures.” He has been named alto saxophonist of the year for seven of eight years running in the *Downbeat Magazine*’s International Critics’ Polls (2011-2013, 2015-2018), and for five consecutive years by the Jazz Journalists’ Association (2009-2013) and again in 2016. He won alto saxophonist of the year in the 2015-2017 *JazzTimes Magazine* Critics’ Poll and was named by the *Village Voice* as “Best Jazz Artist” in 2015. He has also received the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, among other honors, and is currently the Anthony H. P. Lee ’79 Director of Jazz at Princeton University.

Born in Trieste, Italy to Indian émigrés in 1971, Mahanthappa was brought up in Boulder, Colorado and gained proficiency playing everything from current pop to Dixieland. He went on to studies at North Texas, Berklee, and DePaul University (as well as the Stanford Jazz Workshop) and came to settle in Chicago. Soon after moving to New York City in 1997, he formed his own quartet featuring pianist Vijay Iyer. The band recorded an enduring sequence of albums, *Black Water*, *Mother Tongue*, and *Codebook*, each highlighting Mahanthappa’s inventive methodologies and deeply personal approach to composition. He and Iyer also formed the duo Raw Materials.

Coming deeper into contact with the Carnatic music of his parents’ native southern India, Mahanthappa partnered in 2008 with fellow altoist Kadri Gopalnath and the Dakshina Ensemble for *Kinsmen*, garnering wide acclaim. *Apti*, the first outing by Mahanthappa’s Indo-Pak Coalition (with Pakistani-born Rez Abbasi on guitar and Dan Weiss on tabla), saw release the same year; *Agrima* followed nine years later and considerably expanded the trio’s sonic ambitions. In 2020, Rudresh will be debuting a new trio as well as co-leading a project celebrating the centenary of Charlie Parker.

Mahanthappa has also worked with drummer Jack DeJohnette, bassist Mark Dresser, pianist Danilo Pérez, Arturo O’Farrill’s Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, the collaborative trios MSG and Mauger, the co-led quintet Dual Identity with fellow altoist Steve Lehman, and another co-led quintet with fellow altoist and Chicago stalwart Bunky Green (*Apex*). His exploratory

guitar-driven quartets on *Samdhi* and *Gamak* featured David Gilmore and Dave “Fuze” Fiuczynski, respectively. In 2015 he was commissioned by Ragamala Dance to create *Song of the Jasmine* for dancers and a hybrid jazz/South Indian ensemble. He was also commissioned by the PRISM Saxophone Quartet to compose a chamber piece, *I Will Not Apologize for My Tone Tonight*, which can be heard on the quartet’s 2015 double disc release *Heritage/ Evolution, Volume 1*. Mahanthappa is a Yamaha artist and uses Vandoren reeds exclusively.

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**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.



To join the Jazz at Princeton University email list, scan the QR code to the left and enter your information, or send an email to [jazz@princeton.edu](mailto:jazz@princeton.edu)

# *Upcoming Music at Princeton Events*

Monday, November 18, 7:30pm  
***Ensemble Basiani,  
Georgian State Vocal Ensemble***  
presented by Princeton University Concerts  
Princeton University Chapel

Tuesday, November 19, 8:00pm  
***Princeton Sound Kitchen:  
Movie Night***  
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Thursday, November 21, 7:30pm  
***Jazz at Princeton:  
Jazz Vocal Collective***  
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Friday, November 22, 7:30pm  
***Early Music Princeton  
Carlos Fittante and  
Caitlin Klinger, Baroque Dancers***  
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Saturday, November 23, 8:00 PM  
***Jazz at Princeton:  
Creative Large Ensemble***  
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

Sunday, November 24, 3:00pm  
***Richardson Chamber Players***  
presented by Princeton University Concerts  
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

Tuesday, December 3, 8:00pm  
***Princeton Sound Kitchen:  
Freelance Concert***  
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Wednesday, December 4, 7:30pm  
***Jazz at Princeton:  
Jazz Small Groups in Concert***  
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Thursday, December 5, 7:30pm  
Friday, December 6, 7:30pm  
***Princeton University Orchestra***  
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

Saturday, December 7, 7:30pm  
***African Drumming and Dance Ensemble***  
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Sunday, December 8, 3:00pm  
***Princeton University Glee Club***  
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

For more information visit [princeton.edu/music](http://princeton.edu/music)