

THE BUTLER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
presents

The MUSIC *at* BUTLER *Series*

BUTLER UNIVERSITY JAZZ COMBOS

Jessie Wittman, Sean Imboden
Kent Hickey, Sandy Williams
Chelsea Hughey, and Richard Dole, *instructors*

with guest artist

Steve Allee, *pianist/composer*

Thursday, October 29, 2026
7:30 P.M.
The Krannert Room

PROGRAM

Sandy Williams and Kent Hickey, *instructors*

Lips

Steve Allee (b. 1950)

Social Call

Gigi Gryce (1925-1983)

lyrics by Jon Hendricks (1921-2017)

Chelsea Hughey, *instructor*

Autumn Leaves

Joseph Kosma (1905-1969)

Johnny Mercer (1909-1976)

Bubbles

Steve Allee

Richard Dole, *instructor*

Stan's the Man

Steve Allee

O.U.T.

The Ensemble

Sean Imboden, *instructor*

Here's That Rainy Day

Jimmy Van Heusen (1913-1990)

arr. Samuel Weber

Sputnik

Steve Allee

Jesse Wittman, *instructor*

Yummy

Steve Allee

The Village Masters

Steve Allee

BUTLER UNIVERSITY JAZZ COMBOS

Sean Imboden, Instructor

Samuel Weber - Trumpet
Alejandro Lopez - Tenor Saxophone
Elias Sanchez - Trombone
Eli Osborne - Piano
Owen Gohr - Bass
Matthew Norton - Drums

Chelsea Hughey, Instructor

Braedon Hoy - Trumpet
Olivia Vogel - Alto Saxophone/Voice
Embry Horal - Piano
Asha Gupta - Bass
Solomon Jordan - Drums

Richard Dole, Instructor

Grayson Buck - Baritone Saxophone
Xavier Newton - Alto Saxophone
A.J. Lemott - Trombone
Jonathan Mills - Trombone
Zach Girton - Piano
Damen Means - Guitar
Donnie Bryant - Bass
Parker Williams - Drums

Jesse Wittman, Instructor

David Strayhorn - Trumpet
Matthew Campitelli - Trombone
Silas Owens - Saxophone
Devon Wiley - Guitar
Brodie Drane - Bass
Santino Caringella - Drums

Sandy Williams/Kent Hickey, Instructors

Amy Yactayo - Trumpet/Voice
Samuel Gonzalez - Tenor Saxophone
Joshua Buckler - Trombone
Dirui Jiang - Bass
Donnie Bryant - Guitar
Matthew Rhoad - Drums

ABOUT THE BUTLER UNIVERSITY JAZZ PROGRAM

The award-winning Butler University Jazz Program consists of eight performance ensembles and multiple courses on a variety of jazz-related topics. Since 2008, the students have performed with world-renowned guest artists such as Kenny Barron, Cécile McLorin-Salvant, Sullivan Fortner, John Clayton, Benny Golson, Wycliffe Gordon, Stefon Harris, Maria Schneider, Kurt Elling, Christian McBride, Bobby Sanabria, Donny McCaslin, Fred Sturm, Robert Baca, Melvin Rhyne, Steve Allee, Ted Poor, and the Wee Trio.

In the past decade, the Butler University Jazz Program ensembles have been selected to perform at several prestigious conferences including the 2023 Midwest Clinic: International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago and the 2024 Western International Band Clinic in Seattle. The ensembles have also performed at the Indiana Music Educators Association State Conference in 2023, 2020, and 2014.

The Butler University Jazz Ensemble has been the recipient of many awards, including being honored as the winner of the Downbeat Student Music Awards Undergraduate Large Ensemble Category in 2020 and 2025.

In addition to performing a variety of regular on-campus concerts, the ensembles have performed at professional venues and festivals such as the Freddie Hubbard Jazz Festival, The Carmel Jazz Festival, The Jazz Kitchen, Indy Jazz Fest, and Jazz at the Bistro. Since 2008, the program has toured to New Orleans, Memphis, Chicago, and St. Louis.

Butler University Jazz is very active in educational and outreach programs including the Benny Golson Jazz Festival, the Butler Youth Jazz Program, and the Butler Summer Jazz Camp.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

STEVE ALLEE

Steve Allee, born in Indianapolis, IN, attended Ben Davis High School and Indiana University. He studied with arranger Jim Edison and pianist Claude Sifferlen. He joined the Buddy Rich band at age 19 but was subsequently drafted into the U.S. Army. Upon release, he joined the Baron Von Ohlen Quartet and recorded "The Baron" on Stan Kenton's Creative World Label. Two years later, John Von Ohlen formed the Von Ohlen / Chuck Carter Big Band and Steve was a contributing writer. They recorded "Live" on the MoPro label and later "Downtown Blues" on the Seabreeze label.

Steve is a Yamaha Performing Artist and has performed with Buddy Rich, Slide Hampton, James Moody, Benny Golson, Curtis Fuller, Milt Hinton, Jonathan Blake, J.C. Heard, Alan Dawson, Jimmy Cobb, Peter Erskine, Dave Liebman, Steve Houghton, Rufus Reid, Duduka DaFonseca, David Baker, Rusty Burge, Gary Bartz, Louis Hayes, Randy Brecker, Bobby Watson, Rob Dixon, Frank Glover, Chip McNeil, Bob Sheppard, Charlie Rouse, Ed Thigpen, Joe Lavano, Russell Webster, Alonzo 'Pookie' Johnson, Jimmy Coe, David Young, Virgil Jones, James Spaulding, Steve Wilson, Chuck Carter, Sean Jones, Ingrid Jensen, Joe Locke, Toninho Horta, Jim Pugh, and Sean Jones

Steve has been a member of the Rufus Reid "Out Front Trio" for 12 years. Their trio recording was on the "Jazz Week" radio charts for 20 weeks, including the #1 spot. He also performed on Rufus Reid's Grammy-nominated "Quiet Pride" Big Band Project on the Motema label.

Steve has opened for Bill Evans and Tony Bennett and performed for George HW Bush and Bill Clinton. He recently performed at the Chicago, Rochester, Skidmore, Montreal, Mid-Atlantic, Indy, and Miami Jazz Festivals. Steve received a Marconi Award as Music Director for the nationally syndicated radio show, "The Bob and Tom Show."

As a composer, Steve has written the soundtracks for the documentary "New York in the Fifties" and the film "Something to Cheer About." Steve's big band compositions have been performed multiple years by the Disneyland Honor All-Star Bands in Anaheim, CA. His songs have also been featured in all-state band performances in Massachusetts, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Steve recently conducted the Ohio All State Band for the Ohio Music Educators Conference. His composition "Dragonfly" was premiered in Washington DC and performed by the "US Army Blues."

Steve's latest writing project is a commission he received from the Indy Jazz Fest titled "Vision and Legacy: A Tribute to Indy Jazz Mentors." This commission and performance will feature Steve's big band and special guest artists.

As an educator, he has been a professor of jazz studies at Indiana University, IUPUI at Indianapolis, the University of Indianapolis, and the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Steve has performed nationally as a featured guest artist and conductor.

JESSE WITTMAN

Jesse Wittman is a bassist, composer, educator, and recording artist based in Indianapolis, Indiana. He holds a degree in Jazz Studies from Indiana University, where he studied with David Baker and Bruce Bransby. He also holds a master's degree in Composition from Butler University, where he studied with James Aikman and Michael Shelle. He currently teaches jazz bass at Butler University, and has had the pleasure of working with great musicians around the country such as Nicole Henry, Marvin Hamlisch, Steve Houton, Anne Hampton Callaway, and trombonist Steve Davis.

SEAN IMBODEN

Sean Imboden is an American saxophonist and composer. Sean toured internationally for many years with various Broadway productions, and as a featured soloist with Blast II. He has performed on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and with the Radio City Music Hall Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, Barry Manilow, Johnny Mathis, Idina Menzel, and Slide Hampton.

Sean currently leads three distinct groups, each with a unique sound which feature his original compositions: a trio, a sextet, and a large ensemble. He is also a member of Tucker Brothers, Indy Saxophone Quartet, Hickey-Shanafelt 9ollective, and Butler Generations Ensemble. Sean teaches at Butler University, Ball State University, and online through his Virtual Studio.

RICHARD DOLE

Richard Dole is an active tenor/bass trombonist and educator in Indianapolis and the surrounding region. He performs with several regional orchestras including Sinfonia da Camera Orchestra in Champaign/Urbana Illinois, The Illinois Symphony, Danville Symphony, Carmel Symphony, and the Anderson Symphony Orchestra. He has toured or performed with Aretha Franklin, Johnny Mathis, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Steve Lawrence/Edie Gorme, Barry Manilo, the Hollywood Concert Orchestra China tour, and in 2008 traveled with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra to Egypt for a US State Department Tour. He received both his Bachelor of Music in Trombone Performance and Masters Degree in Jazz Studies from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He has studied with legends in both the jazz and trombone world including M. Dee Stewart, Edwin Anderson, Carl Lente, Dominic Spera, and Dr. David N. Baker. He is currently ABD in his pursuit of the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Jazz Performance at the University of Illinois, where he is the Teaching Assistant for trombonist Jim Pugh.

He can be heard each Wednesday at 9pm on WICR 88.7 as co-host of the radio show "Have You Heard." The podcast of the radio show is online at haveyouheardjazz.com. Mr. Dole resides in Indianapolis with his wife Stacy and their two beautiful children, Griffin and Ellington.

CHELSEA HUGHEY

Chelsea Hughey is a jazz drummer, percussionist, and educator. An Indianapolis native, she attended Butler University and received a BA degree in Music focusing on classical percussion and jazz studies. Chelsea relocated to Jersey City, New Jersey, and attended New Jersey City University where she completed her MM degree in Jazz Performance. She studied with master drummer and composer Tim Horner, vibraphonist Mark Sherman, and Broadway drummers Paul Pizzuti and Jared Schonig.

Throughout her freelance jazz career, Chelsea has shared the stage with Indianapolis jazz legends Steve Allee, Rob Dixon, Frank Glover, and Frank Smith. She has also performed with notable NYC-based jazz musicians Walt Weiskopf, Bob Malach, Dave Douglas, Steve Davis, Steve Wilson, Jimmy Greene, Charles McPherson, and Bobby Sanabria.

Chelsea is active in the Indianapolis jazz scene, frequently appearing at the Chatterbox Jazz Club and The Jazz Kitchen with various local jazz musicians including Frank Glover, Monika Herzig, The Cohen-Rutkowski Project, and the Gary Walters Trio among others. She currently shares the role of percussionist for Beef and Boards Dinner Theater, which includes performances of shows "An American in Paris," "Beauty and the Beast," "Grumpy Old Men," and "White Christmas" this season. Furthering her diverse experience and background, Chelsea has also performed with the Danville Symphony Orchestra and the White River Wind Symphony.

As an educator, Chelsea has had the opportunity to work with middle- and high school-aged students since 2010 in and around Indianapolis as well as throughout northern New Jersey. Currently, Chelsea teaches privately at Ben Davis High School, Roncalli High School, Zionsville High School, and Sycamore School. She has appeared as a guest artist for the Butler Youth Jazz Program and as a mentor for Jazz Girls Day at Noblesville High School. In fall 2023, Chelsea joined the faculty of Butler University's Jordan College of the Arts as Adjunct Instructor of Drum Set.

KENT HICKEY

Kent Hickey is an in-demand trumpet player and educator based in Indianapolis, IN. He received his undergraduate degree in jazz studies from Butler University and his master's degree at the esteemed Indiana University Jacobs School of Music under the tutelage of John Raymond. Locally, Kent has played alongside some of the jazz scene's best, including Sean Imboden, Rob Dixon, Nick Tucker, Joel Tucker, and Kenny Phelps, among others. The

trumpeter currently leads two of his own projects, the Hickey-Shanafelt Collective and the Kent Hickey Trio. Previously, Kent worked as a trumpeter aboard Royal Caribbean cruise ships in the summers of 2018 and 2019.

The Hickey-Shanafelt Collective is an Indianapolis-based jazz nonet that highlights composers and arrangers within the ensemble with a goal of sharing this music with the community. The Collective plans to release their debut album, "illuminate," independently later this year. The Kent Hickey Trio performs Kent's original compositions and lesser-known jazz standards. The group draws inspiration from groups led by Avishai Cohen, Mike Rodriguez, John Swana, and Tim Hagans. Kent's groups have performed at several venues in the past year, including McGowan Hall, Merriman's Playhouse, Chilly Water Brewing Co., Blockhouse Bar, the Chatterbox, and the world-famous Jazz Kitchen.

In addition to performing, Kent is also a passionate educator who strives to share his love of music with the next generation. He maintains a private studio of about 30 trumpet students at various schools in the Indianapolis area and is also the outreach liaison for the Butler Youth Jazz Program, a branch of the Butler Community Arts School. Recently, Kent was appointed Adjunct Professor of Jazz Trumpet at both Butler University and the University of Indianapolis.

SANDY WILLIAMS

Sandy Williams has been a fixture on the Indiana music scene for several decades. His live performance credits include performing with Idina Menzel, John Waters, Liza Minnelli, Marvin Hamlisch, alt-country rocker Steve Earle, Michael Feinstein's live PBS special, the Steve Allee Big Band, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. He has performed in the pit orchestra for a number of touring Broadway shows, including "The Lion King," "Chicago," "Legally Blonde," "Motown," and "Beautiful." As a studio musician his credits include The Rounder Records box set (with Carrie Newcomer), jazz arranger John Clayton, John Mellencamp's movie soundtrack "Falling from Grace" (with Larry Crane), Hal Leonard publications' Essential Elements series, hundreds of jingles, and gospel singers Sandi Patti and Bill Gaither. He is the author of Live Sound for Guitar (pub. Cengage Learning) and technical editor for many of the Guitar for Dummies series. In November 2014 he performed four concerts in Guangzhou, China, with jazz pianist Steve Allee.

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JCA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We gather here at Butler University on the traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed from this place. These peoples include the Myaamiaki (Miami), Lenape (Delaware), Bodewadmi (Potawatomi), Saawanwa (Shawnee), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Peouaroua (Peoria) peoples. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the indigenous peoples past and present who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This acknowledgement calls us to commit to hearing and engaging Indigenous voices and perspectives and to being better stewards of the land we inhabit. It also calls us to action. Learn more by scanning the QR code for additional information.



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