



This recital includes works being highlighted as part of the Amplify Inclusivity initiative. The goal of this initiative is to highlight diversity and inclusion in the School of Music (SOM) curriculum, programming, guest artist recitals, and guest speaker presentations. The faculty of the SOM will continue to prioritize the representation of historically under-represented groups in these areas. The students of the SOM will join faculty in the planning and presentation of these highlighted events and activities and by engaging in the ongoing discussion about diversity, equity, and inclusion within the SOM.

Learn more at [music.uni.edu/amplify-inclusivity](https://music.uni.edu/amplify-inclusivity)

In consideration of the performers and other members of the audience, please enter or leave a performance at the end of a composition. Cameras and recording equipment are **not permitted**. Please turn off all electronic devices, and be sure that all emergency contact cell phones and pagers are set to silent or vibrate. In the event of an emergency, please use the exit nearest to you. Please contact the usher staff if you need assistance.

This event is **free** to all UNI students, courtesy of the Panther Pass Program.

The University of Northern Iowa honors the ancestral stewards of the land on which our university rests. Through the work we do every day to live our mission, the University of Northern Iowa aspires for you to see a community that: honors Native and Indigenous People and culture, lives the 7th Generation Principle, does good for the people and communities we serve, and embraces stewardship of our mission and land. Please see our full stewardship statement at [president.uni.edu/stewardship-statement](https://president.uni.edu/stewardship-statement).

Performances like this are made possible through private support from patrons like you! Please consider contributing to School of Music scholarships or guest artist programs. Call 319-273-3915 or visit [www.uni.edu/music](https://www.uni.edu/music) to make your gift.



# SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## *Shorter Stories:*

### THE MUSIC OF WAYNE SHORTER

## CHRISTOPHER MERZ SAXOPHONE, ARRANGER

WITH  
JON AILABOUNI, TRUMPET  
ANTHONY WILLIAMS, TROMBONE  
BOB DUNN, GUITAR  
MIKE CONRAD, PIANO  
ALEXANDER PERSHOUNIN, BASS  
JOSH HAKANSON, DRUMS

## PROGRAM

All selections composed by Wayne Shorter  
and arranged by Christopher Merz,  
except where noted.

*Children of the Night* \*  
*Adam's Apple*  
*Juju*  
*Deluge*  
*Infant Eyes*  
*Speak No Evil*  
*ESP*  
*Lester Left Town*

\* transcribed by Christopher Merz

## ABOUT THE FEATURED COMPOSER

Though some will argue about whether **Wayne Shorter's** primary impact on jazz has been as a composer or as a saxophonist, hardly anyone will dispute his overall importance as one of jazz's leading figures over a long span of time. Though indebted to a great extent to John Coltrane, with whom he practiced in the mid-'50s while still an undergraduate, Shorter eventually developed his own more succinct manner on tenor sax, retaining the tough tone quality and intensity and, in later years, adding an element of funk. On soprano, Shorter is almost another player entirely, his lovely tone shining like a light beam, his sensibilities attuned more to lyrical thoughts, his choice of notes becoming more spare as his career unfolded. Shorter's influence as a player, stemming mainly from his achievements in the '60s and '70s, was tremendous upon the neo-bop brigade who emerged in the early '80s, most notably Branford Marsalis. As a composer, he is best known for carefully conceived, complex, long-limbed, endlessly winding tunes, many of which have become jazz standards yet have spawned few imitators.

## ABOUT OUR FACULTY ARTIST

**Christopher Merz**, Professor of Music, has served as Director of Jazz Studies and Director of the award-winning UNI Jazz Band One at the University of Northern Iowa since 2002. Under his direction, the band has traveled to Thailand as well as the east coast of the US, and has recorded 13 CDs featuring many original compositions and arrangements by student and faculty writers. The 2006 recipient of the CHFA University Book and Supply Outstanding Teaching award, Merz was the 2016 recipient of the John L. Baker Faculty Development award, and was inducted into the Iowa Jazz Educators' Hall of Fame in 2015. He is a Past President of Jazz Educators of Iowa (JEI), and the founder and director of the UNI Combo Camp, an annual event for high school jazz students and music educators, which takes place each June.

His recording credits include Steve McCraven, Darius Brubeck, John Rapson and Jon Snell, as well as his own projects; *Counterculture*, the Chris Merz/Bob Washut Duo, *The X-tet*, and *Equilateral*. His 1997 release with the X-tet, *Mystery is My Story*, prompted Dave Brubeck to write, "I am very pleased with this wonderful band. Naturally I would admire a group like yours that, to me, is a grand extension of what we were doing... when we were the 'new thing'". Current projects include *Colossus Central* (an exciting new big band led by UNI alum Michael Conrad) and the quartet, Christopher's Very Happy Band., which performs Merz's originals exclusively. CVH.B.'s debut cd, *We Are Bathed in Sunlight*, was recently released on RealTown! Records. An accomplished composer/arranger for large jazz ensembles, Merz has received commissions from university and high school big bands throughout the country, and is published through UNC Jazz Press and eJazzlines. He is also a highly sought-after guest soloist, clinician and conductor at university and high school jazz festivals nationwide, and is endorsed by D'Addario and TM Custom tenor saxophones.

To learn more about the other featured faculty artists on tonight's concert, visit [music.uni.edu](http://music.uni.edu).