Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concert
Russell Hall, Bengtson Auditorium, 7:15PM

Featuring:

MYRA MELFORD
With UNI Jazz Band One

ALEXA TARANTINO
With UNI Jazz Band Two
ABOUT THE GUEST ARTIST

MYRA MELFORD

The pianist, composer, bandleader, and educator Myra Melford—whom the New Yorker called “a stalwart of the new-jazz movement”—has spent the last three decades making brilliant original music that is equally challenging and engaging. Culling inspiration from a wide range of sources including Cecil Taylor, the blues and boogie-woogie of her native Chicago, the poetry of Rumi, the AACM and yoga, she’s explored an array of formats, among them ruminative solo-piano recitals, deeply interactive combos, and ambitious multidisciplinary programs. Melford’s most recent release, The Other Side of Air (Firehouse 12), by her quintet Snowy Egret, is an extraordinary document of her unique creative language—a seamless, shifting blend of composition and improvisation, and a probing of the space shared between dynamic small-group jazz and contemporary chamber music. Since debuting on record as a bandleader in 1990, she’s built a discography of more than 20 albums as a leader or co-leader and has collaborated with such luminaries as Dave Douglas, Marty Ehrlich, Liberty Ellman, Erik Friedlander, Ben Goldberg, Joseph Jarman, Leroy Jenkins, Ron Miles, Nicole Mitchell, Tyshawn Sorey, Chris Speed, Stomu Takeishi, Cuong Vu and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Melford’s teachers and mentors include Butch Morris, Henry Threadgill, Jaki Byard, Don Pullen and other icons of jazz postmodernism, and she has received some of the most prestigious honors available to an improvising musician: numerous DownBeat poll placings, a 2000 Fulbright scholarship, a 2012 Alpert Award in the Arts for Music and, in 2013, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award and the Doris Duke Residency to Build Demand for the Arts.

After having been an influential presence in New York since the mid-’80s, Melford relocated to the Bay Area in 2004, to join the music department at the University of California, Berkeley, as a Professor of Composition and Improvisational Practices. She continues to bring cutting-edge jazz and new music to the campus community via her teaching and as a guest curator for the Cal Performances organization.
Alexa Tarantino is an award-winning, vibrant, young jazz saxophonist, woodwind doubler, composer, and educator. Alexa’s “lovely, ardent way of improvising,” and “sharply plotted but gracefully unencumbered straight-ahead jazz [compositions]” (Giovanni Russonello, The New York Times) establish her individual voice which shines through as a dynamic performer and educator.

Tarantino is currently on faculty for Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Youth Education Programs and directs one of their High School Jazz Academy big bands. Previously, she served as Jazz Saxophone Instructor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Tarantino continues to visit several colleges, high schools, and summer jazz programs across the globe as a guest clinician, including the Rockport Jazz Workshop (MA), of which she is Founder and Director. Rockport Jazz Workshop has expanded in just four years from a five-day program with 7 students to a two-week program with 120 students. She holds a master’s degree in Jazz Studies from The Juilliard School and bachelor’s degrees in Jazz Saxophone Performance and Music Education from the Eastman School of Music. Tarantino is a graduate of Hall High School’s award-winning music program in West Hartford, Connecticut and currently resides in New York City.
ABOUT
BETA NU

The Beta Nu chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia has been serving the School of Music at the University of Northern Iowa for over 85 years, bringing musicians together as brothers in a way that no other fraternity could match. The chapter currently has 40 active members, consisting of both music majors and non-music majors. Since the days of the chapter’s conception, Beta Nu brothers have gone on to serve as valuable members of the music community in the Cedar Valley, in Iowa, and across the nation. Beta Nu has initiated over 500 members in its history, and those brothers have moved on to advance music in the realms of jazz, choruses, orchestras, and operas around the globe, as well as being active in building a strong foundation in music education. Activities sponsored by the Beta Nu chapter include but are not limited to:

- Tallcorn Jazz Festival (3rd weekend of February)
- Sinfonia Dimensions in Jazz concerts (3rd weekend of February)
- Doran Espe Chamber Music Festival (Fall semester)
- American Composers Concert (Spring semester)
- Mills Music Missions/Step-Sings (several throughout the year)
UNI JAZZ BAND TWO
DR. MICHAEL CONRAD, DIRECTOR
ALUMNUS OF BETA NU

The Wiggle Walk............................................................Benny Carter
Joshua.................................................................Victor Feldman arr. by Bob Mintzer
Square One...............................................................Alexa Tarantino

Alexa Tarantino, Saxophone
Commissioned by Sherrie Maricle & The DIVA Jazz Orchestra for DIVA’s 25th Anniversary Project presented through ArtistShare

Wisp After Wisp*....................................................Alexa Tarantino, arr. Levi Saelua

Alexa Tarantino, Saxophone

Who Will Rescue You?......................................................Carla Bley

Obediah Bauer, Organ

UNI JAZZ BAND ONE
PROF. CHRISTOPHER MERZ, DIRECTOR
FACULTY ADVISOR OF BETA NU

The Long Game...........................................................Paul Lichty~ (UNI 2017)
Blue Daniel.................................................................Frank Rosolino, arr. Bill Holman

Myra Melford, Piano
Featured 2020 SDIJ Artist

The Promised Land.....................................................Melford, arr. Isaac Smith~
The Guest House.......................................................Melford, arr. Jeff Lederer
Moon Bird.................................................................Melford, arr. Christopher Merz+
The Strawberry........................................................Melford, arr. Ted Nash

* World Premiere
^ Member of Jazz Band One
+ UNI SoM Faculty
~ Brother of Beta Nu
UNI JAZZ BAND TWO PERSONNEL

SAXOPHONES
ΦMA - Elliott Britt, alto 1
Jake Brandenburg, alto 2
Timothy Schimtt, tenor 1
Devin Neitzel, tenor 2
Jonathan Green, baritone

TRUMPETS
ΦMA - Ben Thessen
ΦMA - Matt Kapka
Levi Dugger
Dino Kudic

TROMBONES
ΦMA - Augustus Geiger (lead)
ΦMA - Jason Andriano
Maggie Cremers
ΦMA - Zach Miller (bass)

RHYTHM
ΦMA - Nick Haats, guitar
Max McBride, piano
Nick Shellenberg, bass
Trevor Else, drums

UNI JAZZ BAND ONE PERSONNEL

SAXOPHONES
ΦMA - Gerardo Gomez, alto 1
Andrea Verburg, alto 2
ΦMA - Johnny Hartleip, tenor 1
Andrey Floryanovich, tenor 2
Tyler Utter, baritone

TRUMPETS
James Mons (lead)
Andrew Piper
ΦMA - Dakota Andersen
Morgan Eadie

TROMBONES
Collin Krukow (lead)
ΦMA - Jack Dunning
ΦMA - Michael Stow
ΦMA - Donovan Klutho (bass)

RHYTHM
ΦMA - Thomas Gumpper, guitar
ΦMA - Isaac Smith, piano
Michael Gedden, bass
Isaac Schwartz, drums

ΦMA = Brother of Beta Nu
We would like to thank all of the people, organizations, supporters for making the Tallcorn Jazz Festival & Sinfonian Dimension in Jazz Concerts 2020 possible.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thomas Barry
UNI SOM Audio Engineer

Caroline Francis
UNI SOM Communications and Operations Coordinator

Evie "Chuck" Charles Pugh
UNI SOM Technical Director/Performance Facilities Manager

Christopher Merz
Beta Nu Faculty Advisor
Professor of Jazz Studies
Director of Jazz Band One

Micheal Conrad
Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies/Music Education
Director of Jazz Band Two

Jeffery Funderburk
Director of School of Music

Isaac Smith
Tallcorn 2020 Coordinator
Upcoming Events

JAZZ COMBOS CONCERT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 - 7:30PM
BENGSTSON AUDITORIUM, RUSSELL HALL

UNI FLUTE CHOIR AND STUDIO RECITAL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 - 8:00PM
DAVIS HALL, GBPAC

UNI PERCUSSION GROUP CONCERT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020 - 8:00 PM
DAVIS HALL, GBPAC

NORTHERN IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE AND CONCERT BAND
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020 - 7:30PM
GREAT HALL, GBPAC

UNI VIOLA STUDIO RECITAL
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 - 8:00PM
GRAHAM HALL, RUSSELL HALL

GUEST ARTIST PRESENTATION: NOA KAGEYAMA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 - 6:00PM
BENGSTSON AUDITORIUM, RUSSELL HALL