



Fallin' For Jazz

BRINGING INTERNATIONAL JAZZ HOME 2025 | VOL 2

Live at Caffè Vivace

975 E McMillan St.
Cincinnati, OH 45206

Jazz Vivace is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting performances by internationally recognized jazz artists for Cincinnati area residents. We work to foreground Cincinnati as a bastion of jazz performance on the international stage—as a city that attracts international jazz acts, produces internationally recognized artists, and as a home to artists who play at a world-class level.

2025 Programs

JAZZ VIVACE PRESENTS

Jazz Vivace Presents is a program that sponsors the everyday local live jazz music scene. A program that grew out of our efforts to restore gigs for our musicians in the aftermath of COVID-19, Jazz Vivace Presents: Live at Caffè Vivace, became our program initiative in 2020 and continues to thrive in 2025. We sponsor all the live locally produced jazz performed at Caffè Vivace.

BRINGING INTERNATIONAL JAZZ HOME

Our flagship program, Bringing International Jazz Home, is dedicated to programming concerts featuring internationally recognized jazz artists in the Cincinnati area. We work to brand Cincinnati as a jazz stronghold attracting international jazz performers and placing Cincinnati on the world map as a jazz listening destination. Our goal is to help maintain Cincinnati as city that produces internationally recognized artists and a place the practitioners and patrons of jazz of any level want to call home. While audiences can hear outstanding jazz performances in large venues, we believe that smaller venues provide audiences with the best jazz listening experience. Therefore, we focus a large portion of our programming efforts on concerts in small venues where listeners can experience jazz performance in a setting akin to a chamber music space.

Donors, Sponsors, and Partners

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Brent Gallaheer

Interested in joining the list?
Contact scott@jazzvivace.org

LEW TABACKIN TRIO

W/ STEVE SCHMIDT

Lew Tabackin is a visionary flutist and tenor saxophonist known for his electrifying, cross-cultural flute work and bold, expressive saxophone style. His playing is marked by wide intervals, dynamic contrasts, and a deeply personal sound that draws from jazz tradition without imitation.

A Philadelphia native, Tabackin studied flute at the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music and served in the U.S. Army before launching his career in New York. He performed with legends such as Cab Calloway, Maynard Ferguson, Thad Jones, and Mel Lewis, while also leading his trios and working in television studio bands.

In 1968, Lew met pianist Toshiko Akiyoshi, with whom he later co-founded the acclaimed Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra. After moving to Los Angeles, Tabackin played with Shelley Manne and toured Japan extensively. The couple later relocated to New York, where Tabackin gained wider recognition, especially as a flutist, winning multiple DownBeat polls. Tabackin continues to tour internationally, both with his groups and as a featured soloist with the Akiyoshi Orchestra.

Lew Tabackin — *tenor sax & flute*
Boris Kozlov — *bass*
Jason Tiemann — *drums*
Steve Schmidt — *piano*

OCT 4



GOLDINGS/BERNSTEIN/STEWART

ORGAN TRIO

With his signature Hammond organ style and versatility on many keyboards, Boston native **Larry Goldings** has traversed not only the wide spectrum of jazz where he is perhaps best known, but also the worlds of funk, pop, and electronic music.

Jazz guitarist **Peter Bernstein** has been a part of the jazz scene in New York and abroad since the late 1880's. He has participated in over 200 recordings and numerous festival, concert and club performances with musicians from all generations. As a leader, Peter has released 12 albums and a DVD.

Drummer and composer **Bill Stewart** is one of the most sought after jazz drummers

in the world. His playing is distinguished by its melodic focus and polyrhythmic character. Stewart has made several records as a leader that predominantly feature his own music, bearing the same thoughtfulness, humor, and impeccable taste that one hears in his playing.

In the mid-1990s, The New York Times described Larry Goldings, Peter Bernstein, and Bill Stewart as "the best organ trio of the last decade." The trio has been together for over 30 years and has been recognized for charting new ground with its synergistic playing and thoughtful music.

OCT 9



JOE ALTERMAN TRIO

Atlanta native **Joe Alterman** expresses a certain upbeat naiveté with a broad smile and bright eyes that make you feel welcome. One would not guess that this is a man hailed by greats; Ramsey Lewis describes his piano playing as a joy to behold; Les McCann states, 'As a man and musician he is already a giant.' Journalist Nat Hentoff championed three of Alterman's albums, as well as his writing (Joe wrote liner notes to three Wynton Marsalis/JALC albums), calling one of Joe's columns "one of the very best pieces on the essence of jazz, the spirit of jazz, that I've ever read, and I'm not exaggerating."

Joe Alterman began at NYU with a BA and Master in Jazz Piano from NYU and has since

performed at many world-renowned venues, including the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Birdland, and Blue Note alongside Houston Person, Les McCann, Dick Gregory, Ramsey Lewis, and his trio, among others. Downbeat describes his sound as "rooted in the blues and with a touch reminiscent of the great pianists of the 1950s—Red Garland, Ahmad Jamal, Bill Evans." It is clear Joe hits all of the necessary points for Jazz critics and fans alike.

Joe Alterman — piano
Justin Dawson — bass
Jim Leslie — drums

OCT 10





Caffe Vivace

Event Calendar

Wed, Oct 1

Blue Wisp Big Band

Thu, Oct 2

Phil DeGreg Trio Plays Bill Evans

Fri, Oct 3

Burge · VanMatre · DeGreg:
Composers in Conversation

Sat, Oct 4

Lew Tabackin Trio w/ Steve Schmidt

Tue, Oct 7

CCM Faculty Jazztet

Wed, Oct 8

Original Farm League Big Band

Thu, Oct 9

Goldings/Bernstein/Stewart
Organ Trio

Fri, Oct 10

Joe Alterman Trio
w/ Jim Leslie & Aaron Jacobs

Sat, Oct 11

Art Gore's All-Stars — A Tribute To
Art Blakey & Herbie Hancock

Tue, Oct 14

Brent Gallaher Quintet

Wed, Oct 15

Blue Wisp Big Band

Thu, Oct 16

Gabrielle Cavassa Quartet

Fri, Oct 17

Clay Jenkins
w/ Steve Schmidt Quartet

Sat, Oct 18

Craig Bailey Quartet
– Ballads, Blues and Bebop

Tue, Oct 21

Al West, Jr. and the Greg Chako Trio

Wed, Oct 22

Scott Belck Quintet
feat. Gregory Tardy

Thu, Oct 23

Mandy Gaines and Brad Myers

Fri, Oct 24

An Evening of Blues and Jazz:
The Ben Levin Quartet feat. Art Gore

Sat, Oct 25

BATUCADA - Brazilian Street Party!

Tue, Oct 28

Charlie Ballantine Trio Plays the Music
of Bob Dylan

Wed, Oct 29

The Harry Allen/Andy Brown Quartet

Thu, Oct 30

Cincinnati Jazz Messengers

Fri, Oct 31

Spencer Merk's FEaR Collective

Sat, Nov 1

LUCIA

Mon, Nov 3

CCM Jazz Combo Night #1

Tue, Nov 4

Sophia Troyer Quintet:
"Ladies Night": A celebration of the
greatest jazz voices.

Wed, Nov 5

Blue Wisp Big Band

Thu, Nov 6

Alex Nicodemus Quartet

Fri, Nov 7

Mambo Combo

Sat, Nov 8

Brooks Giles III Quartet
- Tribute To My Heroes of the
Saxophone and the Microphone

Mon, Nov 10

CCM Jazz Combo Night #2

Tue, Nov 11 & Wed, Nov 12

Joshua Redman Quartet

Thu, Nov 13

Organized Gentlemen

Fri, Nov 14

George DeLancey Quartet

Sat, Nov 15

Michael Mavridoglou Sextet
— The Jazz Translation

Mon, Nov 17

CCM Jazz Combo Night #3

Tue, Nov 18

Original Farm League Big Band

Wed, Nov 19

Carmon DeLeone
and The Studio Big Band

Thu, Nov 20

Mandy Gaines and Steve Schmidt

Fri, Nov 21

Richard Cortez w/ Steve Schmidt Trio
— Celebrating Sinatra

Sat, Nov 22

Camille Saba Smith 4-Tet
— Soulful Silhouettes!

Wed, Nov 26

Blue Wisp Big Band 45th Annual
Thanksgiving Eve Extravaganza

Fri, Nov 28

Ron Jones Quartet
— The Music of Cannonball Adderley

Sat, Nov 29

Kathy Wade Quartet
— A Swinging Santa Season!

...and many others coming next season!
For more information, visit
<https://tickets.caffevivace.com>

GABRIELLE CAVASSA QUARTET

Gabrielle Cavassa is a singer and composer, recently signed to the legendary Blue Note Records. She was ushered into the spotlight through her collaboration with renowned saxophonist Joshua Redman on his critically acclaimed 2023 record 'where are we'.

Born in Escondido, California, of Italian descent, Cavassa began "obsessively listening" to records from a young age. Largely self-taught, she developed a unique approach to singing that would characterize her artistry. Cavassa received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from San Francisco State University, but says that her "real education" came from playing San Francisco jazz clubs throughout her college years. In

2017, Cavassa relocated to New Orleans, where she currently resides. She won the prestigious International Sarah Vaughan Jazz Vocal Competition in 2021 after the independent release of her eponymous debut record in 2020. Following her 2023 collaboration with Joshua Redman, Cavassa toured extensively with the Joshua Redman Group, a collection of several of today's most exciting young players, from Fall 2023 to Spring 2025.

It is Cavassa's distinctive expression that has poised her to become one of the defining artists of her generation. Cavassa's Blue Note debut is set to release in Spring 2026.

OCT 16



CLAY JENKINS

W/ STEVE SCHMIDT QUARTET

Clay Jenkins' career as a jazz artist has encompassed a diverse range of musical experiences and responsibilities, positioning him at the forefront of jazz performance and teaching.

Clay's experience as a performer began at an early age, playing and recording with the Stan Kenton Orchestra. In 1978, Clay moved to Los Angeles, where he was in demand as a performer and studio recording musician. He toured with the big bands Buddy Rich and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Since moving to Rochester, New York, in 2000 to join the Eastman faculty, Clay has maintained a busy performing, recording, and teaching

schedule. He has remained active throughout the United States and abroad.

Clay continues to perform and record with the Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, of which he is a charter member, whose trumpet section also included the great Eugene "Snooky" Young (1919-2011). Clay's close friendship with Snooky Young led to three guest appearances at Eastman by the great trumpet player. Clay recently established the "Snooky Young Endowed Scholarship" at Eastman to assist underrepresented minority students.

Clay Jenkins — trumpet
Rick VanMatre — tenor sax
Steve Schmidt — piano
Justin Dawson — bass
Jim Leslie — drums

OCT 17



SCOTT BELCK QUINTET FEAT. GREGORY TARDY

Dr. Scott Belck is Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), where he leads the CCM Jazz Orchestra and teaches jazz trumpet. A versatile performer, he's played lead trumpet with the Cincinnati Pops, Glenn Miller Orchestra, Bootsy Collins' Funk Unity Band, and numerous symphonies and jazz festivals. He co-founded several ensembles including Tromba Mundi, Jazz Central Big Band, and the Flying Circus Big Band.

Gregory Tardy is a saxophonist and clarinetist known for his soulful, expressive style rooted in jazz tradition yet always pushing forward. Originally a

classical clarinetist, he shifted to jazz after hearing Coltrane and Monk's "Monk's Mood," eventually immersing himself in the New Orleans scene alongside artists like Nicholas Payton and Brian Blade.

Now a professor at the University of Tennessee—Knoxville, Tardy continues to perform internationally and inspire the next generation of jazz musicians. As *All About Jazz* notes, "Tardy already has his own voice and is on track to help write the next chapter in jazz history."

Scott Belck — trumpet
Gregory Tardy — tenor sax/clarinet
Dan Karlsberg — piano
Justin Dawson — bass
John Taylor — drums



Upcoming performances

THE HARRY ALLEN/ANDY BROWN
QUARTET | OCT 29

LUCÍA | NOV 1

JOSHUA REDMAN QUARTET | NOV 11 & 12

RICHARD CORTEZ
W/STEVE SCHMIDT TRIO
— CELEBRATING SINATRA | NOV 21

STELLA COLE QUARTET | DEC 5 & 6

HUNTERTONES | DEC 11 & 12

YELLOWJACKETS | JAN 22, 2026

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next ON STAGE AT CCM

FALL 2025 JAZZ SERIES

BALLADS, BLUES & BEBOP

CCM Jazz Lab Band

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30

Tickets: \$15

RAY ON MY MIND

CCM Concert Orchestra

Featuring faculty artist

Craig Bailey, saxophone

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30

Tickets: \$19.50

GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT

CCM Jazz Orchestra

7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2

Tickets: \$19.50

STANDARDS

CCM Jazz Lab Band

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18

Tickets: \$15

JAZZ HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

CCM Jazz Orchestra

7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23

Tickets: \$25

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!

Performance details and dates subject to change



View CCM's full performance calendar
and purchase tickets by scanning the
QR code or visiting ccmonstage.uc.edu

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