

The Department of Music Presents

A Season of
Renewal

**VINNIE MARTUCCI
AND FRIENDS**

Studley Theatre

Tuesday February 15
8pm



PROGRAM

Program

The Fish Gig

Lyrics by Mark Dziuba

Laurel Massé, Mark Dziuba & Vinnie Martucci

Danza Feliz

The Professors

Chorale

The String quartet with Vinnie Martucci & Mark Dziuba

Reflections on All That's Past

The Professors

That Feeling

The Professors

Crazy

Composed by Willie Nelson

Arrangement by Vinnie Martucci

The String quartet with Laurel Massé & Vinnie Martucci

Here, but Not Here

Piano trio

Step by Step

The Professors

Bye Bye Blackbird

Composed by Ray Henderson

Lyrics by Mort Dixon

Arrangement by Vinnie Martucci

The Professors & String quartet with Laurel Massé

All pieces composed and arranged by Vinnie Martucci, except where noted.

The Professors: Vinnie Martucci (piano), Mark Dziuba (guitar), David Savitsky (saxophones), Jeff "Siege" Siegel (drums), Rich Syracuse (bass)

Piano trio: Vinnie Martucci, Jeff Siegel, Rich Syracuse

String quartet: Carole Cowan (1st violin), Saskia Kamerling (2nd violin), Christiana Reader (viola), Susan Seligman (cello)

Vocalist: Laurel Massé



Tonight's Artists



Professor Emerita at the State University of New York at New Paltz, where she was an active teacher/musician for over twenty-five years, **Carole Cowan** is currently Concertmaster of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, a position she has held since 1978. She has performed with many chamber musicians, including the Emerson and Alexander string quartets, and as concertmaster

with artists ranging from Dizzy Gillespie to Yo-Yo Ma. She is co-founder of Newburgh Chamber Music and performs with Innisfree and Poné Ensembles. Carole has performed in Taiwan and Beijing, the Festival Casals in Puerto Rico, and for over thirty summers as artist faculty at the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. She was awarded a Doctoral of Musical Arts from the Yale University School of Music. She has recorded chamber works of Henry Martin on the Albany Record Label and is heard on the Soundspells and Parnassus.



Christiana Fortune-Reader is a multi-faceted musician, passionate about the intersection of teaching, performing, community building, and arts advocacy. She serves as Assistant Professor of violin and viola, as well as College Orchestra Director in the Music Department at the State University of New York (SUNY) New Paltz. She performs regularly with the Innigkeit Quartet based in Illinois,

and with the Minnesota and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestras. Her research interests broadly look at music as a tool for social change and community building, both in the early childhood, among college-aged students, and within larger communities of professional ensembles.

She holds a doctoral degree from the Eastman School of Music, as well as other degrees from the University of Southern California and the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying with Donald McInnes, Jeffrey Irvine, Lynne Ramsey, Karen Ritscher, and Carol Rodland.





Dave Savitsky joined the SUNY New Paltz Music Faculty as Jazz Woodwinds Instructor in 2005. Dave attended Berklee College of Music and The Hartt School of Music, studying with Ken Radnofsky and Jackie McLean. After leaving Hartt in 1996, Dave began his professional career playing with the Danbury, CT-based jazz quartet Blue. A standing Wednesday night gig

lasting eight years acted as a laboratory to explore the various intersecting threads of be-bop, funk, rock, fusion and Latin jazz. This led to a semi-regular Tuesday jazz gig in New Paltz, which led to luminous collaborations with SUNY Jazz Professor Mark Dzuiba; a position at the college soon followed. Dave's musical curiosity has continued to push him to seek new possibilities for the saxophone and this variety has had a lasting impact on his musical language and versatility. Dave played on SUNY New Paltz alumnus and NY guitarist Kevin Quinn's 2018 album *Paramedic*, featuring Jeff Siegel, Ira Coleman and Mr. Dzuiba and looks forward to recording a second record with Quinn in 2020. Dave lives with his wife Kate and their two children A.J. and Beatrix in Bethel, CT.



Drummer/Composer **Jeff "Siege" Siegel** is a veteran of the New York Jazz scene and has worked with a virtual "who's who" of artists. A member of the Sir Roland Hanna Trio from 1994-'99, Siegel's diverse career has also led him to perform and/or record with legends such as Ron Carter, Kenny Burrell, Jack DeJohnette, Benny Golson, Sheila Jordan, Helen Merrill, Mose Allison, John

Medeski, Arthur Rhames, Dave Douglas, Stefon Harris, Pat Metheny, Kurt Elling, Ravi Coltrane, Ryan Kisor, Lee Shaw, Levin Brothers, John Medeski, Dena DeRose, Lee Shaw and many others. He has worked in the avant garde world as well with Wadada Leo Smith, Baikida Carroll. He's performed over 30 European tours including four as leader of the Jeff "Siege" Siegel Quartet and several others as co-leader. The Jeff "Siege" Siegel Sextet performed a 3 week tour of Africa in the summer of 2019. Other recent tours include The Levin Brothers Japan, Mexico, Canada and the US west coast and Midwest as well as South & Central America. His 2017 CD release "*King of Xhosa*" features South African trumpeter Feya Faku and is on the ARC label.



His most recent release with his quartet is the 2018 release on ARC entitled "London Live" and "When You Were There" (2019) with Hetko, Syracuse and Siegel.

Siegel teaches Jazz drumming and jazz ensembles at The New School for Jazz & Contemporary Music, SUNY New Paltz as well as at Western Connecticut State University. He's performed clinics throughout Europe, United States, China, South America and South Africa.

He holds a Masters Degree in Jazz from Queens College where he studied Composition with Jimmy Heath. He has been the recipient of several grants from Meet the Composer. He is endorsed by Canopus Drums, Beato Bags and Vic Firth Drum Sticks.



With a repertoire that embraces Basie and Bach, banjos and bagpipes, the Beatles and the Bard of Avon, **Laurel Massé** is a singer without borders.

She began her career as a founding member of the Grammy-award winning vocal group, The Manhattan Transfer, and continued on to a successful solo career.

A veteran recording artist, her voice can be heard on more than 40 albums, and she has performed with a wide range of artists, including Barry Manilow, Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, Little Feat's Paul Barrere and Fred Tackett, Jon Hendricks, and the professional Cathedral Choir of St. John the Divine. She also co-founded and performed with the female jazz vocal trios Moxie (with Janis Siegel and Cheryl Bentyne of Manhattan Transfer) and Jalala (with Siegel and Lauren Kinhan of New York Voices).

A passionate believer in arts education, she also teaches master classes and workshops for solo singers and vocal groups of all genres. She is a choral adjudicator at festivals and competitions in New York, NY & Washington DC.

Laurel has also been a faculty member of the Ashokan Music and Dance camps for over two decades, and it is there that she and Vinnie Martucci began their musical partnership as performers and teachers. This long collaboration has resulted in concerts and recordings that span several centuries of both popular and obscure songs. "I never know exactly what Vinnie is going to do musically," she



says. "We sketch out an arrangement, and rehearse it well, and then, in performance, things change, ideas spark. It's always different, but I can trust completely that it will always be extraordinary, and that, as a singer, I will be free to fly."



Mark Dziuba has been a guitarist, improviser and composer for most of his life. He has performed with a who's who of Jazz, Blues, Rock and Bluegrass musicians internationally and has taught and performed at workshops for over 40 years. Mark is a tenured professor at the State University of New York at New Paltz where he directs the Jazz Studies program. He was a part of the internationally acclaimed National Guitar Workshop for 25 years and has been a part of the Crown of the Continent Guitar Festival since its birth. He is a published author and has been a featured soloist on numerous recordings. Mark continues to explore the world of improvised music and can be found performing weekly in his area and abroad. (dziubam@newpaltz.edu)



Rich Syracuse has been a mainstay on the New York area scene for more than three decades.

While Performing at an early age in New York City He was the winner of the prestigious Congress Of Strings Award. Going on to receive Bachelor of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music in New York City. Rich performed with The Group For Contemporary Music under Conductors Charles Wournin and Harvey Solberger, The Hartford Ballet and the New Jersey Lyric Opera co. Early Jazz groups include Pianist's John Mehegan, Joey Calderazzo, Ted Rosenthal. After Moving to New York State's Hudson Valley in the mid 1980's he began a long-standing position in the Nick Brignola Quartet playing clubs, festivals, and recording sessions. Besides his years with Brignola, he has performed with Mose Allison, Kurt Elling, Dave Liebman, Brubeck Brothers, Warren Bernhardt, Sumi Tonoka, David Torn, Mike DeMicco, Peter Levin, Sam Morrison, Bernard Purdy, Vic Juris, Dave Stryker, Chuck Lamb, Jeff "Siege" Siegel, Dena DeRose, John Medeski, Michael Musilliami, Ali Demogli and was the bassist for Dr.



Lee Shaw for over 23 years. He is the Professor for String and Electric Bass Studies at Skidmore College in Saratoga, New York; Hotchkiss School in Lakeville Connecticut.

Rich currently is the Jazz Bass professor, lecturer and leads one of the Chamber Jazz ensembles at The State University of New York in New Paltz. Rich is an Individual member of the International Association Schools of Jazz. Rich has toured throughout Europe, South America, and Southern Africa. Reviews: "Recent Duo recordings with Guitarist Michael Musillami ; "Of The Night" (Playscape recordings) was featured as: "The New York City Jazz Record" Best of 2016. 4 Stars- Howard Mandel, Down Beat. "An absolute Must" -Jos Demol, Jazz Halo. "This is music making of the Highest order"- Budd Kaplan, AAJ.



Saskia Kamerling is a music performance major at SUNY New Paltz currently studying violin and viola under Alex Shiozaki and Christiana Fortune Reader. Saskia specializes in classical string repertoire as well as traditional music, with a passion for exploring the intersection between the two. She has played with many ensembles including the Skidmore College Chamber Orchestra and currently works with the Blue Mountain Chamber Festival as a junior instructor. Saskia has been playing traditional fiddle music for 8 years, performing around New York as well as Ireland where she studied with some of the most influential Celtic musicians working today.



Susan Seligman, principal cellist with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic since 1984, has soloed on a number of occasions, including a duo appearance with singer Bobby McFerrin in Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto; Haydn Concerto in D Major and Sinfonia Concertante; and Jon Deak The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow with the HVP String Quartet. She plays chamber music with Innisfree, the Pone Ensemble for New Music, and the Newburgh Chamber Music Ensemble; and serves as



basso continuo cellist with Kairos, a Consort of Singers. Ms. Seligman was favorably reviewed in the New York Times for her performance in works of the late Robert Starer. She is a Lecturer in Music at SUNY New Paltz.

Ms. Seligman has participated in international music festivals in Brazil, France, Italy and Switzerland. Her recordings include Compact Discs: on the Albany label, Chamber Music for Strings and Piano by Henry Martin; Voices of the Valley with Danielle Woerner and James Fitzwilliam; and on Soundspells in chamber works of Meyer Kupferman. She taught in the String Quartet program at Ithaca College for five summers. As an undergraduate, she studied with Janos Starker at Indiana University, and earned a Masters' in Music at Yale with Aldo Parisot.



Vinnie Martucci has had an exciting and diverse career as a performer, composer, arranger, producer, and educator. He has toured extensively on the international stage as co-leader of the Jazz Fusion Quartet "The Dolphins" with Dan Brubeck, as arranger, accompanist for Laurel Massé (Manhattan Transfer), arranger and performer for Blues artist Rory Block. He

has recorded and toured with Graham Parker, Livingston Taylor, and others. He co-composed the Off-Broadway play "Clue, The Musical" as well as numerous cable network TV themes for Lifetime, the Travel Channel, CNN and underscores for daytime TV dramas "As the World Turns", Guiding Light". As a producer and recording engineer, he has worked with composer Baikida Carroll on recordings and productions for several theatrical and television projects, most notably the Tony award winning play "Having Our Say". He has also given clinics in Jazz and improvisation in Europe, South America, and at the Central Conservatory in Beijing, China. Vinnie is a professor emeritus in Jazz Performance at SUNY, New Paltz and served as Chair of the Music department from 2016 to 2019. Vinnie holds an M.M in Jazz Performance from SUNY Purchase and his bachelor's in Music from Colby College.



Program Notes

I started teaching at New Paltz in 1990 or 91; and how that came about is a bit of a story. At the time, I was on tour with my group, The Dolphins with Dan Brubeck, and we were wrapping up three months across the US with a performance at the Saratoga Jazz Festival at SPAC. We'd been playing almost every night during that tour, so the band played a great set that day. Afterwards, a student from SUNY New Paltz came backstage and asked if I taught lessons. I told him I was too busy with studio work and tours—it just wouldn't be worth his while. Undaunted, he said..."How about if I do all the legwork and get you hired to teach me at New Paltz." So, I asked him "Are there other students like you at New Paltz?" To which he responded, "Absolutely, you're gonna love it." So, I agreed and here we are.

Over the years, as I got more involved with the department, I've made lifelong friendships with colleagues here at New Paltz. We've made all kinds of music together and have come to share a deep and abiding respect for each other's artistry and love of music. It's been said that, in the end, there aren't really any differences in music. At a certain point...it's all just music. So, for me, it's great to be able to gather all these marvelous friends together to make this music for you. Another important element is you, and how wonderful it is to play for you. If anything, the past 2 years of Covid have underscored how important our communities are and how important it is to share and communicate.

I also want to express my appreciation for my students. I am amazed at all the unique ways you look at things and the freshness and enthusiasm you bring to this journey. One of tonight's pieces is based on an exercise from my Jazz Theory 2 class. I wrote it to share an idea on cycles hidden within cycles. Exploring this piece in class, it was amazing to see all the ways you found to apply these cycles to your own songwriting— but not unexpected. We never know where our explorations will take us, but they are infinitely better explored together. You guys are the best.



About the music. The pieces we're playing span decades of my composition and arranging. Each piece is here because it has stood the test of time, or because of a special time I experienced playing it with someone onstage here. I also wanted to combine musicians from different backgrounds. To me the most inspiring work comes from collaboration; not because we sound the same or approach things the same way, but because we're different and approach things differently. That makes for real surprises and for outcomes we couldn't possibly anticipate. Coming from a jazz, blues, and R&B background, it's important that music does something for us as a community, whether it's in emotion, or grooving, or expressing whatever can't be said by other means.

Looking back, I have to say the student who met me years ago at SPAC was right when he said "Absolutely, you're gonna love it". Thank you to all my colleagues and students at New Paltz.



The Professors



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