Pitt Jazz Presents: Give the Drummer Some
Performances November 5th and 6th, 2021

More information about the jazz studies program can be found on our web site, jazz.pitt.edu.

Friday, November 5th, 2021
Bellefield Hall Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
Student Ensemble Showcase

Welcome and Martin Shor Fund Announcement            Professor Nicole Mitchell Gantt

Afropop Ensemble            directed by Dr. Ben Barson, Baritone Saxophone

Lucas Diblasi, electric guitar
Dominic Frankeny, electric bass
Zichen Lin, piano
Cecilia Staggars, violin
Michael Stolarz, drum set

Selections
“J.J.D” by Fela Kuti
“Water No Get Enemy” by Fela Kuti
Small Jazz Combo  
**directed by Dr. Yoko Suzuki**

Group 1: Josiah Smyth, tenor saxophone; Ben Wagner, guitar; Sam Cohen, bass; Eric Munjack, drums

Group 2: Eli McCants-Green, guitar; Jason Kuehnle; piano; Eli Alfieri, bass; Charles Kiesling, drums

**Selections**
- “My Favorite Things” by Richard Rogers
- “It’s On” by George Duke

Pitt Jazz Ensemble  
**directed by Ralph Guzzi and Dr. Yoko Suzuki**

Trumpets: Claire Pamerleau (business manager), Hayden Orwig, Dominic Frankeny, Galen Lovejoy, Brent Clelland

Trombones: Joshua Branstetter, Danny Turillo, Matthias Heyne, Brian Karabin, Kittrick Danzeisen

Alto saxophones: Richard Lipinski (vice president), Zach Orwig, Andrew Wang

Tenor saxophones: Brian Sostek, Steven Johns

Baritone saxophone: Ronald Rohlsen (president)

Piano: Marshall Lentz
Guitar: Philip Andreoli
Bass: Cara Steinberg
Drums: Jeremy Tygh, Elias Mignogna, Carmen Andreoli

**Selections**
- “The Hippest Cat in Hollywood” by Horace Silver
- “Red Clay” by Freddie Hubbard
- “Hail to Pitt”

The Martin Shor Jazz Fund

The University of Pittsburgh’s Jazz Studies Program is grateful for the family of Martin Shor for the endowed fund in memory of their patriarch, Martin Shor (A&S ’42, Business ’50), a jazz music aficionado whose love of jazz began as a high school student and extended throughout his life as a performing musician. The fund will support the program and jazz students wanting to develop their strengths in jazz education, performance, and composition.

**Martin R. “Marty” Shor**

January 20, 1920 - March 20, 2020. A Pittsburgh native, passed away on March 20, 2020, just two months after his 100th birthday. Having served in the Army Signal Corp during World War II, Martin was a proud veteran and a member of the Jewish War Veterans. Martin was an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and a lover of jazz. He joined the Pittsburgh Music Union at the age of 17 and was still a member up through his early 90s. Until his late
80s, he was the leader of his own band, The Swinging Seniors, in which he played bass. He also enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and bowling which he continued to do until his mid-90s. He was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and owned a variety of furniture stores, including Martin’s and Name Brand in the South Hills and Weekend Furniture in the Strip District. Martin was a loving and supportive man to his friends and especially his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel Shor and Eva Shor, his first wife, Ethel (Ziff) and his second wife, Dorothy (Stilinovich), his brother, Edgar R. Shor and his youngest son, Norman Randolph Shor. He leaves behind his oldest son, Francis Robert (Barbara Logan); daughter-in-law, Karen Halperin Shor; grandchildren, Molly Shor (Daniel Asmus); Miriam Shor (Justin Hagan) and Finn Dannin (Zach Aronowitz); great-grand-daughters, Ruby Hagan Shor and Iris Hagan Shor, and many cousins.

Published on April 3, 2020

Saturday, November 6th, 2021
Bellefield Hall Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

Drum Conversation with
Roger Humphries and James Johnson III

About the Artists

Roger Humphries was 3½ years old when his family first discovered his early talent for playing drums. When Roger was 4½ years old he sat in with the Tab Smith Big Band. His Uncle Frank Humphries was working with the Tab Smith band along with Savannah Churchill at the time. Roger began playing professionally at the age of fourteen. He led his own group at Carnegie Music Hall when just sixteen. “I’ve had a love for music as long as I can remember. He was encouraged by his older brothers Lawrence Jr. and Norman who were musicians at that time. Additionally, Roger’s son, Roger Jr., and Norman’s son, Gregory, have followed in their footsteps as professional drummers.

In August of 1962, Roger began his first major road job. He joined Stanley Turrentine (also from Pittsburgh) and Shirley Scott at the Hurricane in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. In 1964 Roger went to New York to join the Horace Silver Quintet. While with Silver, he toured Europe twice and appeared at the Monterey Jazz Festival. Roger recorded three albums while working with Horace Silver. They were Song for My Father, Cape Verderan Blues, and Jody Grind. The Song for My Father album is one of the most legendary albums of our time, still being played by most jazz radio stations as a popular hit. During those three albums recordings he played with such giants as, Joe Henderson, James Spalding, Tyrone Washington, Teddy Smith, Larry Ridley, Woody Shaw, Carmell Jones and J.J. Johnson. He also recorded with such artists as, Geri Allen, Herbie Mann/Phil Woods, Richard Groove
Holmes, Kenny Blake, Frank Cunimondo, Dwayne Dolphin and Nancy Wilson. He also appeared on Oprah Winfrey and Bryant Gumbel TV show with Nancy Wilson.

Roger is rated by music critics as one of the most exciting percussionists in the business. He has provided the rhythmic beat for such greats as Ray Charles, Horace Silver, James Moody, Dr. Billy Taylor, Lionel Hampton, Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie, George Benson, Jon Faddis, Slide Hampton, Randy Brecker, Joe Williams, Milton Jackson, Nathan Davis, Freddie Hubbard, and the list goes on and on.

In January of 1980, Roger toured Europe with organist Richard “Groove” Holmes and tenor saxophonist Willis Jackson. During this tour, Roger performed in France, Spain, and Holland. An Album was also recorded with the Black and Blue Record Company. After playing with various groups around the country, ace drummer Roger Humphries decided to organize his own group in 1972 which he calls RH Factor and in 1996 he assembled Roger Humphries’ Big Band.

On February 23, 2008, the state of Pennsylvania and the city of Pittsburgh issued a proclamation as Roger Humphries Day. He was given a certificate of recognition for his legendary performance in the field of music and teaching.

James Johnson III began playing the drums at the age of five in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Johnson attended CAPA, Pittsburgh’s high school for the creative and performing arts. It was here he came under the mentorship of the drummer Roger Humphries.

Upon graduating high school James was invited to tour with jazz legend Ahmad Jamal. With Ahmad, James has performed all over the world, appearing in major jazz venues such as Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center. As a member of the Ahmad Jamal trio, James has also appeared at major festivals such as the Cully jazz festival in Switzerland, the North Sea jazz festival in South Africa and the Dublin jazz festival. Mr. Johnson has also performed with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Geroge Coleman, James Moody, Sean Jones, Monty Alexander, Benny Golson, Mulgrew Miller, Russell Ferrante, Bob Mintzer and, Kenny Werner.