



Vox Concordia

Lisa Fusco, Director

Jazz Orchestra I

Antonio J. García, Director

Jazz Orchestra II

Toby Whitaker, Director

Choral Arts Society

Dr. Erin Freeman, Director

Small Jazz Ensembles

Antonio J. García & Tony Martucci, Directors

J4J Scholarship Recipients

Antonio J. García, Director

special guests

Justice John Charles Thomas Education Secretary Anne Holton

8 p.m. Friday, February 19, 2021

streamed performance

Virginia Commonwealth University

922 Park Avenue | Richmond, VA

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— *Audio Prelude* —

Ring My Bell Antonio J. García+
from the commissioned score for “The Palooka,” a film by Zack Kron
***The Nashville Avenue Stompers* (February 2016)**

— *Program* —

PSA/Sun City García+

Welcome from Jazz4Justice™ Edward Weiner & Shannon Gunn

Manteca Dizzy Gillespie & Chano Pozo, arr. Gil Fuller
***VCU Jazz Orchestra I* (February 2017)**

Lift Every Voice and Sing music by J. Rosamond Johnson,
lyrics by James Weldon Johnson, arr. SJE
***VCU Small Jazz Ensemble/García* (November 2020)**

The Storm Is Passing Over Charles Albert Tindley, arr. Dr. Barbara Baker
***VCU Vox Concordia* (world premiere of Fall 2020 video)**

Jazz Poetry (*excerpt*) Hon. John Charles Thomas
2016-17 VCU J4J Scholarship Recipients
Hon. John Charles Thomas, Poet, with guest Bea Kelly (bass)

Chinoiserie (from *The Afro-Eurasian Eclipse*) Duke Ellington
***VCU Jazz Orchestra II* (October 2020)**

Doctor DeJa Vu’s Promenade García+
***VCU Jazz Orchestra I* (October 2020)**

Redemption Song Bob Marley, arr. Tony Martucci+ & the SJE**
***VCU Small Jazz Ensemble/Martucci* (November 2020)**

A Change is Gonna’ Come Sam Cooke, arr. Jay Althouse
***VCU Choral Arts Society* (world premiere of Fall 2020 video)**
Leila Abad & Andrew Bonieskie, soloists; David Kim, piano

In the Mood Joe Garland & Andy Razaf
***VCU Jazz Orchestra I* (February 2015)**
*Anne Holton, then-Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia,
guest director*

Basie! Ernie Wilkins, arr. García+
***VCU Jazz Orchestra I* (November 2020)**

+ = VCU faculty

* = VCU alumnus

** = VCU student

— Personnel —

VCU Jazz Orchestra I

Fall 2020

Saxes Nathan Fussell (*alto, baritone*), Colton Conley (*alto*),
Tará Davis (*tenor*), Kenny Travis (*tenor*), Charles Cutler (*baritone*)

Trumpets Sebastian Ford, Sam Colaccino, Michael Nguyen, Noah Mendoza

Trombones Tye Proffitt, Danny Dupes, Seth Armistead, T.J. Lindsay (*bass*),
with guest Prof. Toby Whitaker

Rhythm Thomas Windley (*guitar*), George Maddox (*piano*), Chris O'Leary (*bass*),
Ben Eisenberg (*drums*)
guests Grayson King & Ryan O'Connor (*percussion*)

February 2017

Saxes Nathanael Clark (*alto, soprano*), Jason Kincy (*alto, clarinet*),
Chet Frierson (*tenor, soprano, flute, clarinet*), Michael Bradley (*tenor*),
Griffin Sisk (*baritone*)

Trumpets Cameron Bessicks, Hamed Barbarji,
Nathan Rhodes, Jack Beckner, Richie Cole

Trombones Ben Culver, Stephanie Young, Bryan Gonzalez, Darrius Carter (*bass*)

Rhythm David Roberts (*guitar*), Mark Mekhail (*piano*),
Bea Kelly (*bass*), Nick Davidson (*drums, timbales*)
guest Peter Vincenti (*congas*)

February 2015

Saxes Trey Sorrells (*alto, soprano, flute, alto flute*), Cody Reifsteck (*alto, tenor*),
Doug Jemison (*tenor, alto flute, clarinet*), Logan Beaver (*tenor, bass clarinet*),
Alfredo Santiago (*baritone, flute, bass clarinet*)

Trumpets Stephen Moser, Marc Roman, Matt Dixon, Zack Forbes

Trombones, Gabriel Luciano-Carson, Colleen Trempe,
Stephanie Young, Michael Dickinson (*bass*)

Rhythm Roger Pouncey (*guitar*), Macon Mann (*piano*),
Kevin Eichenberger (*bass*), Cleandré Foster (*drums, timbales*)

VCU Jazz Orchestra II

Fall 2020

Saxes Arin Gokdemir (*flute*), Jacob Gittelman (*alto, clarinet*),
Braeden Ferguson (*tenor*)

Trumpets Jerry Grimes, Clayton Parker, Elijah Chacha, Daniel Ramirez

Trombones Carson Longacre, Tye Proffitt, Danny Dupes, Stephan McCants

Rhythm Anthony Caserta & Rinatt Montoya (*guitar*), Minjee Jang (*piano*),
Chris O'Leary (*bass*), Ryan O'Connor (*drums*)

VCU Small Jazz Ensembles

November 2020

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (Antonio J. García, Director)

Arin Gokdemir (*flute*), Tará Davis (*tenor*), Stephen Deren (*French horn*),
Minjee Jang (*piano*), Hannah Rossi (*bass*), Max Minichiello (*drums*)

“Redemption Song” (Tony Martucci, Director)

Nathan Fussell (*alto*), Sam Colaccino (*trumpet*), Tye Proffitt (*trombone*),
Thomas Windley (*guitar*), Chris O’Leary (*bass*), Ben Eisenberg (*drums*)

VCU Vox Concordia

Alyssa Benfield, Bailey Blake, Meredith Duncan, Audrey Fauvel, Caroline Gryder,
Katarina Izdepski, Hannah Overton, Jessica Pain, Ariela Press, Simran Rijhwani,
Alana Riso, Beth Wittmer, Zhiqian Mona Wu, & Stephanie Yap

VCU Choral Arts Society

Leila Grace Abad, David Adeleye, Philip Anderson, Chloe Angel,
Mikaela Beidler, Andrew Bonieskie, Olivia Carlton, Hannah Chapman, Chloe Doell,
Wesley Eldridge, Nadia Elhafdi, Kiara Ellison, Ryan Evans, Christian Farrace,
Alana-Marie French, Sarah Hamilton, Emma Jo Hargis, Winifred Hurd, Ethan Hurst,
Tiarra Johnson, Haley Johnson, Grayson Kim, Nina Lam, Reilly Leahy, Jordan Luu,
Mary McLean, Valeria Nava Moncada, Abigail Monroe, Brooklyn Morgan,
Sydney Morrissey, James Norman, Amanda Reboucas, Alexis Scott, Kayla Seabolt,
Nicole Silva, Julia Smith, Devin Sullivan, Caitlyn Vidra, Milton Villa,
William Ware, Ellis Williamson, Elizabeth Wittmer, & Stephanie Yap
David, Kim, *piano*

VCU Jazz4Justice Scholars

2016-2017

Nathanael Clark & Chet Frierson (*saxophones*), David Roberts (*guitar*),
Mark Mekhail (*piano*), Nick Davidson (*drums*)—our

2016-17 VCU J4J Scholarship Recipients

*along with student Bea Kelly (bass), & with the
Hon. John Charles Thomas, Poet*

The Nashville Avenue Stompers

February 2016

Myrick Crampton (*sax, clarinet*), Victor Haskins (*trumpet*),
Antonio García (*trombone, vocals*), Stefan Demetriadis (*tuba*),

Joe Lubman & C.J. Wolfe (*drums*)

with guest Macon Mann (piano)

* * *

arts.vcu.edu/music
apply4music@vcu.edu

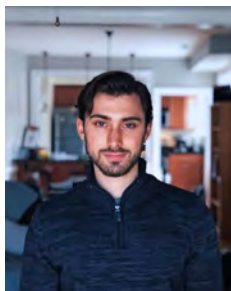
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VCU Jazz Majors Receive Jazz4Justice™ Scholarships



photo credit T.J. Lindsay

In November VCU Jazz Director Antonio Garcia and Jazz for Justice™ scholarship winners Chris O'Leary, Nathan Fussell, Tará Davis, George Maddox, and Ben Eisenberg celebrated the \$10,700 check from the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation. Not pictured is student Tye Proffitt. In January the GRBF gifted an additional \$1,500 of scholarship support for our students.



Tye Proffitt, trombonist: First and foremost, it is the greatest honor to have been chosen as an advocate for equality. My philosophy has always been that music is the farthest-reaching and most effective medium for any message, and it is the solemn oath of all jazz musicians to use their passion to usher in an era of compassion and understanding. Secondly, the financial support I will receive from this scholarship has become fundamental in furthering my education. The COVID-19 pandemic has had catastrophic effects on every family in the world, and I am truly blessed to say that my greatest obstacle therein is one of money. So

many have lost so much; and I intend to use this gift to bring awareness to those ignorant, joy to those depressed, and love to those poisoned by hate.

George Maddox, pianist: It is honor to receive the Jazz for Justice scholarship, and I am truly humbled. Music has been an important factor in my life since age seven and has helped to convey my emotions and spread positive “energy into the community.” The financial assistance given on your behalf will help to further my dreams and aspirations during this pandemic that impedes them. I thank you with the upmost appreciation and will do my best to serve this scholarship justice.





Nathan Fussell, saxophonist: I would like to thank you for choosing me to be a Jazz for Justice scholarship recipient. Knowing that I have the support of the faculty and staff here at VCU is reassuring to say the least. Social justice has always been a large part of music for me, having grown up on politically charged bands and conscious hip-hop. Now, not only do I have a scholarship to back my studies, I now have the ability to express my views through music like many of my favorite artists growing up.

photo credit David Morton

Chris O'Leary, bassist: This scholarship to me is a blessing in times of financial hardship. It helps me focus more on my studies and practices with less worry about the financial aspect of my studies. I am blessed to be able to attend such a wonderful school, and to receive a scholarship to help me continue my work means the world to me.

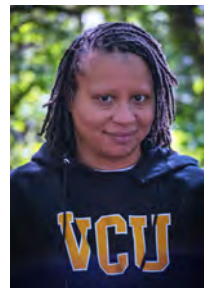


Ben Eisenberg, drummer: I feel very fortunate to receive this scholarship. This has been a strange school year for students and educators. Luckily the Music program has done a fabulous job at adapting to the given circumstances. I'm lucky to be part of a progressive Jazz Program that has benefited me in various ways so far. These funds have already strengthened my motivation to improve as a student and player. I'm thankful for the donors who continue to support the arts. Congratulations to my peers who were also awarded this financial aid! I look forward to my future studies and endeavors within the Program.

Tará Davis, saxophonist: I am humbled and deeply grateful to receive this unexpected scholarship. When I look back over my 44 years of life, I realize music has played a significant role throughout most of it. Playing the saxophone was my tie to my father, who also played the saxophone in bands while he was serving in the Air Force in the 1940s. My heart as a child was to make Daddy proud of me by succeeding in my school bands throughout middle and high school.

During high school, I developed a true love for music when I realized its therapeutic value. The world around me could be in shambles, but I was safe while playing music. My saxophone became an appendage, just like another arm or leg. As a teenager, I knew if I were going to attend college, it would be for the pursuit of music.

In 1994, I attended James Madison University as a music education major, but I was unsuccessful. I was mentally and emotionally unable to handle the workload along with a part-time job and being out on my own for the first time. I lost



belief in myself and my ability to succeed in music because I was constantly comparing myself to my classmates.

After suffering several mental breakdowns, one of which resulted in a suicide attempt, I put my horn down and did not pick it up again for 16 years. I felt horrible about myself for being a quitter. I later passed my saxophone down to my daughter and taught her how to play. Whenever I attended one of her school concerts, I would cry because it was a reminder of my failures.

One day I decided to pick up my horn again and take lessons at the local music store. My teacher told me he could tell I had put a lot of time into the instrument at one point in my life. His advice to me was to stop beating myself up over quitting and just make a vow to myself that I would never quit again. That proved to be life-changing advice for me.

When I came to VCU in 2018 to pursue a Photography degree, I knew my heart was really with music, but I did not believe I could get into the Music Department; so I minored in Music instead. I enjoyed my lessons, and I poured my heart into my saxophone once again. Last Fall, as I started preparing to graduate, I agonized over whether I should pursue an MFA in Art or try to get a job with my Photography degree.

Then it occurred to me that my feelings of not being finished with school were tied to music. It did not matter to me how many degrees or professional certifications and licenses I had. I was not going to feel accomplished until I finished what I originally started back in 1994. I wanted my Music degree.

I knew VCU was the place for me to accomplish that goal. My two professors, J.C. Kuhl and Antonio García, created a safe environment for me to learn, stumble along the way, and grow musically and spiritually. While I am filled with gratitude to receive money to offset in part the student debt I am creating while pursuing my dream, I am most grateful and deeply moved to tears to be in an environment where my professors believe in my ability to succeed. Their support and faith in me heal the wounds of my inner young adult who could not handle the stress before. I appreciate the reassurance that I can do this if I just remain consistent and refuse to give up.

Jazz Studies
at Virginia Commonwealth University
Antonio García, Director of Jazz Studies

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Prof. Rex Richardson
Trumpet/Jazz Trumpet

The VCUarts Jazz Studies program provides outstanding opportunities for students to pursue jazz performance and writing. Alumni are world-class educators, score for film and games, and have performed with ensembles such as Chick Corea's Origin, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Learn more at jazz.vcu.edu

VCU



**2017 Poet,
Justice John Charles Thomas**

(photo credit Rebecca Schwartz)

John Charles Thomas is a retired justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia. In that role he ruled on thousands of appellate matters addressing the full range of Virginia law including contracts, torts, property, public utilities, trust and estates, and taxation. He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Supreme Court of

the United States, and the United States Courts of Appeal for the 4th, 6th, 9th, 10th, and 11th and D.C. Circuits. He is an AAA certified Mediator and Arbitrator and serves on the AAA Panel of Commercial Arbitrators as well as on the AAA Panel of International Arbitrators. Since June 2005 he has been a Judge of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland. A frequent speaker and lecturer across the country and around the world, Thomas has lectured at the Interim University Center in Dubrovnik, Croatia on “Enforcing Interim Arbitral Awards Under the New York Convention”; he has delivered the Constitutional Law lecture to the Firsties at the United States Military Academy at West Point; and he has delivered the “First-Day, First Year” lectures at the University of Virginia School of Law and the College of William & Mary School of Law since 1990.

Tonight’s broadcast excerpts from Justice Thomas’ full 2017 performance with the students.

Jazz Studies
at **VCU**

The VCU Jazz Studies program provides students outstanding opportunities to pursue jazz performance and writing. Alumni have performed with the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra, Chick Corea’s Origin, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Join Antonio García, Director of Jazz Studies, and the accomplished and dedicated faculty at VCU’s School of the Arts, ranked the #1 public university arts and design program in the country.

Learn more at
arts.vcu.edu/music

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***2015 Guest Conductor Anne Holton,
then Secretary of Education
of the Commonwealth of Virginia***
(photo credit Jean-Philippe Cyprés)

Anne Holton is a faculty member and former Interim President of George Mason University from 2019-20. She is a professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government and at the College of Education and Human Development and a visiting Fellow at EdPolicyForward.

She is a life-long advocate for children and families in Virginia. After graduating with a B.A. from Princeton and a Harvard law degree, Holton worked as a legal aid lawyer serving low-income families. She served as a juvenile and domestic relations district court judge from 1998 until 2005 when her husband, Tim Kaine, was elected Governor of Virginia. As Virginia's First Lady, Holton championed a successful initiative to secure permanent family connections for more foster youth. She later served as a consultant at the Annie E. Casey Foundation on foster care systems reform, with a focus on judiciary issues and preventing unnecessary out-of-home placements of youth due to complex behavioral issues. In 2008 Anne Holton worked with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education to establish the Great Expectations program, which works through campus coaches based on community college campuses to improve access to and success in higher education for Virginia's foster youth and alumni. She served as the Program's Director in 2013.

Holton attended public schools in Roanoke, Richmond, and Fairfax County, Virginia. With her family she helped integrate the Richmond Public Schools in 1970. She has been an active PTA member and volunteer at six Richmond public schools, where her children were educated. Holton served on the Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation Board 2010-2012 and on the Voices for Virginia Children Board 2010-2013. She also has served on the Advisory Board to Youth-Nex, the UVa Center to Promote Effective Youth Development at the Curry School of Education.

Holton is the recipient of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Life Award of Distinction and the Richmond YWCA Outstanding Woman in Law award in 2006 among other honors. She and her husband (now U.S. Senator Tim Kaine) have three adult children and reside in Richmond, Virginia.



Jazz4Justice[™] was conceived in 2000 when Fairfax, Virginia attorney Edward L. Weiner attended a jazz recital by the George Mason University (GMU) School of Music. He was very impressed by the music but distressed by the small audience. As a Past President of the Fairfax Law Foundation, a charitable organization created by the Fairfax Bar Association to support public access to legal services, he saw an opportunity for these two organizations to work together on a mutually beneficial project that would also strengthen connections with the local community.

Professor Jim Carroll, Founder of Jazz Studies at GMU, partnered with Ed; and the first *Jazz4Justice* concert was held at GMU in 2002.

Jazz4Justice[™] is truly a unique event. From the beginning, attorneys, judges, students, and community members have gathered in a friendly environment where jazz admirers could congregate and celebrate their love for the music. The program has received awards from both the American Bar Association and the Virginia State Bar for being an innovative fundraising program. Due to the success of *Jazz4Justice*[™] at George Mason University, other universities and local bar associations have joined this unique partnership between education, music, and the legal community. The program is now performed at eight campuses in Virginia and is poised to expand to a national level. Over the past fifteen years, *Jazz4Justice*[™] has raised more than \$350,000 for participating university jazz programs and their corresponding local Bar Foundations.

You can learn more about the Justice Gap, the Rule of Law, and Jazz4Justice at <<https://youtu.be/AraN3RpiG88>>.

Jazz4Justice[™] is financially assisted by a generous grant from the **Virginia Law Foundation**. The VLF promotes through philanthropy the Rule of Law, access to justice, and law-related education.





About the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation (GRBF) The mission of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation is to expand public access to the justice system through mobilizing, training, and connecting attorneys to pro bono clients. Through strategic planning, centralized communications and support, we assess priority needs for pro bono services and then connect lawyers to these opportunities to serve. To learn more, visit www.grbf.org

Pro Bono Clearinghouse: Giving Good Advice to Those Doing Good

The Pro Bono Clearinghouse is a referral service, linking experienced attorney volunteers with nonprofit organizations in need of legal counsel. Our virtual law firm of over 350 attorneys from 75 different law firms and corporate legal departments assists nonprofits each year with a variety of transactional matters, like personnel issues, contract negotiations, bylaw review, mergers, and intellectual property issues – for free – so our nonprofits can focus more of their resources on their charitable purpose. Through the generosity of our many volunteers, the Pro Bono Clearinghouse program has successfully handled over 1,250 matters from more than 700 different nonprofit organizations, valued at over \$3.5 million since the program’s inception in 2001. Thanks to a generous grant from The Community Foundation, GRBF has a new track of pro bono service for the Clearinghouse, i.e. General Counsel. Since 2017, we have trained over 60 attorneys in five major topics of nonprofit law (10 hours of free CLE). We pair volunteer attorneys with nonprofit organizations that serve low income populations in central Virginia, for a yearlong pro bono service engagement as “General Counsel.

Triage

In 2017, we partnered with CVLAS to launch the Triage project for pro bono service expansion. With private bar Champions managing critical need practice areas, legal aid attorneys and staff can focus on their core mission while referring more cases to prepared volunteer attorneys.

Eviction Diversion Project: Launched Fall 2019, in partnership with City of Richmond and HOME, GRBF manages volunteer conciliators who work with landlords and tenants to create payment plans in lieu of Unlawful Detainer judgments. Special thanks to all our Triage Champions, and to Lisa Bennett, CVLAS Triage Coordinator, for their time, energy and strategic thinking.

We are proud to have partnered with the VCU Department of Music and its Jazz Studies Program towards jazz scholarships and the funding of pro bono assistance in the Greater Richmond community. A special thanks to Ed Weiner and his new Jazz4Justice Foundation for the royalty free use of the Jazz4Justice model, and the Virginia Law Foundation for its support of the Jazz4Justice programs.

Contact the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation:

PO Box 25072 | Richmond, VA 23260

Ami Kim | Executive Director | (804) 780-2600 | www.grbf.org | akim@grbf.org

The VCU Jazz Students Fund

We hope that you will make a gift to the VCU Jazz Students Fund. The Fund helps advance the careers of future jazz musicians by providing scholarships, equipment, and travel funding for students/ensembles, plus fees for visiting artists. Your gift now at any of the following levels will help us secure these opportunities for our students: \$1000+ (Jazz Orchestra), \$500 - \$999 (Big Band), \$250 - \$499 (Quartet), \$100 - \$249 (Duo), \$1 - \$99 (Soloist). For more information or to donate by credit card, visit <www.go.vcu.edu/jazzfund>; scroll down to “Jazz Students Fund.” Or make your check payable to the “VCU Foundation”; in the memo-area write “Jazz Students Fund,” and send it to Antonio Garcia, VCU Music, 922 Park Avenue, PO Box 842004, Richmond VA 23284-2004.

VCU Jazz Faculty

Hector “Coco” Barez—Afro-Cuban Percussion; **Taylor Barnett**—Jazz Arranging, Jazz History, Jazz Pedagogy, Trumpet; **Carlos Chafin**—Affiliate Faculty (In Your Ear Studio); **Michael Ess**—Guitar, SJE; **Antonio García**—Director of Jazz Studies, Trombone, Jazz Orchestra I, SJE, Jazz Theory, Jazz Pedagogy, Music Industry; **Thomi “FAT Thomi” Hairston**—History of Hip-Hop; **Wells Hanley**—Piano, Jazz Masterclass; **Emre Kartari**—SJE; **J.C. Kuhl**—Saxophone; **Filipe Leitão**—Composition and Sound Design for Cinema, Games, and Motion Media; **Tony Martucci**—Drum Set, SJE; **Rex Richardson**—Trumpet; **Marlysse Simmons**—SJE; **Eric Wheeler**—Upright and Electric Bass; **Toby Whitaker**—JO II, SJE, Jazz Improvisation.

Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University

The VCU Jazz Studies program provides its students outstanding opportunities to pursue jazz performance and writing, as evidenced in part by alumni who have performed with such artists as Chick Corea, Wynton Marsalis, Abbey Lincoln, Ray Charles, Count Basie Orchestra, Mandy Moore, k.d. lang, Bon Iver, and Foxygen; have appeared on Saturday Night Live, Conan O’Brien, The Daily Show, The Colbert Report, and David Letterman; have composed film, TV, and videogame scores; and who are superb educators, composers, and performers throughout local, national, and international venues. For more information, please visit <www.jazz.vcu.edu>; e-mail Prof. García at <ajgarcia@vcu.edu>.

Special Thanks

A concert such as this is only possible with the dedication of many. VCU Jazz and the GRBF express our gratitude to our many past sponsors, Dr. Erin Freeman and Prof. Lisa Fusco, guests Anne Holton and John Charles Thomas, Ed Weiner and Shannon Gunn of *Jazz4Justice™*, the current and past students represented among all of tonight’s performers, and to Facilities Coordinator Curt Blankenship for his digital expertise in streaming this concert.

VCU Jazz Calendar (in part and subject to change)

Free admission via stream at go.vcu.edu/concerthall:

SUN 2/21, 4p—Antonio García Faculty Jazz Recital (trombone, composition). Admission free. Performers include Mary Hermann García, VCU Jazz Orchestra I, VCU Commonwealth Singers, VCU Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band, The Nashville Avenue Stompers, UKZN-Jazz Storytellers Ensemble, and more.

*Get the inside story and advance word on VCU Jazz events by subscribing to the **VCU Jazz E-Newsletter** (free!) E-mail Prof. García at ajgarcia@vcu.edu.*

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