

University Jazz Lab Band

2018–2019 Season
506th Concert

Tuesday 9 April 2019
Dalton Center Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

TOM KNIFIC, Director

featuring

Matt Hughes, Bass

Program to be selected from the following:

T. Knific/J. Knific
arr. Crotty

Pat Metheny
arr. Curnow

Johnny Hodges
arr. Clayton

Pat Metheny
arr. Curnow

Pat Metheny
arr. Curnow

Tom Knific
arr. Clayton

Matt Harris

That Day in May

Soloists: Ben Crino, guitar; Owen Kilpatrick, tenor saxophone;
Ivan Akansiima, piano

In Her Family

Squatty Roo

Soloists: Michael Robens, alto saxophone; Reed Rusticus, trumpet;
Payton Gagliardi, trombone; Ben Crino, guitar; Ivan Akansiima, piano

Always and Forever

Soloists: Ben Crino, guitar; Benjamin Piela, flugelhorn

See The World

Soloists: Owen Kilpatrick, tenor saxophone; Ben Crino, guitar

Two for "T"

Soloists: Matt Hughes, bass; Tom Knific, bass

The Diver

Soloists: Matthew Harrell, tenor saxophone; Michael Robens, alto saxophone

Building emergencies will be indicated by flashing lights and spoken announcement within the seating area. If the notification is for fire, please exit the building immediately. The tornado safe area in Dalton Center is along the lockers in the brick hallway to your left as you exit to the lobby behind you. In any emergency, walk—do not run—to the nearest exit. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance. Because of legal issues, any video or audio recording of this performance is forbidden without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.

This program and other select concert recordings are available for sale through the Western Sound Studio — 269-387-4720.

UNIVERSITY JAZZ LAB BAND

Tom Knific, Director

Saxophone

Michael Robens, alto, Traverse City
Huizhong Pi, alto, Kalamazoo
Owen Kilpatrick, tenor, Lansing
+ Matthew Harrell, tenor, Grand Blanc
Joshua Haugen, baritone, Kalamazoo

Trumpet

Benjamin Piela, Grand Rapids
James VanBennekom, Grand Haven
Taylor Losey, Leslie
Matthew Hurwitz, Portage
Reese Rusticus, Byron Center

Trombone

Payton Gagliardi, Lake Zurich IL (assisting)
Justin Hamann, South Lyon
Alli Dotson, Midland
Levi Rickert, bass, Bemidji MN
Carrie Harger, Mason

Rhythm

Ivan Akansiima, piano, Kampala, UGANDA
Ben Crino, guitar, Okemos
Alex Theisen, bass, Holland
Brad Crossland, drums, Kalamazoo
Drew Deur, drums, Holland

+ Member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity for men

TOM KNIFIC founded the WMU Jazz Studies degree program with Trent Kynaston and Steve Zegree, in the late 1980's. It was the first collegiate jazz studies degree program in Michigan. Knific directed the Jazz Studies program for nearly 20 years until 2016. Prior to WMU, he helped found and directed the Interlochen Arts Academy Jazz Studies program. Knific presents his final University Jazz Lab Band concert tonight. He estimates he has directed nearly 200 Lab Band concerts in his thirty two years at WMU! Knific is responsible for dozens of the jazz program's DownBeat awards, including 2 of the 3 won by the WMU Jazz Orchestra. He leaves a legacy of over 15 CDs with faculty and student ensembles. He is responsible for creating, funding, and curating most of the artists-in-residencies which have defined the program. These include, Billy Hart (27 years), Fred Hersch (10 years), Edward Simon (5 years), and Peter Eldridge (6 years). He is also responsible for numerous WMU guest artist appearances. He helped establish and directed the WMU Jazz Masters series, and created the Distinguished Jazz Alumni Series, the Senior Jazz Award, and the WMU Latin Jazz ensembles Brasil Project and Mas Que Nada, which swept the DownBeat awards 3 straight years. He led the Western Jazz Quartet from 1992-2016. The WJQ performed on 5 continents. As artist ambassadors, the WJQ was the only midwest ensemble, along with the Chicago Symphony, on the U.S. Department of State's Highly Recommended roster which resulted in extensive touring opportunities throughout the 1990's and early 2000's. Other highlights include a tour of Thailand in honor of the King's 50th anniversary, and tours with guest artists in the US and abroad, including Randy Brecker, Art Farmer and Billy Hart.

Knific has performed with many of the great jazz and classical artists of our time on tour and on record. They include Gene Bertoncini, Billy Hart, Randy Brecker, Joey Lovano, Dave Brubeck, Ken Peplowski, John Abercrombie, Shelly Berg, Jiggs Whigam, Freddie Hubbard, George Benson, Fred Hersch, Sir Roland Hanna, Art Farmer, Andy LaVerne, Kenny Werner, Toots Thielemans, Eric Marienthal, Harvey Mason, Jamey Haddad, Billy Drewes, Roy Ayers, Rufus Reid, John Clayton, Ramsey Lewis, Billy Taylor, Wlodek Pawlek, Marvin Stamm, Pepe Romero, Andre Watts, Philippe Entremont, and the Merling Trio. He has appeared as a soloist with orchestras throughout the U.S. and has performed as principal bassist with orchestras and chamber orchestras in the U.S. and Europe. He has appeared at chamber music festivals in the U.S. and Europe. Knific became President of The International Society of Bassists in 2003 and currently serves as Director of Development. He hosted the ISB convention in 2005, bringing 1,000 bassists to Kalamazoo. Knific received the DownBeat Award In Jazz Education in 2004; the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce Hometown Hero award in 2005. In 2016 he received Musical America's Top Professionals Award for Innovation and the Art Council of Greater Kalamazoo Community Arts Medal. Knific is a visiting professor at the China Conservatory, Beijing. He has also taught at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Michigan State University, Cleveland Institute of Music, and has presented over 200 hundred master classes and residencies worldwide. His students perform in orchestras on 3 continents; in jazz and pop touring and recording groups including Betty Carter, John Scofield, Rhianna, etc; and teach in universities across the US, including the University of North Texas, USC, and University of Wisconsin.

"What I will miss most are the students. I am very grateful for these wonderful associations that have lifted me over 40 years of teaching, with many lasting a lifetime".

MATT HUGHES performed in numerous symphony orchestras and jazz ensembles in the Midwest. After receiving his BM from Michigan State University and his MM from Western Michigan University, He moved to New York City to tour and record with jazz great Betty Carter. He has worked with the Cab Calloway Orchestra and had the honor of recording "The Bass" one of Milt Hinton's unrecorded features with the Orchestra. Hughes was a featured performer at the International Society of Bassists convention and has performed chamber music at the Greenwich house in New York City, at Penn State University and Potsdam University. In the Jazz Idiom He has performed with The Glenn Miller Orchestra, The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, The Nelson Riddle Orchestra, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, and The Gene Krupa Orchestra. He has also performed with Jimmy Heath, Eric Alexander, Myron Waldon, Jon Hendricks, Donald Harrison, Jack DeJohnette, Billy Hart, Richard Stoltzman, and Milt Hinton. Hughes is a professor at Western Illinois University.