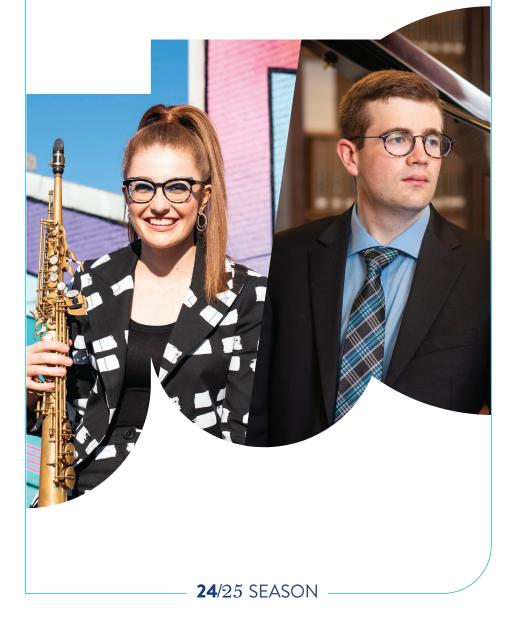


Jess Gillam Saxophone Thomas Weaver Piano





Dear Friends,

Welcome to the final concert of our season—what a year it's been! Thank you for joining us for another unforgettable musical journey. Your presence and support have meant the world.

Tonight, we welcome back saxophonist Jess Gillam and her collaborator pianist Thomas Weaver. Jess made her PUC debut on our Performances Up Close series just two years ago. She stole our hearts, and we had to invite her back. Saying goodbye to her felt like parting with an old friend, even after just a few days together—so it's a true joy to reunite.

As we close the curtain on this season, we're already looking ahead: subscriptions for next year are on sale now, and we'd love nothing more than to share another year of extraordinary music with you.

But before that, please join Jess Gillam tonight following the concert for the annual chamber jam. It is a wonderful way to celebrate our collective love of music.

Wishing you a joyful, restful summer—and see you next season!

With gratitude,

Mau

Marna Seltzer Director of Princeton University Concerts

Out of respect for the artists and enjoyment of your fellow concertgoers, please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices before the concert. Photographs and audio/video recording are prohibited during the performance. Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7:30PM • Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall Post-concert Dance Jam with Jess Gillam and Thomas Weaver at 9:30PM

JESS GILLAM Saxophone THOMAS WEAVER Piano

JOHN DOWLAND (1563–1626) "Flow My Tears" RUNE SØRENSEN (b. 1983) "Shine You No More" (arr. Gillam)

FRANCIS POULENC (1899 - 1963)

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913–1976)

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862 - 1918)

NADIA BOULANGER (1887–1979)

GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN (1681–1767)

Oboe Sonata, FP 185 (arr. John Harle) Élégie • Scherzo • Déploration

Temporal Variations (trans. Gillam) Theme • Oration • March • Exercises • Commination Chorale • Waltz • Polka • Resolution

"Beau Soir"

"Cantique" (arr. Alistair Vennart)

Sonata in F Minor TWV 41:f1 (arr. Simon Parkin) Triste • Allegro • Andante • Vivace

INTERMISSION

PEDRO ITURRALDE (b. 1976)		Pequeña Czarda (arr. John Harle/Gillam)
STAN GETZ (1927-1991) JIMMY ROWLES (1918-1996)		The Peacocks (arr. Iain Farrington)
PHIL WOODS (1931–2015)		Extracts from Sonata for Alto Saxophone
RUDY WIEDOEFT (1893–1940)		Valse Marilyn
BARBARA THOMPSON (1944–2022)		"The Unseen Way"
SIDNEY BECHET (1897-1959)	I	Petite Fleur (arr. Iain Farrington)
GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898–1937)		"Liza" (arr. Al Gallodoro, trans. Peter Riley)
JOHN HARLE (b. 1956)		RANT!



About the Program

By Lucy Caplan © 2025 • Program Annotator

Lucy Caplan is Assistant Professor of Music at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Her first book, 'Dreaming in Ensemble: How Black Artists Transformed American Opera,' was just published by Harvard University Press in 2025. She is a winner of the Rubin Prize for Music Criticism.

In a 1920 review of a saxophone-playing vaudeville troupe, a critic for *Life* magazine wrote that nobody "can listen to the Six Brown Brothers and not feel consumed with a desire to throw over whatever work he may be doing in the world and take up the saxophone." If this assessment conveys the immense popularity of the instrument during the so-called "saxophone craze" of the early twentieth century, it might also speak to the instrument's irrepressible appeal. Invented by the Belgian-born Adolphe Sax in the 1840s and initially popular with French military bands, the saxophone was repurposed to comic effect in American vaudeville, where it was used to imitate chicken squawks. Its zenith came, perhaps, in jazz, when it became the instrument of choice for greats from Sidney Bechet to Coleman Hawkins, Charlie Parker, and Cannonball Adderley. Women have been less often acknowledged in standard chronicles of the instrument's history, yet—as is often the case—they have been consistently present: on vaudeville circuits in the 1910s, as performers in all-woman swing bands during the 1940s, and in more recent years as soloists and ensemble members across a multitude of settings.

66 This evening's program foregrounds versatility, traversing eras from the Renaissance and Baroque to the present and selections from the overlapping realms of jazz and classical composition."

Jess Gillam takes an expansive approach to the instrument and its expressive possibilities. This evening's program, which features Gillam alongside pianist Thomas Weaver, foregrounds versatility, traversing eras from the Renaissance and Baroque to the present and selections from the overlapping realms of jazz and classical composition. Equally notable is its inclusion of several sonatas: three in total, ranging from a Baroque selection by Georg Philipp Telemann to a twentieth-century composition by Phil Woods. One of the more generously defined terms in musical language—sonata means simply "sounded," as opposed to sung, and refers to instrumental music for soloists or small ensembles—it seems an appropriate anchor for a program that offers a unique window into the immense creative capacities of a single instrument.

John Dowland, "Flow my tears" (1596) / Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, "Shine You No More" (2017), arr. Jess Gillam

The English Renaissance composer John Dowland's mournful "Flow my tears" originated as a pavane for lute; lyrics were added only later, once its popularity had been established. It has since been adapted for a multitude of instruments and voice types. Here, it is paired with "Shine You No More," by the contemporary Danish violinist Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen (of the Danish String Quartet). Inspired directly by Dowland's harmonies, yet folksier and more high-energy in style, Sørensen's work testifies to the enduring appeal of Dowland's plaintive composition.

Francis Poulenc, Oboe Sonata, FP 185 (1962), arr. John Harle

Poulenc composed several sonatas for woodwind instruments over the course of his career, including works for clarinet and piano; flute and piano; two clarinets; and clarinet and bassoon. This sonata—his final composition in any genre—comprises three elegant movements. The opening "Élégie" is wonderfully lyrical, while the second movement, a Scherzo, centers on an angular, arpeggiated motif. The final movement, "Déploration," is atypically slow-paced. Its shifting meter, chordal harmonies, and tragic mood imbue it with a sacred, chant-like feel.

Benjamin Britten, Temporal Variations (1936), trans. Jess Gillam

Early critics were not kind to Britten's *Temporal Variations*: one dismissed it as "the kind of music that is commonly called 'clever." But subsequent listeners have come to appreciate the work's emotional range in addition to its design. The theme, which returns time and again to the interval of a half-step, feels agitated yet unstructured. The variations which follow are immensely different from one another: some fantastical, some insistently march-like, others bitingly ironic.

Claude Debussy, "Beau Soir" (1891)

Debussy first composed his much-loved art song "Beau Soir" while still a teenager, then returned to the work more than a decade later. Set to an idyllic poem by Paul Bourget, it paints a picture of a beautiful (yet melancholy) evening by way of a rippling accompaniment set against a languorous melody.

Nadia Boulanger, "Cantique" (1909), arr. Alistair Vennart

Although best-known today as a teacher and mentor, Nadia Boulanger also worked prolifically as a composer and conductor. This song, which dates from early in her career, is set to evocative lyrics by the Symbolist playwright Maurice Maeterlinck. It features a simple, almost ecstatic melody set atop repeated piano chords.

Georg Philipp Telemann, Sonata in F Minor TWV 41:f1 (1728), arr. Simon Parkin

Telemann was not shy about his musical achievements: he wrote in a 1729 autobiography that "What I have accomplished with respect to musical style is well known. First came the Polish style, followed by the French, church, chamber and operatic styles, and the Italian style, which currently occupies me more than the others do." As publisher of the first German music periodical, *Der getreue Music-Meister*, he also had ample opportunity to share his own compositions with a broad public. This sonata first appeared in its pages. The movements follow a slow-fast-slow-fast structure. The first movement is somber, while the second is speedy and virtuosic. The third movement is an Andante featuring lovely suspensions and deceptive cadences, and the final movement takes the form of a fast-paced but elegant dance.

Pedro Iturralde, Pequeña Czarda (1997), arr. John Harle/Jess Gillam

In the landscape of twentieth-century Spanish jazz, the saxophonist-composer Pedro Iturralde (1929–2020) stood out for his hybridized approach, which borrowed freely from flamenco, classical, and folk idioms. These elements infuse *Pequeña Czarda*, a virtuoso piece based on a Hungarian couples dance. After a slow, moody start, the piece ups the ante with a freewheeling cadenza.

Stan Getz / Jimmy Rowles, The Peacocks (1977), arr. lain Farrington

Recorded in 1975 in New York and released on the Columbia label in 1977, *The Peacocks* represented a reunion of sorts for pianist Jimmy Rowles and saxophonist Stan Getz, who had first worked together in the mid-1950s. This track, which shares a name with the album as a whole, is laid-back but sincere, with a beautifully intimate atmosphere.

Phil Woods, Extracts from Sonata for Alto Saxophone (1962; rev. 1974, 1994)

At its Carnegie Hall premiere, in 1962, Woods' Sonata bore the evocative title Four Moods. While it has since been revised several times, losing that title in the process, its central focus on the creation of a particular ambience remains. The piece blends classical and jazz styles, requiring the performers to demonstrate fluency in both. Precisely notated melodies share space with improvised elements, inviting the musicians to make the piece their own.

Rudy Wiedoeft, Valse Marilyn (1927)

The Detroit-born saxophonist Rudy Wiedoeft (1893–1940) was a pioneer in the instrument's history, creating more than 300 recordings and gaining a reputation as the "Kreisler of the Saxophone." *Valse Marilyn*, an original piece, showcases his talents as a composer: it combines an instantly hummable melody with technically impressive flights of fancy.

Barbara Thompson, "The Unseen Way" (2002)

"The Unseen Way" has a layered history. It began as part of virtuoso saxophonistcomposer Barbara Thompson's choral setting of poetry by Rabindranath Tagore. Later, Thompson introduced an instrumental rendition; her daughter, songwriter Ana Gracey, added her voice in a subsequent version, which was released on the first anniversary of Thompson's passing. Lush and intense, the piece eventually reaches a peaceful conclusion.

Sidney Bechet, Petite Fleur (1952), arr. lain Farrington

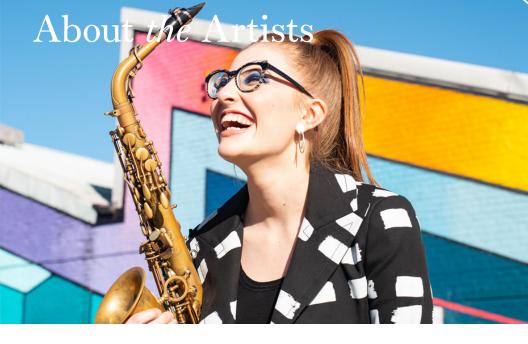
The legendary New Orleans soloist Sidney Bechet began recording jazz selections in 1923 (months before his frequent collaborator Louis Armstrong first appeared in the recording studio). His career continued for decades. The delicate, elegiac *Petite Fleur*, which dates from 1952, was recorded after he emigrated to France.

George Gershwin "Liza" (1929 / 1948), arr. Al Gallodoro, trans. Peter Riley

The celebrated saxophonist and clarinetist AI Gallodoro joined the Paul Whiteman Orchestra in 1936, quickly becoming one of the group's most in-demand soloists. In 1948, they embarked on a tour featuring Gallodoro's renditions of three popular Gershwin tunes. "Liza," which originated as part of the musical *Show Girl*, features a chromatic bass line against a leap-filled melody.

John Harle, RANT! (2018)

Composed with Gillam in mind, John Harle's RANT! is brilliantly festive. It is built around folk tunes from Cumberland and Westmorland, reflecting the locales of Gillam's upbringing. In the words of the composer, "A 'rant' in the tradition of English Folk music is an energetic dance, and means 'to make merry', which is exactly what Jess does."



JESS GILLAM, Saxophone

Jess Gillam is celebrated as a leading figure of the saxophone. She has been invited to play on the world's major stages since becoming the youngest ever soloist to perform at the Last Night of the Proms. Equally at home behind the microphone, Gillam has shattered glass ceilings as the youngest ever presenter for BBC Radio 3 with her award-winning weekly show, *This Classical Life*. Passionate about broadening the repertoire for the saxophone, Jess Gillam gives the premieres of various works in the current season; this includes *Glasslands* by Anna Clyne with the Festival Orchestra of the Lincoln Center, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Gillam continues to be Associate Artist of the Royal Albert Hall and Artistic Partner with the Manchester Camerata.

Highlights of Gillam's concerto appearances have included performances with the BBC, DSO Berlin, Gothenburg, Iceland, Lahti, London, NDR Elbphilharmonie, and Sydney Symphony Orchestras as well as the London, Royal Liverpool, and Munich Philharmonics. Concerto highlights in the United States have included the Houston Symphony and Minnesota Orchestra.

On the recital stage, Jess performs across Europe, the United States, and beyond. As an ECHO Rising Star in 2022/23 season, Gillam has appeared throughout Europe's most prestigious concert halls, including Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Wiener Konzerthaus, Konzerthuset Stockholm, and Barcelona's Palau de la Música. She has also performed

recitals at the Kissinger Sommer, Schleswig-Holstein, and Heidelberger Frühling music festivals. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in the 2022/23 season.

Jess Gillam loves to collaborate and bring people together to enjoy sparkly and energetic performances. She formed her band, the Jess Gillam Ensemble, in 2019. Their bold, uplifting and open-minded approach is rooted in classical music but takes inspiration from different musical worlds. Gillam's carefully curated programs provide a new spin on C.P.E. Bach, groove in the music of John Harle, Anna Meredith, and Barbara Thompson, as well as folk infusions and soaring melodies through works by Sakamoto, J.S. Bach, and Björk. Since their launch, the ensemble released their chart-topping album, *TIME*, and have performed throughout the UK and Europe to largely sold-out audiences at venues and festivals including the Wigmore Hall, Latitude Festival, Mozartfest Augsburg, and Bath Festival.

Alongside her performance work, Gillam is a keen TV and Radio presenter. Her weekly show on BBC Radio 3, *This Classical Life*, is in its fifth season and has garnered high praise from The Guardian who wrote: "There are many more established presenters who lack Gillam's warmth and impressive ability." In 2020, *This Classical Life* was awarded the ARIA Award for Best Specialist Music Show. As a guest presenter, Gillam has worked for BBC Radio 2, cohosted on BBC Radio 4's *Today Programme*, and presented at the BBC Proms and BBC.

As an exclusive recording artist with Decca Classics, Jess Gillam is the first and only saxophonist to be signed to the major label. Both her albums have reached No. 1 in the UK Classical Music Charts and her debut album, *Rise*, was listed in The Times' Top 100 albums of 2019. Her second album, *TIME*, was released to critical acclaim in 2020. In 2016, Jess Gillam made history after becoming the first saxophonist to reach the Finals of BBC Young Musician of the Year. She has been the recipient of a Classic BRIT Award, a The Times Breakthrough Award nominee, and was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honors list 2021 for Services to Music.

Returning to her roots in Ulverston in Cumbria, Gillam continues to promote her own concert series in her hometown, inviting internationally renowned artists, a series she founded at age 12. She is a patron for Young Sounds UK, Music in Secondary Schools Trust, and the London Music Fund and is a member of the Council of the Royal Philharmonic Society. Gillam is a Vandoren UK Artist and became the youngest ever endorsee for Yanagisawa Saxophones aged just 13. Jess made her virtual debut at PUC during the COVID closure and then appeared on our Performances Up Close series in 2022. We are thrilled to welcome her back as the first ever solo saxophonist on the series!

(continued on page 14)





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Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 7:30PM TABEA ZIMMERMANN, Viola JAVIER PERIANES, Piano* Schumann, Brahms, Britten, Shostakovich

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 7:30PM ÉBÈNE STRING QUARTET Mozart, Ravel, Brahms

Thursday, April 23, 2026 7:30PM AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA RICHARD TOGNETTI, Director Schubert, John Luther Adams, Fanny Mendelssohn

Thursday, April 30, 2026 | 7:30PM LISA BATIASHVILI, Violin GIORGI GIGASHVILI, Piano* Beethoven, Bartók, Josef Bardanashvili, Franck



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 3PM JOYCE DIDONATO, Mezzo-soprano TIME FOR THREE

"Emily—No Prisoner Be," A new song cycle by Kevin Puts based on poems of Emily Dickinson

Thursday, March 26, 2026 7:30PM PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA, Violin PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CHAPEL CHOIR RICHARDSON CHAMBER PLAYERS

"Dies Irae," a staged reflection on the end of the world, portraying a 'day of wrath' through music old and new.

JOYCE DIDONATO Mezzo-soprand February 22, 2026

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Saturday, October 18, 2025 | 1PM MEET THE MUSIC Curated for ages 6-12

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Thursday, September 25, 2025 6PM & 9PM TAKÁCS STRING QUARTET JORDAN BAK, Viola All Mozart

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6PM & 9PM ABEL SELAOCOE, Cello* Michel van der Aa, Ben Nobuto, Bach Presented in collaboration with with Princeton University African Music Ensemble

Thursday, November 13, 2025 6PM & 9PM RUCKUS, Early Music Band* EMI FERGUSON, Flute* "Fly The Coop," All Bach

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 6PM & 9PM THÉO OULD, Accordion* Bach, Piazzolla, Bartók, Villa-Lobos, Rameau Presented in collaboration with Princeton Sound Kitchen

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Wednesday, October 8, 2025 7:30PM MARK MORRIS, Choreographer The Dance Lives On: Contemplating Artistic Legacy "What's Mark Morris' legacy plan? Posthumous Premieres." -The New York Times

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 7:30PM PETER SELLARS, Director

Mourning through Music "It's not an accident that most of the greatest art comes from the most painful periods in human history." –Peter Sellars

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 7:30PM LISA BATIASHVILI, Violin Sounding Defiance: Georgia & Ukraine "First of all, we are human beings, and then we are musicians; not the other way around." –Lisa Batiashvili

PLUS! PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA, Violin Dies Irae | see Special Events

> ÉBÈNE STRING QUARTET April 8, 2026

THOMAS WEAVER, Piano

Thomas Weaver is a pianist, composer, and conductor currently on faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Weaver began his musical training at the age of eight, first appearing in public performance at the age of nine. Weaver has appeared in major concert halls throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, with frequent appearances in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, and Tanglewood Music Festival.

Weaver has appeared as a soloist with ensembles including the Curtis Institute's 20/21 Ensemble, Alea III, Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Orchestra, and Young Artists Wind Ensemble, collaborating with notable conductors such as Bruce Kiesling and H. Robert Reynolds. An active chamber musician, Weaver has performed with clarinetist Anthony McGill, violinist Jennifer Frautschi, and members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Weaver is currently a member of the Amram Ensemble. A strong proponent of new music, Weaver has given the premiere of numerous compositions, including works by David Amram, Reena Esmail, Anthony Plog, David Loeb, John H. Wallace, Christopher LaRosa, Alistair Coleman, and Francine Trester. His recordings can be heard on albums released by Aetto Records, including music by Hungarian composers for violin and piano, music by Astor Piazzolla, and music by David Amram. An award-winning composer, Weaver's music has been heard across four continents, in cities such as Philadelphia, New York City, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Berlin, Vienna, Itami, and Sydney. His works have been commissioned by organizations and musicians including New York Chamber Music Festival, Penn Museum, Boston University College of Fine Arts (in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the School of Music), Pharos Quartet, Marian Anderson Historical Society, Kenneth Radnofsky, Brittany Lasch, and Joshua Blumenthal. Weaver's works have been performed by large ensembles including Alea III, Boston University Symphony Orchestra, and Mannes American Composers Orchestra. Weaver was the recipient of the Bohuslav Martinu Composition Award.

As a conductor, Weaver has led performances in Philadelphia, New York City, and Boston. Weaver formerly served as the music director of the Marian Anderson Museum and Historical Society, regularly leading performances in collaboration with operatic voices. Weaver's work as music director has included work in both classical repertoire and work in other musical styles, including frequent jazz performances. Weaver has appeared as a guest conductor at the Boston University Festival of the Arts. An active educator, Weaver serves on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music and Boston University Tanglewood Institute. As a member of Curtis's Musical Studies faculty, Weaver teaches courses in harmony, counterpoint, analysis, keyboard harmony, scorereading, orchestration, and composition, in addition to frequent performances as a pianist. At Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Weaver has taught theory electives, coached instrumentalists, and started the Collaborative Piano Fellowship, which offers training experience to pianists interested in pursuing careers focused on collaboration.

Weaver has given lectures and master classes at places including Northwestern University, University of Central Florida, Murray State University, Austin Peay State University, People's Music School, and Cunningham Piano. Weaver has also served on juries for various competitions, including the Soloist of New England Young Soloists Competition, Rowan University String Ensemble Concerto Competition, and International Fringe Association Online Competition. Weaver's primary piano teachers include Anthony di Bonaventura, Victor Rosenbaum, and Pavel Nersessian. His primary composition teachers have included John H. Wallace, David Loeb, Martin Amlin, and Jonathan Coopersmith, in addition to supplementary studies with Gunther Schuller, Samuel Adler, and Theodore Antoniou. His conducting teachers have included Emily Freeman Brown and Michael Charry. Thomas Weaver appeared with Jess Gillam as part of our Performances Up Close series in 2022.

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Tonight at intermission, meet your fellow student attendees in the **Richardson Lounge (basement level)** and share your thoughts about the concert over free snacks.

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For more information visit: puc.princeton.edu/students

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We are happy to thank all of our staff and volunteers for their support.

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The first concert in what is known today as Princeton University Concerts was presented on October 29, 1894, thus establishing one of the oldest continuous series of musical events in the country. From 1894 to 1914, the "Ladies Musical Committee" presented concerts by the Kneisel Quartet. After 1914, the programs diversified. In 1929, the Ladies Committee became the Princeton University Concerts Committee—a town and gown group of interested and knowledgeable music lovers—which has guided the University Concerts to date.

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Lindsay Hanson Venue Manager, Richardson Auditorium

Mary Kemler Senior Manager & Ticketing System Administrator David Lindros Venue & Ticketing Associate

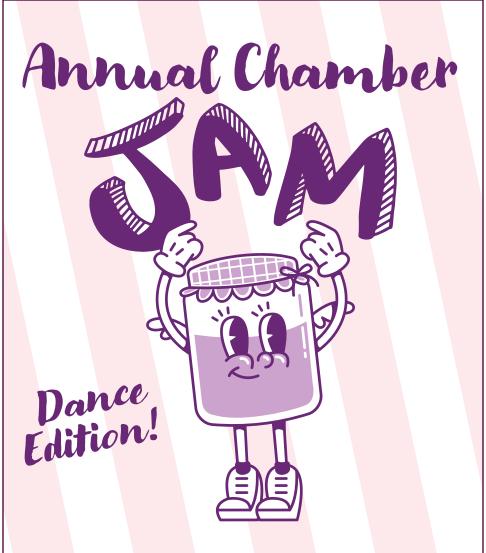
Sharon Maselli Audience Services Manager

Julio Montero Production Technician, Audio Specialist

Bill Pierce Production Technician

Lawrence Roth Senior Production Technician

James Taylor Assistant Director of Service & Operations



DANCE WITH US! immediately following the performance.

Follow along with the choreography as saxophonist Jess Gillam performs the music live!

ALL LEVELS & ABILITIES, PLUS A SEATED VERSION in collaboration with American Repertory Ballet