Valentine ROMANCE

FEATURING BYRON STRIPLING & THE COLUMBUS JAZZ ORCHESTRA

WITH DAVID PRUYN & CARLY THOMAS SMITH

THE SOUTHERN THEATRE

21 EAST MAIN STREET

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The Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO) was formed as a vehicle to create performance opportunities for jazz musicians in a big band setting. Forty-nine years later, the CJO is considered one of the world's finest jazz orchestras and a model for success, presenting big band jazz and world-renowned guest artists to thousands each year.

The flagship performing ensemble of the Jazz Arts Group, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra consists of musicians who are highly regarded as performers and educators across the country and around the globe. The CJO presents over 20 subscription concerts each season in Columbus, Ohio.

By incorporating contemporary arrangements into its repertoire and commissioning new arrangements and masterworks for jazz orchestra, the CJO promotes the future of big band jazz and cultivates the dynamic, adventurous spirit that has kept audiences coming back again and again.

The CJO has toured Europe and has collaborated with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, BalletMet Columbus, Columbus Gay Men's Chorus, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Opera Columbus, and the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company.

The CJO is led by world-renowned band leader and trumpet virtuoso Byron Stripling, former lead trumpet for the Count Basie Orchestra. Stripling has been a featured soloist with orchestras including the Boston Pops, Cincinnati Pops, the National Symphony, and the Pittsburgh Symphony. He has been a featured soloist at the Hollywood Bowl and performs at jazz festivals throughout the world. He has performed and recorded extensively with the bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, and Lionel Hampton, among others, as well as the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and the GRP All-Star Big Band.

In 2020, Byron Stripling was appointed Principal Pops Conductor of the famed Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, holding the Henry and Elsie Hillman Principal Pops Conductor Chair. This is only the second time in the orchestra's storied history that a Principal Pops Conductor has been named. In this new role, Stripling succeeds Emmy, Oscar, Tony, Grammy, Golden Globe and Pulitzer prize-winning composer/conductor Marvin Hamlisch.



CARLY THOMAS SMITH

Carly Thomas Smith

With a career that reaches from the Broadway Stage to the Hollywood Soundstage, singer/actor Carly Thomas Smith has worked across the full spectrum of the entertainment industry. After graduating from Sarah Lawrence College, she quickly booked RENT on Broadway (Maureen/Mrs. Cohen). Her subsequent Theater credits include Jersey Boys (Lorraine) We Will Rock You (Oz), Smokey Joe's Café (Patti) & Hamlet: The Rock Musical (Gertrude).



As both a soloist and a background vocalist, Carly has traversed many genres in the Music Industry. In concert, she

has been a Guest Artist with The Sydney Symphony Orchestra (The Sydney Opera House), The Columbus Jazz Orchestra, The Richmond Symphony Orchestra, The Perth Symphony Orchestra and more. As a Background Vocalist, she's shared the stage with recording artists Taylor Swift, Patti Austin, Ali Woodsen (The Temptations), Lee Ritenour, Phil Perry, Dave & Don Grusin, The Eagles' Joe Walsh & Don Felder to name a few. She also fronts her own Jazz small group, The Carly Thomas Smith Quintet.

On screen, Carly has appeared in roles on Curb Your Enthusiasm, Friends, Two and a Half Men, Desperate Housewives, Revenge, Star Trek: Enterprise, Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Wildlands, national commercials, and more. Her singing performances on Television include Don Grusin: The Hang, The Tony Awards, The American Music Awards, The VMAs, The Tonight Show, Ellen, Good Morning America, Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve, Late Night with David Letterman, etc.

Last year, Carly released her latest single, a modern groove version of the Cole Porter classic "Love For Sale" on all streaming sites, including Apple Music & Spotify. When she's not on stage in sequins, lashes, or in character, Carly stays busy as an ASCAP songwriter, voice teacher, mother, wife, Yoga enthusiast and taco lover. For the latest updates, visit carlythomassmith.com or Instagram: @carlythomassmith.



BYRON **STRIPLING**

Byron Stripling

With a contagious smile and captivating charm, trumpet virtuoso, BYRON STRIPLING, has ignited audiences internationally. As soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra, Stripling has performed frequently under the baton of Keith Lockhart, as well as being featured soloist on the PBS television special, "Evening at Pops," with conductors John Williams and Mr. Lockhart. Currently, Stripling serves as artistic director and conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbus Jazz Orchestra.



Since his Carnegie Hall debut with Skitch Henderson and the New York Pops, Stripling has become a pops orchestra favorite throughout the country, soloing with Boston Pops, National Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Toronto Symphony, and Houston Symphony, to name a few. He has been a featured soloist at the Hollywood Bowl and performs at jazz festivals throughout the world.

An accomplished actor and singer, Stripling was chosen, following a worldwide search, to star in the lead role of the Broadway bound musical, "Satchmo." Many will remember his featured cameo performance in the television movie, "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles," and his critically acclaimed virtuoso trumpet and riotous comedic performance in the 42nd Street production of "From Second Avenue to Broadway."

Television viewers have enjoyed his work as soloist on the worldwide telecast of The Grammy Awards. Millions have heard his trumpet and voice on television commercials, TV theme songs including "20/20," CNN, and soundtracks of favorite movies.

Byron Stripling earned his stripes as lead trumpeter and soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra under the direction of Thad Jones and Frank Foster. He has also played and recorded extensively with the bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Dave Brubeck, Lionel Hampton, Clark Terry, Louis Bellson, and Buck Clayton in addition to The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, The Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, and The GRP All Star Big Band.

In January 2020, Byron Stripling was appointed Principal Pops Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, holding the Henry and Elsie Hillman Principal Pops Conductor Chair. This is only the second time in the orchestra's history that a Principal Pops Conductor has been named. In this role, Stripling succeeds the Pulitzer, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Award-winning conductor, composer, pianist Marvin Hamlisch.

A B O U T TONIGHT'S A R T I S T

DAVID PRUYN

David Pruyn

David Pruyn is thrilled to return to Columbus, appearing once again with one of the nation's premier musical ensembles, the CJO! The son of professional musicians, this New Orleans native began his career (at age11!) as a circus drummer, working for his bandleader dad- then followed the path of his hero, Harry James, as he became smitten with the trumpet a few years later. After honing his drum and trumpet chops through the demanding repertoire of the circus, David branched out into the big band, jazz, and show facets of the music business, eventually studying arranging, orchestration, and conducting.



In 1985, David began a seventeen-month engagement as Music Director/Conductor for the first post-Broadway regional production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, "A Chorus Line." Then, in 1994, rather by a confluence of accident and necessity, he discovered the joys of singing; soon after, he became a protege of the renowned Broadway vocal coach, Fred Silver. In 2012, with the guidance and participation of his musical mentor, the celebrated pianist/arranger Mike Renzi, David produced an acclaimed tribute to Mel Tormé, titled "Notes on Velvet."

Along the way, David has played 1st trumpet, drums, and/or sung for the Jimmy Dorsey, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, and Les Brown bands. David considers it his great good fortune to have trained "on the job" with his parents, Bill (a big band trumpeter in the late 1940's) and Rosa Lee (a fine solo pianist and accompanist). His adult professional life has brought associations with Byron Stripling, Doc Severinsen, Bobby Shew, Roger Ingram, Walt Johnson, Carl Saunders, Bill Watrous, Dave Steinmeyer, Buddy Morrow, Bill Allred, Ken Peplowski, Ed Calle, Pete Christlieb, Jeff Clayton, Eddie Barefield, Mike Brignola, Terry Myers, Glenn Zottola, Chick Corea, Dick Hyman, Vincent Falcone, Bob Florence, Eddie Higgins, Bobby Floyd, Ray Brown, John Clayton, Jaco Pastorious, Ed Shaughnessy, Grady Tate, Bob Rosengarden, and singers Mel Tormé, Jack Jones, Johnny Mathis, Steve Lawrence, Dick Haymes, Frank Sinatra, Jr., Al Jarreau, Freddy Cole, Rosemary Clooney, Eydie Gormé, Aretha Franklin, Carmen Bradford, The Manhattan Transfer, The Four Freshmen, and an old hometown buddy by the name of Harry Connick, Jr.

Since 2017, David has been the leader of "The Fabulous Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra," residing in Venice, Florida with his wife, the renowned vocalist Michele James-Pruyn, and their son, Jamie.

FFSTAGE at the Jazz Academy

OFFERS BEHIND-THE-SCENES INSIGHTS

udience members can join the season's guest artists for "Offstage at the Jazz Academy" for casual and engaging conversations livestreamed from the Jazz Arts Group's Jazz Academy atop the Lincoln Theatre. Learn about the artists' backgrounds, influences, performing and touring experiences, and more.

During this time of Covid, our "Offstage at the Jazz Academy" has been moved from in-person on Saturday afternoons to online Tuesday evening livestreams at www.JAG.tv.

DAVID PRUYN & CARLY THOMAS SMITH

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 | 7 PM

BERNARD FOWLER & TIM RIES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 | 7 PM

TONY DESARE

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 | 7 PM















For more information about Jazz Academy programs, visit www.jazzartsgroup.org or call 614.294.5200.



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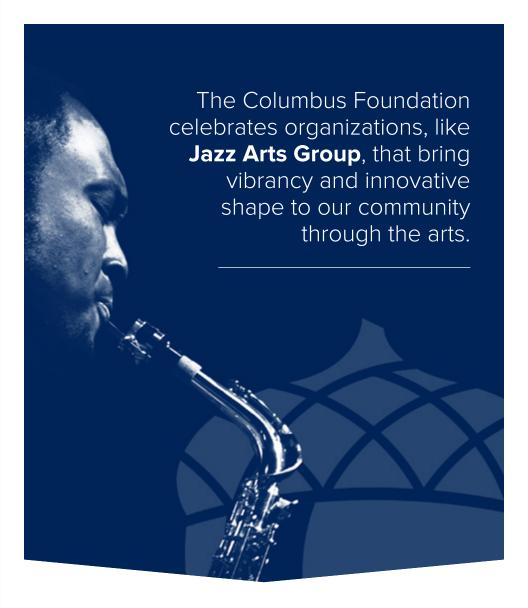
COLUMBUS JAZZ ORCHESTRA

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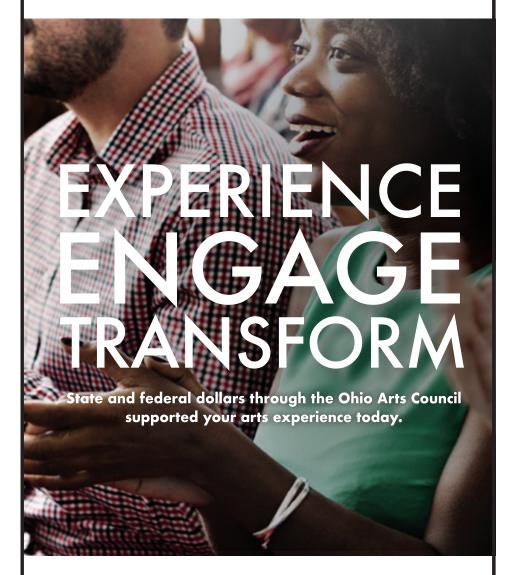
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ALL ABOUT THAT BASS!

CHRIS BERG

Chris Berg

For 18 years bassist Chris Berg has been part of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra's "holy trinity" – its stalwart rhythm section comprised of Berg, pianist Bobby Floyd and drummer Bob Breithaupt. The Columbus Jazz Orchestra bid a fond farewell this past summer to Chris as he announced his retirement.

"For years, CJO bassist Chris Berg's swinging bass lines laid a solid foundation for the orchestra. His extraordinary musicianship, encyclopedic knowledge of all things jazz, and the camaraderie he created with his fellow musicians was beyond compare. We will miss him and wish him well as he retires." -- Byron Stripling.



Mr. Berg holds a Master of Arts in Theory and Composition from Montclair State University, NJ and a Bachelor of Music in Double Bass Performance from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

He has enjoyed an active career in jazz for over 40 years as a performer in clubs, concerts, festivals, films, radio, and television with such leading musicians as Susanna McKorkle, Mel Lewis, Jimmy Knepper, Joe Albany, Chuck Wayne, Richie Cole, Mulgrew Miller, Eddie Daniels, Fred Hersh, Warren Vache, the Widespread Depression Orchestra, John Pizzarelli, Marty Grosz, Stanley Cowell, and more.

Chris Berg appears on dozens of commercial recordings with such performers as the Dells, Marty Grosz, Tim Cummiskey, the CCM Faculty Jazztet, Vivian Lord, Dick Mackie, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Dave Greer's Classic Jazz Stompers, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, and many others. His CDs of original compositions, A Man is a Tree and Sweet Sorrow, both on Hipgnosis Records, received critical acclaim.

He remains active as a composer/arranger and his songs, jazz compositions, and orchestral and chamber pieces have been performed and recorded by many artists. He has also written original music for film & television, musical theatre and video games.

As the former Director of Research and Music Development with Brain Actuated Technologies, Inc., Yellow Springs, OH, Chris designed, developed and patented software for brain-actuated music. He is the inventor of the Berg Bass-in-a-Box, a collapsible semi-acoustic bass. Berg is also assistant professor of Jazz Studies at Central State University, adjunct professor of Jazz Bass at Otterbein University, and a teacher in numerous clinics and workshops throughout the Midwest.

Thank you, Chris, for your inspired playing and dedicated service to the Jazz Arts Group, Columbus Jazz Orchestra and the jazz community of central Ohio.

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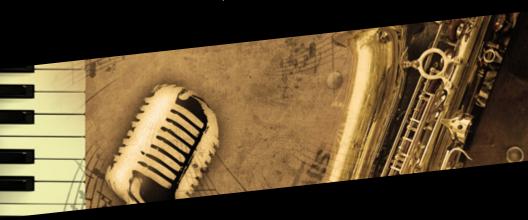
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