

The Goodness of Music

Jazz
Faculty
Concert



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

7:30 PM

THE THEATRE

1860 7TH STREET | CHARLESTON, IL 61920 | (217)581-3110 | DOUDNATIX.COM

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

BARBARA BONNEKESSEN, DEAN

MICHAEL CORNEBISE AND CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL, ASSOCIATE DEANS



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

Faculty

George Alberti
Magie Beck
David G. Boggs
Stacy Butler
Michael Campbell
David Commanday
Bradley Decker
Howard Eckdahl,
Stefan Eckert
Sam Fagaly
Matthew Ferrandino
Connor Frederick
Molly Frederick
Shellie Gregorich, Chair
Jack Helsley
Scott Hesse
Rebecca Johnson
Paul Johnston
Kevin Michael Jones

Ji-Myung Kim
Danelle Larson
Seth Marshall
Annie Mason
Janet McCumber
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Liza Meyers
Alicia Neal
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Jamie Ryan
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Rebecca von Kamp
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Support Staff

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Choral Ensembles

Camerata Singers
Concert Choir
University Mixed Chorus

Eastern Symphony Orchestra

Jazz Ensembles

Jazz Combos
Jazz Ensemble
Jazz Lab Band

Music Theatre/Opera Ensemble

Percussion Ensemble

University Bands

Concert Band
Eastern Symphonic Band
Panther Marching Band
Wind Symphony

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PROGRAM

Program to be selected from the following:

A Step Forward.....	Connor Frederick
Cupbearers.....	Tom McIntosh
Emily.....	Johnny Mandel & Johnny Mercer
Gingerbread Boy.....	Jimmy Heath
I Fall in Love too Easily.....	Jule Styne & Sammy Cahn
Motion Blur.....	Jamie V. Ryan
Stella by Starlight.....	Victor Young
Ton Sur Ton.....	Mark Johnson

TANNER/GHOLSON FUND: CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF MUSIC

In 2009, EIU Professor of Education Emeritus Ronald Gholson established the David Frank Tanner/Ronald Eugene Gholson Endowment Fund Celebrating the Goodness of Music, as a tribute to his friend David Tanner. Over the past 15 years, this fund has helped support equipment, travel, scholarships, and guest artists for the Jazz Studies Program. With the continued support of Dr. Gholson and other generous donors, the fund has grown and will continue to benefit future generations of EIU jazz students. Your contributions to this fund are greatly appreciated!

PURPOSE OF THE JAZZ STUDIES PROGRAM

- To promote jazz as a significant, indigenous American art form.
- To provide an environment for learning and developing the skills necessary to perform, compose, and teach in the professional world.
- To provide support for jazz studies programs in the public schools throughout the region.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sam Fagaly, Saxophone

Sam is the Director of Jazz Studies at Eastern Illinois University. He leads the EIU Jazz Ensemble and is Professor of Saxophone. He has also taught jazz theory, jazz history, and jazz band techniques. Under his direction, the EIU Jazz Ensemble has performed at IAJE, IMEA, and with numerous guest artists such as Joe Williams, Snooky Young, and many others. He has been active as a clinician and guest soloist throughout the nation and has been featured at the Region V North American Saxophone Alliance Conference performing in both classical and jazz styles. He has performed with many distinguished jazz artists including J.J. Johnson, Bobby Shew, and Sarah Vaughan. Before coming to EIU, Sam was a member of the United States Air Force Band of the West. Dr. Fagaly earned his Doctor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado where he studied with Roger Greenberg and Gene Aitken. He received his bachelor of Music Education from the University of Florida and his M.M. degree from Louisiana State University.

Scott Hesse, Guitar

Guitarist Scott Hesse is a well-respected figure in the Chicago jazz community. Known especially for his harmonic and rhythmic inventiveness, Scott is equally at home in straight-ahead or avant garde settings. Since moving to the Windy City in 2005, Scott has played at every major jazz venue in the area. In addition to performing, Scott is an avid composer and music educator.

Since 2007, Scott has led the guitar program at Eastern Illinois University. In 2009, he joined the faculty at Harold Washington College in Chicago. Scott is also a frequent guest clinician at Lane Tech High School in Chicago, where he was commissioned twice to write pieces for their guitar ensemble. Recently, Scott began working with the Thelonious Monk Institute/Gallery 37 music program as a guitar instructor and clinician.

As a leader, Scott has recorded three CDs, and he appears on a host of others. Scott holds a BA in Cultural Studies from Empire State College in New York and a Master's Degree in Jazz Composition from DePaul University in Chicago.

Jamie V. Ryan, Percussion

Jamie V. Ryan is Professor of Percussion at Eastern Illinois University. He plays with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Heartland Festival Orchestra, and is also in demand as a drum set artist across the Midwest, most notably as the drummer in Sun Stereo and drummer/timbalero in the Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective. In 1999, he co-founded the Africa->West Percussion Trio, which plays original works influenced by the African Diaspora and the Western tradition and is an ensemble-in-residence at Baldwin Wallace University.

BIOGRAPHIES

Connor Frederick, Trombone

Connor Frederick is a versatile trombonist, composer, and Instructor of Trombone and Jazz at Eastern Illinois University. Connor maintains a career as an in-demand performing artist. In 2024, he joined Latin trap and reggaeton artist Bad Bunny on his Most Wanted Tour as a member of the Miami-based Philharmonic Music Project. He has performed with symphony and chamber orchestras including the Southwest Florida Symphony, Sinfonia de Camera, and Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields. As a jazz and commercial artist, Connor has performed with artists such as Arturo Sandoval, Sal Lozano, Nestor Torres, Wayne Bergeron, Christian McBride, Regina Carter, Dick Oatts, Terrell Stafford, and Gordon Goodwin. He has also performed with ensembles including the Chicago-based Afro-Cuban Jazz Collective, Jukebox Saturday Night, and the Blueshift Big Band.

Paul Johnston, Piano

Paul Johnston is a versatile pianist, composer, and educator whose music bridges jazz, classical, and contemporary styles. He has performed with leading artists nationwide, and his compositions and arrangements are often featured by soloists, chamber groups, and jazz ensembles. Alfred Music has published several collections of his solo piano arrangements. A dedicated teacher, Paul taught for over a decade at the Interlochen Arts Camp and serves on the faculty at Eastern Illinois University, where he directs a jazz ensemble, coaches combos, and teaches jazz piano, improvisation, and arranging. He holds degrees from UNC–Chapel Hill and Indiana University, and is an alumnus of Ravinia's Steans Institute and the Henry Mancini Institute.

SUPPORTERS OF EIU JAZZ

Thank you for supporting the program by attending tonight's concert. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the people who support the jazz program through donations and scholarship endowments. We recognize our donors who have made contributions since July 1, 2025.

Thomas Wold
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Charles Titus
Joy Schlesselman
Ann Wheeler
William Yocum
Jennifer Reeley
Diane Grove

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FOR TICKETS TO FUTURE EVENTS

Call the Doudna Fine Arts Center Box Office at 217-581-3110! The Box Office is open Tuesday - Friday 11:00am - 5:00pm and one hour prior to every ticketed event. You can also visit www.eiu.edu/doudnatix and purchase/print your tickets at home and skip the line all together!

DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER

PATRON SERVICES GUIDELINES

Usher Staff

Ushers are located at the entrance of the venue. If you have a question or a problem, please let them know and they will contact the House Manager.

Ticket Policies

Please note that all ticket sales are final, and refunds will not be given.

Late Arrival

During classical concerts, late seating will only take place during the first convenient pause in the program.

During jazz, folk, world, or pop concerts, late seating is more casual, but ushers may ask you to wait to be seated between pieces. Please check with an usher regarding when you may enter the venue.

Mobile Devices, Photography and Recording

Please turn off all light-illuminating or sound-emitting devices. Mobile phone use is strictly prohibited inside all venues. Text-messaging and the taking of photographs or videos by phone are not permitted.

The use of cameras - with or without flash - and recording devices is a violation of copyright law and discourteous to other audience members.

Failure to comply will result in being asked to leave the performance without a refund.

Doctor and Parent Emergency Calls

If you are a medical professional/parent with a sitter at home, please put your phone on silent and wait to take the call until you are out of the performance venue.

No Smoking

Eastern Illinois University is a tobacco-free campus. Smoking of any kind, including electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on all university property.

Food and Beverages

Food is not allowed inside any of the venues. Only beverages in the special Doudna drink cup, with a secured lid, are permitted in the venues.

Accessibility

Special seating areas for wheelchair accessibility are available. Contact the Box Office in advance to secure a seat in these areas. Audio amplification is available for the hearing-impaired free of charge. A driver's license or other identification is all that is required for deposit.

In the Event of an Emergency

Emergency exits may be found outside of the venue and are marked accordingly. The lighted "Exit" sign nearest your seat is the shortest route out of the building.

Families

The Doudna welcomes patrons of all ages to experience and enjoy the arts. Please carefully consider whether a performance is appropriate for children before planning to attend with young people. If you have concerns or questions about a specific event, please call the Box Office at (217) 581-3110.

Please be considerate of others in the audience and your young person's comfort. Children who are disruptive will not be allowed to remain in the venue.

Lost and Found

Found items should be left with an usher. To determine whether a personal item has been turned in, please call the Box Office at (217) 581-3110 or the Programming, Publicity, & Promotions Office at (217) 581-8513.

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