doudna
FINE ARTS CENTER

The Goodness of Music

JAZZ FACULTY CONCERT



NOVEMBER 8, 2026

7:30 PM

THE THEATRE

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

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

MICHAEL CORNEBISE, DEAN

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL, ASSOCIATE DEAN

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

Faculty

George Alberti
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David G. Boggs
David Commanday
Bradley Decker
Howard Eckdahl
Stefan Eckert
Matthew Ferrandino
Connor Frederick
Molly Frederick
Haley Fryer
Ben Gerkins
Shellie Gregorich, Chair
Jack Helsley
Scott Hesse
Rebecca Johnson
Paul Johnston
Kevin Michael Jones
Ji-Myung Kim
Danelle Larson
Mark Lynch
Anne Mason
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Liza Meyers
Alicia Neal
Julie Park
Jamie Ryan
Evan Tammen
Yetong Tang
Rebecca von Kamp

Support Staff

Stacy J. Butler
Michael Campbell
Travis Diss
Ethan Hayward

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

Basketball Pep Band
Concert Band
Eastern Symphonic Band
Panther Marching Band
Wind Symphony

DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER STAFF

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PROGRAM

Announced from stage

FACULTY ENSEMBLE

Mark Lynch, saxophones
Connor Frederick, trombone
Paul Johnston, piano
Jack Helsley, bass
Jamie V. Ryan, drums

BIOGRAPHIES

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, Terell 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.

Jack Helsley is a bassist based in Indianapolis, IN and was most recently the bassist for the First North American Tour of *Dear Evan Hansen*. He is a graduate of The University of North Texas where he was a teaching fellow and bassist with the One O'Clock Lab Band. After receiving a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Louisville, he toured extensively throughout Europe, Africa and the U.S. with the United States Air Force Band. As a freelance bassist, he has been featured on numerous recordings of jazz, pop, rock, and country artists, and has performed with such notable talents as Jamey Aebersold, Lynne Arriale, David Baker, Bob Berg, Michael Brecker, Randy Brecker, Joey Calderazzo, Bob Dorough, Michael Feinstein, Benny Golsen, Ernie Watts, and Jeff Watts. He holds a Doctor of Music in Performance from The University of North Texas, a Masters in Jazz Studies from Indiana University, and has been on faculty at Anderson University, DePauw University, Marian University, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma State University, The University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Community College, University of Indianapolis, Wabash College, Western Illinois University, and currently teaches at Eastern Illinois and Indiana State Universities.

BIOGRAPHIES

Paul Johnston is a 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.

Mark Lynch is a South African-born saxophonist and an active performer and educator whose musical interests span both the classical and jazz traditions. He currently serves as Instructor of Saxophone at Eastern Illinois University as of Fall '26. A founding member of the award-winning Sun Quintet, Lynch has performed in a variety of musical settings, with a particular interest in the intersection of classical and jazz performance practices. His work as a performer, researcher, and educator reflects a commitment to musical versatility, collaboration, and the continued exploration of the saxophone across stylistic boundaries.

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.

TANNER/GHOLSON FUND: CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF MUSIC

Donations to the Tanner/Gholson Fund or the Jazz Studies program are sincerely appreciated. In 2009, Ronald Gholson established the David Frank Tanner/Ronald Eugene Gholson Endowed Fund Celebrating the Goodness of Music, as a tribute to his friend David Tanner. Over the past seventeen years, this fund has helped support equipment, travel, scholarships, and guest artists for the jazz studies program. With the continued support of generous donors, the fund has grown and will continue to benefit future generations of EIU jazz students.

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. We recognize our donors who have made contributions since July 1, 2025.

Ann & Roger Beck
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Marilyn Coles
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Jacob Hardy
Michael Harshman
Dillon Honn
Paul Johnston
Christopher Jones
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William Yocum

Donations help EIU's jazz program acquire new music, visit schools, host outreach events, and complete recording projects. To give, please send a check payable to Eastern Illinois University Foundation (with "Jazz Studies" in the memo line) to: EIU Department of Music; 600 Lincoln Avenue; Charleston, IL 61920.

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.

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Linda Keeler
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Dvorak Level

Ed & Nancy Marlow
Barbara & Michael Watts
Cynthia & Thomas Seputis

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!

UPCOMING JAZZ EVENTS

- Tuesday, November 17 | Jazz Lab Band Concert | The Theatre | Free
- Thursday, December 3 | Jazz Ensemble Concert* | The Theatre | Ticketed
- Tuesday, December 8 | Jazz Combo Concert | The Theatre | Free
- Friday, February 5 | Jazz Festival Opening Concert* | Dvorak Concert Hall |Ticketed
- Tuesday, February 23 | Jazz Combo Concert | Dvorak Concert Hall | Free





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 be given on a case-by-case basis.

Late Arrival

In most instances you will have to wait until an appropriate time to be seated. Please wait for an usher to escort you to your seat.

From time to time late seating is not allowed. If that is the case will need to wait until intermission or purchase a ticket for another day. Refunds are not given for late arrivals.

Mobile Devices, Photography and Recording

If viewing the digital program, please dim your screen brightness as a courtesy to those around you. Text-messaging and the taking of photographs or videos by phone or tablet is strictly prohibited.

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 with the above policy will result in you 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

EIU is a tobacco-free campus. Smoking of any kind, including electronic cigarettes is prohibited on campus.

Food and Beverages

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

Accessibility

Special accommodations can be made for patrons in wheelchairs, need of assisted listening devices, need of volume reducing devices, need of fidgets, etc. Please see the Box Office or call 217-581-3110 for more information.

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 or those with special needs who are disruptive will be asked to leave until they are ready to return.

Lost and Found

Found items should be left with an usher. If looking for a lost item ask an usher or call (217) 581-3110 / email doudnatix@eiu.edu and someone will get back with you the next business day.

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FINE ARTS CENTER



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Your contribution will help us continue to keep our performance, artistic spaces,and infrastructure at the level needed to produce and attract quality productions, concerts, exhibits, and artists.

FRIEND LEVEL $25+
- 1 ticket to a Doudna non-premier performance

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- 2 tickets to 2 Doudna premier performances
- 2 reusable Doudna cups

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- 2 tickets to 2 Doudna premier performances
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- 2 tickets to 4 Doudna premier performances
- 2 reusable Doudna cups
- Recognition in program
- Recognition on Lobby Screen
- Backstage Tour

DOUDNA LEVEL $5,000+
- 2 Doudna premier season tickets
- 2 reusable Doudna cups
- Recognition in program
- Recognition on Lobby Screen
- Backstage Tour
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  - *Attend a rehearsal/sound check or join the group for dinner.*
  - *Arranged by the Doudna Fine Arts Center*