Williams Jazz Ensemble
Kris Allen, Director
Ray Vega, trumpet

Program

Set One
That’s Earl Brother
John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie, Gil Fuller, and Raymond Brown
arr. Fuller

Lennie’s Pennies
Lennie Tristano, arr. Clare Fisher

In the Land of Oo-Bla-Dee
Mary Lou Williams

Round Midnight
Thelonious Monk, arr. Dizzy Gillespie
John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie, Gil Fuller, and Chano Pozo
arr. Fuller

Manteca

Set Two
Good Bait
Tadd Dameron

Fountainbleau
Tadd Dameron

What is this thing/ Hot House
Cole Porter/Tadd Dameron
arr. by Myles Collins/Kris Allen

Cubano Be
John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie, George Russell,
arr. Russell

Red Cross
Charlie Parker, arr. Jimmy Heath

Personnel
Henry Hobbs ’18, alto saxophone
Richard Whitney ’16, trumpet
Richard Jin ’18, alto and soprano saxophone
Jimmy Miotto ’18, trumpet and vocals
David Azzarra ’19 tenor saxophone
Ian Shen ’19, trumpet
Jack Ferguson ’18, tenor saxophone and flute
Daniel Fisher ’18, trumpet
Sammi Jo Stone ’17, baritone saxophone
Nathaniel Vilas ’17, piano
Hartley Greenwald ’16, trombone
Rob Morse, bass
Jeff Sload ’17, trombone
Gabe Morosky ’17, drumset
Sammy Rososfsky ’19, trombone
Brian Levine ’16, drumset
Ziev Dalshiem-Kahane ’19, trombone
Henry Lane ’18, trombone

special guests:
Ray Vega, trumpet
Mano Sundaresan ’19, piano
Sam Grunebaum ’19, piano
Sophia Smith ’18, vocals

Friday, December 5, 2015
8:00 p.m.
Chapin Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts

Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.
Ray Vega

A native of the South Bronx, Ray Vega is a veteran of the bands of Tito Puente, Ray Barretto, Mongo Santamaría, Mario Bauza, Luis “Perico” Ortiz, Hector LaVoe, Johnny Pacheco, Larry Harlow, Pete “El Conde” Rodriguez and Louie Ramirez to name a few. Ray has performed and/or recorded with Joe Henderson, Lionel Hampton, Mel Torme, Paquito D’Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, The Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Steve Turre, Israel Lopez “Cachao”, Las Leyendas De La Fania, Pete Escovedo, The Chico O’Farrill Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, Jazz at Lincoln Center Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, Paul Simon, John Santos and The Machete Ensemble, Jose Jose, Sheila E., Yomo Toro, Anna Saeki, Frank Foster’s Lead Minority Big Band, Diane Schuur, The Mike Stewart Big Band, Michel Camilo, Kirk Franklin, The Bob Belden Big Band, Dave Samuels and The Caribbean Jazz Project, Marco Antonio Muñiz, Jeanie Bryson, Eddie Palmieri, James “Jabbo” Ware and The Me, We and Them Orchestra, La Orquesta Sinfónica De Simon Bolívar, Sandro De Las Americas, The Mingus Big Band, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Bebo Valdez, and Celia Cruz, among numerous others. Ray currently works with the renowned Contemporary Classical composer Osvaldo Golijov, performing first and solo trumpet in the critically acclaimed work; La Pasión Según San Marco.

Ray has now established himself as one of the innovators of the international Jazz and Latin music scenes. A multi-talented trumpeter, percussionist, composer, and arranger, he presents Jazz from a refreshingly original and contemporary perspective. His two recordings on the Concord Picante label, his self-titled debut Ray Vega, and Boperation, along with his 1st release on the Palmetto label Pa’lante have been well received by critics, audiences and musicians alike. Vega’s 2nd Palmetto CD Squeeze, Squeeze has also received critical acclaim including Four Stars in Down Beat Magazine.

Vega’s latest CD is “East-West Trumpet Summit” is a collaboration with Seattle trumpeter Thomas Marriott. The CD was released in the summer of 2010 on Origin Records and has hit number 1 on the Jazzweek national radio jazz charts during the week of June 21, 2010.

Vega grew up immersed in the heart of two vibrant New York City music scenes: jazz and salsa. In addition to learning about these two musical styles with some of the great legends, he received his formal training, studying trumpet with Sydney Baker, Henry Nowak, Mike Lawrence, Stan Shafran, Laurie Frink, Richard Brezowski and Jerry Gonzalez. He studied Jazz harmony and improvisation with Susan Winder, Bobby Rogovin and Lonnie Hillyer. Vega studied Afro-Caribbean percussion with Luis Bauzo. Vega attended The Long Island University Brooklyn Center and is a graduate of the renowned High School of Music and Art.

A much in-demand musician, he has performed with Mongo Santamaria with whom he recorded numerous CD’s, Mario Bauza’s Afro Cuban Jazz Orchestra, including their first-ever European tour, and Ray Barretto and the New World Spirit. Vega was privileged to record three projects with this landmark group including the Grammy nominated “Taboo” and “Contact”. It was during his time with Barretto that Vega was called upon to join the Tito Puente Latin Jazz Orchestra as lead trumpet. Vega recorded with Puente’s Orchestra many times over including the Grammy winning Mambo Birdland, Dancemania ’99 and Obra Maestra.

In addition to his busy sideman and teaching schedule, Vega has also been developing his own bands. The Ray Vega Quartet (bebop and beyond), Ray Vega and The New York Latin Jazz All Stars (following in the footsteps of Mongo, Barretto and Fort Apache).

Vega has performed at the American Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Modern Art (both in NYC), the Indianapolis Museum of Art (five years in a row), the San Jose Jazz Festival (1999, 2000, 2004, 2005), The Blue Note, Birdland, The Jazz Standard, Tula’s in Seattle, Jazz at The Bistro in St. Louis, Mo, The Blue Wisp in Cincinnati, Church Hill Grounds in Atlanta, Jazz en Carolena Puerto Rico, Artsploruse in Raleigh, NC, the Battery Park Salsa Series and the South Street Seaport/Heineken Latin Jazz Series, The Duncan Theatre in West Palm Beach Fla., the 2002 U.S. Open, the Berne International Jazz Festival and Marian’s Jazz Room in Switzerland, and the Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Festival. Vega has brought his bands on two recent tours of Europe, and the Blue Note Cafe in Beirut, Lebanon. While in Lebanon, Vega participated in three concerts that were sponsored by The American Embassy in Beirut.

A recent high point in Vega’s career has been his August ’08 trip to Australia where he performed and recorded the Australian premier of the classic Miles Davis/Gil Evans work, Sketches of Spain. In ’09 Vega returned to Adelaide to perform the famous Porgy and Bess arranged by Gil Evans for Miles Davis’ recording by the same name.

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events:

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