



Thursday, April 24, 2025, 7:30 PM
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Jazz Vocal Ensemble

**Heritage: Celebrating Women Composers & Lyricists
in Jazz**

Michelle Lordi, Director

About the Department of Music

The Department of Music at Princeton University provides its undergraduates—whether they major or minor in Music—the opportunity to learn from a world-renowned faculty of scholars and composers. Performance opportunities include student-led and departmental ensembles like symphony orchestras, multi-genre choruses, jazz, contemporary music, African music, steel band, laptop orchestra, and much more, and students have access to private instrumental and voice lessons from eminent performing artists. The graduate program offers two distinct and prestigious Ph.D. programs in composition or musicology; graduate students receive fully-funded, immersive experiences conducting research, advancing their craft, and collaborating with faculty within Princeton University's inspiring, interdisciplinary campus.

For more information about the Department of Music and other upcoming events, and to sign-up for our mailing list, please visit music.princeton.edu.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Note From The Director:

Welcome! Tonight's concert honors the women who have shaped the sound and direction of jazz through composition and lyricism. From the groundbreaking work of Mary Lou Williams to the innovative voice of Esperanza Spalding, we celebrate a lineage whose contributions have too often been overlooked.

The program features works by Betty Carter, known for her daring improvisation and original compositions; Dorothy Fields, whose lyrics brought sophistication and wit to the American Songbook; Carmen Lundy, a vital force in modern vocal jazz; and Peggy Lee, whose writing matched her legendary interpretive style. We also showcase songs by lesser-known but equally impactful figures like Bernice Petkere—dubbed the “Queen of Tin Pan Alley”—and Ann Ronnell, whose work brought lyric elegance to early jazz ballads.

Our student performers selected a diverse range of songs that reflect their individual personalities and musical sensibilities. Through learning and interpreting this repertoire, they have deepened their understanding of jazz and the vital role women have played in shaping it. Several of our own Princeton student composers will also present original works and their own arrangements, carrying this legacy forward.

This evening stands as both tribute and acknowledgment of the rich heritage of women in jazz. Their contributions remain essential to the music's past, present, and future—and by recognizing this legacy, we help ensure its continued inspiration for generations to come.

Thank you for listening and your continued support of this great American art form.

Warm regards,
Michelle Lordi
Lecturer of Music
Director, Princeton Jazz Vocal Ensemble

PROGRAM

I Love Being Here With You

Composer: Peggy Lee, Bill Schluger
Lyricist: Peggy Lee

Ensemble

Lullaby of the Leaves

Composer: Bernice Petkere
Lyricist: Joe Young

Lilia Burtonpatel '27

Crowned & Kissed

Composer & Lyricist: Esperanza Spalding

Isabella Checa Ramia '25

Guess Who I Saw Today

Composer: Murray Grand
Lyricist: Elisse Boyd

Melody Choi '25

Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall

Composer: Doris Fisher
Lyricist: Allan Roberts

Paola Montoya '25 & Lilia Burtonpatel '27

National Scars

Composer & Lyricist: Daniela Vita '25

Daniela Vita '25

Is It a Crime

Composer & Lyricist: Sade Adu, Andrew Hale, Stuart Matthewman

Adia Niara Allison '25

What a Difference a Day Makes

Composer: María Grever
English Lyrics: Stanley Adams

Alessandro Troncoso '25

The use of photographic, video, or audio equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

PROGRAM

I Can't Give You Anything But Love

Composer: Jimmy McHugh
Lyricist: Dorothy Fields

Sophia Varughese '26

INTERMISSION

The Devil

Composer: Mary Lou Williams
Lyricist: Mary Lou Williams, Ada Moore
(arr. by Sophia Varughese)

Ensemble

Flor de Lis/Upside Down

Composer & Lyricist: Djavan
English Lyrics: Regina Werneck

Isabella Checa Ramia '25

Remind Me

Composer: Jerome Kern
Lyricist: Dorothy Fields

Sophia Varughese '26

Tight

Composer & Lyricist: Betty Carter

Melody Choi '25

Willow Weep for Me

Composer & Lyricist: Ann Ronell

Adia Niara Allison '25

The Island, the Sea and You

Composer & Lyricist: Carmen Lundy

Camille Jones '26

Rainy Window

Composer & Lyricist: Lilia Burtonpatel '27

Lilia Burtonpatel '27

The Feeling is Mutual

Composer & Lyricist: Caity Gyorgy

Melody Choi '25 & Sophia Varughese '26

FEATURING



Adia Niara Allison '25
Lilia Burtonpatel '27
Isa Checa Ramia '25
Melody Choi '25
Quinn Dorward '27
Camille Jones '26
Paolo Montoya '25
Otto Trueman '27
Alessandro Troncoso '25
Sophia Varughese '26
Daniela Vita '25

& Ian Kenselaar

Directed by **Michelle Lordi**

***Adia, Isa, Melody, Paolo, Alessandro, & Daniela:
It's been a pleasure to have you in JVE!
We wish you the best in your future endeavors!***



ABOUT

MICHELLE LORDI

Vocalist, educator, songwriter, bandleader Michelle Lordi has received international accolades and heavy rotation on jazz/AAA radio stations in the US and abroad for her jazz and genre bending recording projects. Lordi has performed in jazz clubs, festivals and performance venues across the US and in Europe. Her projects have garnered favorable reviews in Downbeat, JazzTimes, Jazziz (US), NYC Jazz Record, Jazz Journal, JazzWise (UK), JazzLife& Jaz.In (Japan). Lordi's music has been featured by NPR Music Live Sessions and Fresh Air with Terry Gross. Whether Lordi is performing American Songbook standards with jazz legends or exploring experimental soundscapes in her original music, a profound love of the music she chooses to sing and the musicians she creates with is evident in her vividly expressive and elegantly communicative voice. Lordi brings the insightful connection, creativity, and artistic collaboration that she has honed on the bandstand to her teaching here at Princeton University.

JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE (JVE) is a small jazz ensemble that features solo and ensemble voices with rhythm section (i.e. piano, guitar, bass, and drums) along with horns. This elite group of Princeton singers collaborates, creates and composes with their jazz instrumentalist counterparts. JVE hosts acclaimed professional jazz musicians and performs engaging concerts with a focus on jazz history, culture, storytelling and stage craft. For more information, contact jazz@princeton.edu.

JAZZ AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY serves to promote this uniquely American genre of music as a contemporary and relevant art form. Its goals are to convey the vast musical and social history of jazz, establish a strong theoretical and stylistic foundation with regard to improvisation and composition, and emphasize the development of individual expression and creativity. Offerings of this program include academic course work, performing ensembles, master classes, private study, and independent projects. Jazz at Princeton University thanks you for joining them on this evening's journey of beauty, exploration, discovery, and hope.



Jazz Ensembles

The Creative Large Ensemble, the Jazz Small Groups, and the Jazz Vocal Ensemble at Princeton engage the grand history of jazz as well as its modern forms and approaches. Performances take place both on and off campus. Guest artists are often in residence for a week conducting master classes and visiting ensembles and classrooms in addition to rehearsing with students. These have included Archie Shepp, Billy Childs, Theo Beckmann, Gerald Clayton, and Danilo Perez to name just a few. In some cases, guests have been commissioned to compose new work that is then premiered in concert.

Upcoming Jazz performances at Princeton

Thursday, May 1, 2025, 7:30 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Jazz at Princeton presents: Jazz Small Groups Z & 1

Jazz at Princeton presents performances by Small Groups Z & 1. Small Group Z, directed by Rudresh Mahanthappa, and Small Group 1, directed by Miles Okazaki, will play a mixture of classic jazz repertoire and contemporary compositions. | Unticketed

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 7:30 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Jazz at Princeton presents: Jazz Small Groups X & A

Jazz at Princeton presents performances by Small Groups X & A. | Unticketed

Keep up to date about Princeton Jazz events on the Performance & Events page of the Princeton Music Department website music.princeton.edu or the Jazz at Princeton website jazzatprinceton.com.
