

PROGRAM

Leap

David Bixler (b. 1964)

Deep Trust

Hope

Return

NOFOMOMOFO

Give Me Jesus

Traditional/arr. Bixler

BIOGRAPHY



"David Bixler is an artist who manages to take much of the best of the jazz tradition and push it in new directions—push, but never shove. He is original, but his originality is not what I would call radical. He works within the tradition. He is not looking to destroy it. The Nearest Exit May Be Inside Your Head is an album filled with inventive ideas and exciting artistry. Most importantly, it is filled with music you'll want to hear and hear again." Jack Goodstein

Saxophonist, composer, and educator David Bixler is a multi-faceted artist, having received critical acclaim for both his playing and his writing. He actively leads several projects that serve as platforms for his diverse musical interests. As a sideman David has performed and toured the world with the orchestras of Chico O'Farrill, Lionel Hampton, and Toshiko Akiyoshi. He is also active as a composer in both the jazz and classical worlds, and recently premiered *The Hughes Project*, musical ruminations on the poems of Langston Hughes for jazz quintet and string quartet. He is the host of *Liner Notes with David Bixler*, a new podcast centered on conversations with jazz musicians. Bixler is the Director of Jazz Studies at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. As both a Selmer and Vandoren Artist he is active as a clinician throughout the world.

A new recording, *In the Face of Chaos*, with his group, *Bixler, Boccato, Cowherd, and Sturm* will be released fall of 2018.

David and his wife Heather reside in New York City and have four children.

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Although *Mercy* is **Jon Cowherd's** first album under his own name, the esteemed pianist/composer/arranger/producer is already firmly established as one of the jazz world's most accomplished, expressive and in-demand young musicians.

The Kentucky-born, New Orleans-schooled, New York-based Cowherd is best known for his long-running partnership with drummer/bandleader Brian Blade, with whom he co-founded the Brian Blade Fellowship, whose acclaimed, influential albums showcase Cowherd's stellar keyboard work and singular compositional skills. When not recording and touring with the Fellowship, Cowherd has worked extensively with a broad array of players and singers from the jazz, pop and rock worlds including Joni Mitchell, Cassandra Wilson, Norah Jones, Glen Hansard, Iggy Pop and Lizz Wright.



Ike Sturm was raised in a musical home in Wisconsin, studying and experimenting with the bass from the age of 9. Ike has performed with Gene Bertoncini, Wynton Marsalis, Donny McCaslin, Bobby McFerrin, Ben Monder, Ingrid Jensen, Steve Lehman, Catherine Russell, Maria Schneider, Kenny Wheeler and many others. In addition to playing with his own ensembles in New York, Ike has performed with Alarm Will

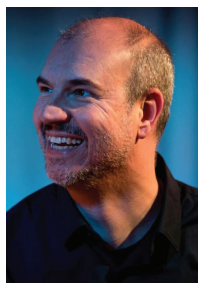
Sound and the International Contemporary Ensemble. He has also appeared on several Steve Reich releases on Nonesuch Records.

Ike is the music director for jazz at Saint Peter's Church in NYC, curating the church's innovative program. He leads Jazz 4 All, a gathering of musicians of different ages, musical styles and faith backgrounds focusing on improvisation. He has published many works for jazz ensemble and chamber groups and has led music workshops at churches and universities across the U.S. and Europe.

Studying jazz and classical bass and composition, Ike earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at the Eastman School of Music. Saint Peter's Church commissioned Ike to compose *Jazz Mass*, a work for voices, strings and jazz ensemble that merges diverse musical languages into a unified aesthetic. The recording featured Ingrid Jensen, Adam Benjamin, Ted Poor and Grammy award-winning saxophonist Donny McCaslin. The large-scale project was awarded 4 1/2 stars by Downbeat magazine has been performed with choirs and orchestras throughout the U.S., Norway, Germany, Sweden and Denmark.

Ike's band, *Evergreen*, has performed regularly at Saint Peter's and toured internationally. Their 2015 release, *Shelter of Trees*, was dedicated to the memory of his father, composer and arranger Fred Sturm, featuring Misty Ann Sturm, Melissa Stylianou, Chanda Rule, Loren Stillman, Chris Dingman, Jesse Lewis, Fabian Almazan and Jared Schonig. Renowned music writer Bill Milkowski called the album "undeniably beautiful."

Ike's current project with guitarist Jesse Lewis, *ENDLESS FIELD*, released their eponymous debut in 2017 on Biophilia Records. Their album was named one of the "Best of 2017" by DownBeat and they have been featured live on NPR. (www.endlessfieldband.com)



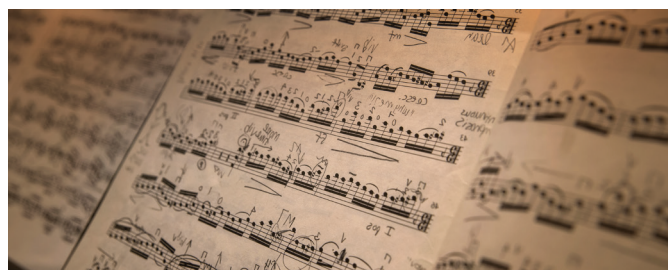
Brazilian percussionist and educator **Rogério Boccato** plays in projects led by some of today's leading jazz players, among them Maria Schneider, John Patitucci, Fred Hersch, Danilo Perez, Ben Allison, Kevin Hays, and many others. He has also collaborated with top-ranking Brazilian artists, such as Toninho Horta, Dori Caymmi, Moacir Santos, and Vinicius Cantuária.

He is featured on two Grammy-award winning albums: *"The Thompson Fields"*, with the Maria Schneider Orchestra, and on Billy Childs' *"Rebirth"*. He is also featured on three Grammy-nominated albums: Kenny Garrett's *"Beyond The Wall"*, John Patitucci's *"Remembrance"* (alongside Joe Lovano and Brian Blade), and on Alan Ferber's *"Jigsaw"*.

As a longtime member of the "Orquestra Jazz Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo", Brazilian percussionist Rogério Boccato has played with Antonio Carlos Jobim, Hermeto Pascoal, Milton Nascimento, Egberto Gismonti, João Bosco, Joe Zawinul, among many others.

Rogério Boccato has been a faculty member of the Manhattan School of Music, NYU and of the Percussion department of The Hartt School (University of Hartford) teaching Brazilian Music and Ritmica.

COLLEGE OF MUSICAL ARTS FACULTY ARTIST SERIES



DAVID BIXLER | alto saxophone

JON COWHERD | piano

IKE STURM | bass

ROGERIO BOCCATO | percussion

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018
8 P.M. | BRYAN RECITAL HALL
MOORE MUSICAL ARTS CENTER

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