

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents the faculty recital of

**Masa Ishikawa,
*jazz piano/composition***

with

David Pope, *soprano/alto saxophone*

Wanchi Huang, *violin*

Sam Suggs, *bass*

Adam Larrabee, *guitar*

Emre Kartari, *drums*

Evan Bertoglio, *tenor saxophone*

Elise Donley, *alto saxophone*

Monday, March 10, 2025

7 pm

Recital Hall



Program

Migration -tribute to various critters-

All compositions written by Masa Ishikawa

Higurashi (Japanese evening cicadas)

David Pope, *soprano saxophone* | Adam Larrabee, *guitar*
Masa Ishikawa, *piano* | Sam Suggs, *bass* | Emre Kartari, *drums*

When a Cardinal Sings

David Pope, *alto saxophone* | Masa Ishikawa, *piano*
Sam Suggs, *bass* | Emre Kartari, *drums*

Migration -music for sandhill cranes-

Wanchi Huang, *violin* | Masa Ishikawa, *piano* | Sam Suggs, *bass*

Hotaru (fireflies)

David Pope, *soprano saxophone* | Elise Donley, *alto saxophone*
Evan Bertoglio, *tenor saxophone* | Masa Ishikawa, *piano*
Sam Suggs, *bass* | Emre Kartari, *drums*

Oni Mai (dance of ogres)

David Pope, *soprano saxophone* | Masa Ishikawa, *piano*
Sam Suggs, *bass* | Emre Kartari, *drums*

Biographies

Masa Ishikawa has performed at various concerts in Italy, China, and Japan. In 2023, Masa released his 2nd original piano trio album titled *First Note* as well as the 3rd original sextet album titled *Montage*. He premiered *Suite for the Forgotten (jazz orchestra with strings)* in 2015. The music is dedicated to people in Fukushima under the uncertain health impact of the radiation exposure from the nuclear power plants meltdown in 2011. Ishikawa will be releasing his 4th original album, titled *Migration*, in fall 2025.

David Pope is an accomplished saxophonist, composer, and author. He has an international reputation for over one hundred published articles in *Saxophone Journal* and *Saxophone Today*. As a soloist, he has performed throughout the United States and in Europe and Asia. He recently served on the jury of the prestigious \$100,000 M-prize chamber arts competition and the faculty of the Asia Pacific Saxophone Academy (Thailand). He endorses the R.S. Berkeley "Virtuoso" saxophone.

Sam Suggs was named New Artist of the Month by *Musical America*, soon after receiving 1st prize at the 2015 International Society of Bassists Solo Competition, at which he performed many of his own compositions. Sam was named Concert Artists Guild's *New Music/New Places Fellow* at the 2016 CAG International Competition. Most recently, at the 2017 Bradetich Foundation International Double Bass Solo Competition, the jury invented and awarded Sam a prize for "Extraordinary Creativity."

Adam Larrabee is a seasoned jazz guitarist who can be heard on Bruce Hornsby's recording *Spirit Trail*. He taught at New England Conservatory and performed in the Boston area for nearly 10 years before moving to Virginia, but is perhaps best known in the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond for his banjo work with the nationally-recognized bluegrass band Love Canon. A prolific, multi-genre composer, he recently published Book One of his Twenty-Four Preludes for Banjo.

Biographies - *continued*

Wanchi Huang's CDs have been excellently reviewed ("her incisive technique and an exceptionally rich and beautiful tone..."by Phil's Classical Reviews, Audio Video Club of Atlanta.) She is an active performer in chamber music, solo recitals, and as a soloist with orchestras throughout North America and Asia, at venues including Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and numerous music festivals. She joined Curtis on Tour for 2017-18 season, touring the West Coast with guitarist Jordan Dodson.

Emre Kartari is a dedicated musician and educator with over 20 years of experience. Initiated Turkey's first state-funded jazz college degree program at Ankara State Conservatory. Curated music festivals in collaboration with the American Embassy and Fulbright Association. Founded Izmir International Jazz Camp with faculty from Virginia, Commonwealth University, James Madison University, and Graz Conservatory. Served as a juror for the National Endowment for the Arts. Notable collaborations include performances with jazz greats such as David Liebman, Houston Person, and Melissa Aldana.

Elise Donely is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in music education as a part of the jazz sub track at James Madison University. She is studying under Dr. Amy Birdsong and Dr. William Dabback, as well as Professor David Pope in the saxophone studio. In addition to being a student leader and staff member of the JMU Lab Band, Elise also performs in the Jazz Band under the direction of Professor Greg Thomas and is an active member of one of the jazz combos organized by Dr. Chuck Dotas.

Evan Bertoglio is a regularly performing musician and current JMU student pursuing a BM in Jazz Studies under the direction of Dr. Chuck Dotas, Dr. Masa Ishikawa, and Professor David Pope.

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