

Performance Music at the University of Scranton presents...

The University of Scranton

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

with guest soloist

**Friday, May 9, 2025
at 7:30 PM
Houlihan-McLean Center**

**FREE
ADMISSION!**



featuring

JOEL ROSS, Percussion

with

**The University of Scranton Jazz
Ensemble**

Joel Ross, a Chicago native and NYC-based Blue Note artist, has earned widespread renown as the most exciting new voice on his instrument, the vibraphone. More than a commanding improviser, he is a bracingly thoughtful composer and a bandleader. Ross auditioned for and won a spot in the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet where he studied under former SFJAZZ Collective vibraphonist, Stefon Harris, for two years. A graduate of Stockton's University of the Pacific, Ross went on to study jazz at The New School where he formed his band "Good Vibes". Ross has toured with the "Marquis Hill Blacktet" in which his vibraphone was the primary comping instrument. Ross made his recording debut as a leader on his album *KingMaker* in December 2016 and it was released on Blue Note Records in 2019. That same year, Ross recorded his second album as a leader, *Who Are You?*

Ross has amassed a dedicated following by creating music you have to lean into. That doesn't make it any less palatable, but across the vibraphonist's recorded output — 2019's *KingMaker*, 2020's *Who Are You?*, and 2022's *The Parable of the Poet* — the compositions were somewhat complex and ushered the virtuosity of his band's live performance to a studio setting. For *nublues*, his remarkable fourth release as a leader for Blue Note, Ross challenged himself to create an album with a greater degree of accessibility — still intricate and adventurous, but with a strong emphasis on melody, ballads, and the blues. On purpose, *nublues* feels familiar, like you've already heard these songs in Greenwich Village somewhere. Though there are covers on this LP (John Coltrane's "Equinox" and "Central Park West"; Thelonious Monk's "Evidence"), this collection of newly written material exemplifies the bandleader's evolution.

The genesis of *nublues* dates back to 2020 when, during the Covid pandemic as live performances were shut down, Ross went back to The New School to finish his degree. One of his classes was taught by alto saxophonist Darius Jones, who nudged students to dig into the history of the blues. That led Ross down a rabbit hole of what the blues can be; it isn't just a 12-bar form. He realized it was a feeling. "Sort of a spirit or an energy," Ross says. "It's emotion, it's expression. But I also want to stay true to the rhythmic ideations that we've already been developing." The album represents a personal and artistic awakening for Ross and is a rightful next step in what's already one of the best stories in jazz.

The University of Scranton Jazz Band is a 21-member ensemble of big band style instrumentation, made up of University of Scranton student musicians from majors spanning the curriculum. They perform five or more times per year, and the majority of their performances are open to the public, free of admission charge, and often feature a nationally or internationally renowned guest soloist. The primary focus of Performance Music at The University of Scranton is its student choral and instrumental performing ensembles. Because there is no music major at the University, all enrolled Scranton students (undergraduate and graduate) are eligible for membership in the University bands, choirs, string ensembles, and steel drum band with neither an audition nor enrollment fee required for membership. Hundreds of students participate in the ensembles each year.

FULL BAND PROGRAM TO BE SELECTED FROM

One O'Clock Jump

Count Basie / arr. Taylor

Georgia On My Mind

Hoagy Carmichael & Stuart Gorrell / arr. Sweeney

Ain't Misbehavin'

(as recorded by Louis Armstrong)

arr. Andy Razaf, Fats Waller, Harry Brooks / arr. Willet

Skylark

Hoagy Carmichael & Johnny Mercer / arr. Wolpe

Bravito

Michele Fernandez

Dindi

Antonio Carlos Jobim & Ray Gilbert / arr. Stitzel

Oclupaca (from "Latin American Suite")

Duke Ellington / transcribed D. Berger

Caravan

Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, Juan Tizol / arr. Sweeney

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON JAZZ BAND

ALTO SAX

Patrick Feller (2027)
Computer Engineering

Joshua Greenfield (2025, G. 2026)
Computer Science, Computer Engineering

Brian O'Connor (2026)
Mechanical Engineering

TENOR SAX

Joseph Dolan (2026)
Computer Science

Hannah Horn (2027)
Cybercrime and Homeland Security

Riden Kingston (2026)
Accounting

BARITONE SAX

J.W. Coddington III (2026)
Computer Science

PIANO

Jody DeRitter, Ph.D. (Faculty)
English

BASS

Benjamin Burman (2026)
Biochemistry

TRUMPET

Thomas Marine (2026)
Biochemistry

Tanya Siberón (2023, G. 2025)
Clinical Mental Health Counseling

John Thomas (2026)
Neuroscience

TROMBONE

Aidan Chapple (2026)
Computer Science

Will Hegarty (2027)
Cybercrime and Homeland Security

Dan Olson (2027)
Computer Science

Chris Villa (2025)
Biology Pre-Medical

TUBA

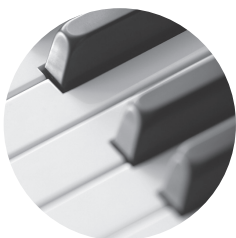
Sally Hopkins (2026)
Advertising/Broadcasting

DRUMS

Brandon Davis (2025)
Biology

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