



Jazz pianist **ANGELO VERSACE**, a native of Indiana, Pennsylvania, has been the director of jazz studies at the University of Arizona since 2014. He attended William Paterson University from 2004 to 2008, studying with Mulgrew Miller, a seminal figure in jazz and a man whom Versace cites as being a main musical influence. He subsequently earned his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Miami, studying jazz piano, jazz pedagogy, composition and arranging. During his time in Miami, Versace was on faculty at the Superior Academy of Music – an award-winning institution backed by the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program. He also was on faculty at

the CGCC Community Arts Program and Dillard High School – high school jazz band programs that found success at the prestigious Essentially Ellington competition. He began to work for the Tucson Jazz Institute (the two-time winner of the Essentially Ellington competition) after his move to Arizona in July of 2014. Versace has performed on twelve studio albums: two as a leader and ten as a sideman, including *Jazz Hymns* with guitarist Jerry Hahn and *Kristian 3.0* with Take-6 vocalist, Khristian Dentley. He has also had the privilege of working as a sideman with several internationally recognized artists: Lewis Nash, Warren Wolf, Marcus Printup, Brice Winston, Joe Saylor, Troy Roberts, Dave Stryker, Roxy Coss and Chuck Israels. Versace travels yearly to Taipei, Taiwan where he is on faculty at the Fu Jen University Jazz – a camp which coordinates with the American Institute of Taiwan Jazz Outreach Program. Most recently, he has been a member and appointed board director of the newly minted Tucson Jazz Collective (TJC). The group, which has performed for the SAACA Jazz Legends Concert with vocalist, Becca Stevens, continues to perform in and around Southern Arizona.



PHILIP KUEHN is a bassist, arranger, composer and educator who has performed professionally with Harry Connick Jr., Wynton Marsalis, Jonathan Batiste, Branford Marsalis, Carl Allen, Rodney Jones, Khristian Dentley of Take 6, Cyrille Aimee, Anthony Hamilton, Dr. Billy Taylor, Aaron Goldberg, and Roy Hargrove, among others. Formerly the regular bassist for Jonathan Batiste's groups, including the Stay Human band, Philip has made several guest appearances on the *Late Show with Steven Colbert*. Five of Philip's arrangements for strings and choir appear on *Christmas with Jon Batiste*, featuring artists such as Aloe Blacc, Judith Hill, Sean Jones and Jason Marsalis. His arrangements have been featured on

CBS. The album placed number three on the Billboard Jazz chart, and number one on the Heatseeker's chart. He has also recorded with Cyrille Aimee, Khristian Dentley, Kirk Whalum, Justin Kauflin. He currently lives in Ephraim, Utah with his wife and three children, where he is and has been the director of jazz studies at Snow College since 2014.



AZjazz

41st Annual Arizona Jazz Week

February 24 - March 1, 2019



The Lewis Nash Quartet

Lewis Nash, drums

Brice Winston, saxophone

Angelo Versace, piano

Phil Kuehn, bass

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Crowder Hall

7:30 p.m.

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PROGRAM

To be announced from the stage



Born in Phoenix, Arizona, **LEWIS NASH** developed an early interest in music and began playing drums at age 10. By age 18, he was performing with local jazz groups. By the time he was 21, Nash had become the “first call” jazz drummer in Phoenix, working with Sonny Stitt, Art Pepper, Red Garland, Lee Konitz, Barney Kessel and Slide Hampton during their engagements in the city.

In 1981, Nash moved to New York City and joined the trio of the great jazz vocalist Betty Carter. For nearly four years, he toured internationally with Ms. Carter. He is featured on three of her recordings, including the Grammy winning *Look What I Got*.

World-renowned bassist Ron Carter hired Nash in 1984. As a member Carter’s nonet, quintet and quartet, Nash toured extensively and is featured on several of the bassist’s recordings.

In the fall of 1986, saxophonist Branford Marsalis asked Lewis to join his quartet. That active association spanned two years and several continents, and is documented on Marsalis’ Grammy nominated recording *Random Abstract*, as well as two videos: *Royal Garden Blues* (directed by Spike Lee) and *Branford Marsalis - Steep*.

1988 marked the return to the jazz scene of trombone master J.J. Johnson. Johnson frequently asked Lewis to provide rhythm duties for his band. That same year, Nash joined the Don Pullen/George Adams quartet, succeeding the late Dannie Richmond. 1989 proved to be an even busier year for Lewis, touring with legendary saxophonist Sonny Rollins. He also performed with Stan Getz, Art Farmer, Clark Terry and Milt Jackson.

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From 1990 to 2000, Lewis was a member of the Tommy Flanagan Trio, and is featured on seven CD recordings with the late piano master. During this period, Nash also toured and recorded with both the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. His impressive discography (over 300 recordings) includes projects with jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Benny Carter, Hank Jones and John Lewis, as well as new jazz stars Diana Krall, Joe Lovano and Roy Hargrove. Demonstrating his stylistic diversity, Nash is also featured on recordings by Natalie Cole, Bette Midler, Nancy Wilson, Kenny Rankin, Melissa Manchester and George Michael.

Currently, while he continues to perform and record with a wide variety of artists, Nash leads several of his own exciting groups, from duo to septet. Outside of his many touring and recording accomplishments, thanks to the sponsorship of Sonor drums, Zildjian cymbals, Remo drumheads and Regal Tip drumsticks, Lewis has become a sought after jazz educator. His lectures, clinics and workshops are as much in demand as his bandstand and studio work. Lewis Nash: Rhythm is indeed his business!



Saxophonist and composer **BRICE WINSTON** is a native of Tucson, Arizona, but cut his teeth learning jazz in the city where jazz was created – New Orleans. For more than 16 years he lived in New Orleans performing with countless local musicians and several world-class figures including such notables as Brian Blade, Ellis Marsalis and Nicholas Payton. After touring with Nicholas Payton’s band for a year, an acquaintance with band leader and composer Terence Blanchard developed into a close musical relationship that continues to this day. Brice has been touring with Blanchard for over 15 years, an association affording him the opportunity to perform all over the world with some of the greatest musicians alive including Herbie Hancock, Dianne Reeves, Lionel Loueke and Dave Holland. Brice has recorded seven CDs with Blanchard including the Grammy Award winning CD, *A Tale of God’s Will - A Requiem For Katrina* as well as more than 15 movie scores for film director Spike Lee among other directors.

After returning to Tucson in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Brice found himself becoming increasingly involved in jazz education. After teaching briefly for the Tucson Jazz Society’s educational program Tucson JazzWex, Brice joined forces with bassist Scott Black and trombonist Doug Tidaback in 2008 to form the Tucson Jazz Institute (TJI). TJI has since gone on to win top awards at festivals and competitions all over the United States, becoming a model of jazz education for the world. September 19, 2014 marked the release of Brice’s sophomore recording, *Child’s Play*, recorded in Brooklyn, New York with some of the most cutting edge and in-demand musicians on the jazz scene today, with Mike Moreno on guitar, David Virelles on piano, Joe Sanders on bass and Marcus Gilmore on drums. Most recently, Brice has joined the music faculty at the University of Arizona, is a resident artist/educator at Northern Arizona University, and continues to perform in jazz clubs, concert halls and jazz festivals all over the world.