



**KHRIS DODGE** is a versatile musician who has entertained audiences around the world. He is a skilled performer on both percussion and piano, has arranged hundreds (maybe thousands!) of charts ranging from single instrumentation to symphony orchestras, and is a prolific composer of original pieces. Originally a pianist, Khris was lured to the percussion section early in his training and remained there through earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in percussion performance from the University of Arizona under Gary Cook. While there, he reignited his interest in piano, thanks to his mentor Jeff Haskell, and pursued additional jazz and composition studies. Since leaving the University of Arizona, Khris has built a successful teaching, performing, and arranging career. For the past 20 years, he has been the director of Jovert, the Tucson High Magnet School steel band, played in the orchestra for several touring Broadway productions (*Wicked*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Jersey Boys*, among others). He also served as music director of several stage musicals and cabaret shows. That led him to form Khris Dodge Entertainment in late 2015, a concert production company with shows ranging from intimate shows such as *Tapestry: The Live Album* to all-out blockbusters such as *Big Top Broadway*. Its first show, *To Ella, With Love* starring the incomparable Crystal Stark, paid homage to the legendary Ella Fitzgerald and encapsulates the company's mission of "doing good things with good people." Now in its fourth year, Khris Dodge Entertainment has taken shows around the United States and has collaborated with performers such as TV/Broadway star Paige Davis and Swedish jazz superstar/frequent PostModern Jukebox guest Gunhild Carling. Khris and Gunhild have played several shows together including Manhattan's Metropolitan Room, the Sunnyvale Symphony in Northern California, several shows in the metropolitan Tucson area, and twice in Austin, Texas.

**41st Annual AzJazz Upcoming Performances:**

**The Lewis Nash Quartet**  
with  
**Brice Winston, saxophone**  
**Angelo Versace, piano**  
**Phil Kuehn, bass**

*February 28, Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Crowder Hall, \$Free*

**Clinic: Joe Lovano, saxophone**

*March 1, Friday, 3:00 p.m., Crowder Hall, \$Free*

**UA Studio Jazz Ensemble**  
featuring **Joe Lovano, saxophone**

*UA Presents Event*

*March 1, Friday, 8:00 p.m., Crowder Hall, \$50, 40, 24*

*Tickets & Info: [uapresents.org](http://uapresents.org), 520-621-3341*



# AzJazz

## 41st Annual Arizona Jazz Week

February 24 - March 1, 2019



## To Ella With Love

FEATURING

**Crystal Stark, vocals & Khris Dodge, piano**

with **Mike Levy, bass & Fred Hayes, drumset**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

**Crowder Hall**

**7:30 p.m.**



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS  
Fred Fox School of Music

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41st Annual AzJazz Presents:

## To Ella With Love

Featuring Crystal Stark, vocals & Khris Dodge, piano  
with Mike Levy, bass & Fred Hayes, drumset

Wednesday, February 27, 2019  
Crowder Hall  
7:30 p.m.

### PROGRAM

*Lullaby of Broadway*

*Blue Skies*

*Smooth Sailing*

*They Can't Take That Away From Me*

*Someone to Watch Over Me*

*I Got Rhythm*

*Summertime*

*Time After Time*

*A Tisket A Tasket*

### INTERMISSION

*Boy from Ipanema*

*Bewitched*

*Tea for Two*

*Blue Moon*

*How High The Moon*

*Lush Life*

*Sunnyside of the Street*

*Mr. Paganini*

*Mack the Knife*

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When powerhouse vocalist **CRYSTAL STARK** performs, she doesn't just take the stage – she owns it.

The international performer and *American Idol* semi-finalist got her start singing in her home town of Tucson, Arizona. Her early teachers included famed soprano Faye Robinson and jazz legend Jeff Haskell. After graduating *magna cum laude* from the University of Arizona with a degree in music education, she auditioned for season five of the cultural phenomenon *American Idol* – along with 100,000 other contestants. Crystal made the top 44 and, although her *Idol* journey stopped there, she forged a close friendship with season runner-up Katharine McPhee and joined Katharine's national tour as a back-up singer.

Crystal quickly rebounded from *Idol* by entering and winning Adult Contemporary Vocalist and Best of Show at Gospel Music Association's Music in the Rockies competition. Following that victory, she was asked to perform at Disney World's Night of Joy, a Christian-themed music celebration.

Her subsequent travels have taken her to venues throughout in the United States and abroad, and she has shared the stage with such talents as trumpeter Rick Braun, guitarist Matt Marsha, and beloved comedian Bob Newhart. While touring with Katharine McPhee, Crystal appeared on *The Tonight Show*, *The Ellen Degeneres Show*, *Regis & Kelly*, *The Today Show*, and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, among others. Internationally, she has traveled to Mexico with the University of Arizona Vocal Jazz Ensemble and did a month-long tour of China with the UA Studio Jazz Ensemble.

Today, Crystal enjoys a full performance calendar that reflects the diversity of her wide-ranging talents. In addition to fronting the Crystal Stark Band which plays at venues around Arizona and for corporate functions, she sings with '80s cover band *80s and Gentlemen*, vocal trio Triple Threat, the Tucson Pops Orchestra, Latin sensation Grupo Manteca and Big Band Express, among others. Crystal performs regularly with concert production company Lonely Street Productions, with whom she also traveled to New Orleans for a performance of "Celebrating Elvis" at the famed Mahalia Jackson Theatre. Her newest show, "Hot Stuff" – produced with Khris Dodge Entertainment, is a one-woman tribute to the legendary disco legend Donna Summer in which Crystal belts out iconic melodies, and shows off her vocal prowess.

Her second studio album, "One Way," was released on May 30, 2015 – "Crystal Stark Day" – as declared by City of Tucson mayor Jonathan Rothschild. The album features all original compositions by Crystal, and leans heavily on her soul/jazz roots for many of its songs. When not on stage, Crystal is the Director of General Music, Band & Choir for Esmond Station K-8 school in Vail, Arizona. Ms. Stark relaxes by hanging out at home with her long-time love, Bill, and her two young sons – the only two people on the planet with as much energy as her.

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