

Liberty University School *of* Music

presents

Performing Artist Series Faculty

Jay Ware, *drum set*

October 19, 2026

Center for Music and the Worship Arts Concert Hall

MUSIC 050

7:30 PM

Faculty Concert Series

Jay Ware, *drum set*
Joseph Henson, *saxophone*
Jon Werking, *piano*
Jon Brye, *upright bass*

Program

2 Down and 1 Across	Kenny Garrett (b.1960)
For A Thousand Years	Pat Metheny (b. 1954)
Soul Station	Hank Mobley (1930-1986)
The Two Lonely People	Bill Evans (1929-1980)
Easy Walker	Billy Taylor (1921-2010)
Piece of Cake	Michel Camilo (b. 1954)
October	Jay Ware (b. 1977)
Praise	Aaron Parks (b. 1983)
Every Day Is Resurrection Day	Jay Ware (b. 1977)

- PROGRAM NOTES -

2 Down and 1 Across

The opening song of his 1997 acclaimed album *Songbook* "2 Down and 1 Across" references Kenny's love of doing crossword puzzles, an activity often enjoyed by his entire touring band.

For A Thousand Years

The song acts as a bridge of mentorship and deep history. Gary Burton was the man who essentially discovered a teenage Pat Metheny and hired him as a sideman in the 1970s. Decades later, Metheny brought this deeply sentimental tune to the *Like Minds* sessions as a tribute to the creative intuition and shared musical history he had with Burton and Chick Corea—proving that their musical connection could span "a thousand years."

Soul Station

Recorded on February 7, 1960, *Soul Station* by tenor saxophonist Hank Mobley is widely celebrated as a masterpiece and definitive statement of his career. It was recorded at Rudy Van Gelder's famous studio in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, for Blue Note Records. Mobley stood as the sole horn player on the record, putting the complete spotlight on his phrasing. He was backed by an all-star rhythm section: pianist Wynton Kelly and bassist Paul Chambers (both borrowed from Miles Davis's legendary working band of the era), and powerhouse drummer Art Blakey (Mobley's former boss in the Jazz Messengers). Unlike contemporaries John Coltrane or Sonny Rollins who pursued fiery, intense abstraction, Mobley favored a warm, relaxed, and melodic tone. He came from the "Prez school" (inspired by Lester Young), favoring lyrical grace and confident restraint over aggressive volume.

The Two Lonely People

Bill Evans wrote this sophisticated, melancholic melody in 1971. Known for his complex harmonies, lyrical phrasing, and deep emotional introspection, Evans crafted a piece defined by subtle modulations and a reflective atmosphere. Carol Hall—a celebrated songwriter and composer best known for her work in musical theater and *Sesame Street*—later provided the poignant lyrics. Her words describe a once-passionate relationship that has slowly grown cold and frozen into "statues of stone" due to the harsh impact of reality and time. Evans noted that Hall's poetic interpretation deeply influenced how he thought about and shaped the song's melodic direction. The tune remained a frequent choice in Evans's live trio setlists through the final years of his career, appearing on multiple recordings from his 1980 residency at Keystone Korner.

Easy Walker

First recorded by the Billy Taylor Trio on March 26, 1960, for his album *Warming Up!* (released on Riverside Records), the song was written to showcase a specific, underappreciated discipline in jazz performance: the mastery of the slow-to-mid-tempo swing groove. At the time of its composition, many jazz ensembles focused heavily on high-speed bebop or complex structural acrobatics. Dr. Billy Taylor, known for his pristine craftsmanship and deep understanding of jazz history, composed "Easy Walker" as an exercise in lyricism, patience, and restraint. The title itself acts as a literal descriptor for the piece—a song that doesn't run, rush, or scramble, but rather "walks" with a relaxed, confident, and effortless bluesy stride.

Piece of Cake

This song debuted on Camilo's 2002 album, *Triangulo*, recorded with his powerhouse trio featuring bassist Anthony Jackson and drummer Horacio "El Negro" Hernández. Despite Camilo's reputation for mind-boggling technical virtuosity and complex, orchestral-like metric shifts, "Piece of Cake" serves as a playful nod to how effortlessly a deceptively simple, infectious montuno groove can swing. It blends straight-ahead Latin jazz rhythms with a mid-tempo cha-cha feel, showcasing crisp interaction between piano, Jackson's custom six-string contrabass guitar, and intricate percussion.

October

This piece was written in September 2026 in anticipation of the month where so much of nature is preparing for the dead of winter. Leaves changing color, temperatures dropping, shorter days, and longer nights all usher in a season where things will be still, quiet, asleep, and dark. We know that the natural, cyclical seasons are promised by God (Genesis 8:22, Psalm 104:19) and for our good, particularly as they pertain to food, physical health, and general well-being. But Daniel 2:21 and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11, speak to the divine and spiritual nature of seasons—that God is the one who changes times and seasons in our lives, that He has ordained a season for everything under the sun, and that He places seasons of difficulty and waiting in our lives to build patience, faith, and spiritual growth.

- PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.) -

Praise

"Praise" is a rhapsodic, hymnal 5/4 jazz composition by pianist Aaron Parks, released on his acclaimed 2008 Blue Note Records debut album, *Invisible Cinema*. The album was conceived as a soundtrack to a non-existent movie, using cinematic structures, lyrical melodies, and contemporary pop/rock influences alongside modern jazz. "Praise" functions as a stately, emotionally resonant, and gently uplifting hymn. Written in a 5/4 time signature, it acts as a moment of meditative resolution and calm on the record.

Every Day Is Resurrection Day

Not only is Jesus risen every day, but as believers, we are resurrected with Christ... every day!!! Every day is Resurrection Day!!

- PERSONNEL -



Jay Ware

Jay Ware is an award-winning artist, educator, arranger, and music advocate. He has performed and/or recorded with over 200 artists, including: NEA Jazz Master David Liebman; Grammy winner Delfeayo Marsalis, Grammy winner Dee Stewart, 2X Grammy winner Charlton Singleton, Grammy winner Sullivan Fortner; Grammy nominated artists Chris Potter, Donny McCaslin, Jack Wilkins, Jeremy Fox, and Chuck Owen; Christian artist Charles Billingsley; Dove Award winner Rex Carroll; Funk legends Maceo Parker and Fred Wesley; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Mary Wilson and The Supremes; Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame member Bob Becker; Pulitzer-Prize winner Gunther Schuller; opera diva Marietta Simpson; Brazilian vocalist Liz Rosa, instrumentalists Wycliffe Gordon, James Carter, Jason Marsalis, Tony DeSare, Deana Martin, the Buselli/Wallarab Jazz Orchestra, Charleston Jazz Orchestra, Broyhill Chamber Orchestra, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra, the New York Brass Quintet, and many others. He has performed at festivals and conventions including: Spoleto and Piccolo

Spoleto Music Festivals, South Carolina Jazz Festival, ColaJazz Festival, Charlotte Jazz Festival, Crested Butte Festival, Greenville Jazz Festival, University of Mary Jazz Festival, New Trier Jazz Festival, American Bandmasters Association, College Band Director National Association, Music Educators National Conference, Percussive Arts Society Days of Percussion, Appalachian Summer Music Festival, as well as special appearances on various television and radio broadcasts. In 2007, he began forming and writing for his own groups which have performed throughout the nation, including residencies at various colleges/universities.

In addition to his performing/recording credits, Mr. Ware is equally active as an educator and advocate for music in school curricula. He is currently the Coordinator of Percussion and Drum Set Studies in the School of Music at Liberty University in Virginia. In May 2019 the LU Jazz Faculty produced their first album *Dig This!*, on which Mr. Ware recorded drum set as well as over 20 concert, auxiliary, and world percussion instruments. Mr. Ware has served on faculty at The University of South Carolina and The Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University among others. In addition to his collegiate teaching experience, Mr. Ware held the position of Director of Bands at South Lenoir High School (NC) as well as Marching Percussion Arranger/Instructor for over 30 high schools. He is in high demand as a versatile performing/recording artist, guest conductor, adjudicator, and music advocate, and has offered masterclasses at universities and schools nationwide. Mr. Ware is a three-time recipient of Who's Who Among America's Teachers, is a winner of the Appalachian State University Concerto/Aria Competition and was nominated for the prestigious Performers Certificate at Indiana University. Mr. Ware is an endorsing artist for Remo drumheads, Yamaha drum set and concert percussion, Innovative Percussion sticks and mallets, Zildjian cymbals, and Latin Percussion world percussion instruments.

Joseph Henson

Joseph Henson, formerly a member of the US Army Blues Jazz Ensemble from Washington, D.C., retired in December 2018 to become Associate Professor of Commercial Music and Jazz Studies at the Liberty University School of Music.

He has played saxophone and written music for the Blues for 21 years and was also the band's Musical Director for the last few years of his military career.

Mr. Henson holds degrees in music from the University of South Carolina and the University of North Texas and performs regularly in the D.C. area with a wide variety of groups, including his own quintet.

He and his wife Mary live in Forest, VA with four of their five kids.



- PERSONNEL -



Jon Werking

Jon has performed and/or recorded with a wide range of artists including Wynton Marsalis, Idina Menzel, The Manhattan Transfer, Toni Braxton, Patti LaBelle, Liza Minelli, Linda Eder, The New York Pops, The Boston Pops, The Albany Symphony Orchestra, Steven Curtis Chapman, Edwin McCain, Bruce Hornsby, Rueben Stoddard and Taylor Hicks (both from American Idol), Roberta Flack, Michael and Randy Brecker, Grover Washington Jr. and (saxophonist) Bill Evans.

Jon is the featured pianist with the Buddy Rich Big Band on the "Burning for Buddy" tribute album. He was the in-house accompanist for the "Regis and Kelly Show" from 2005-2007 and has performed on the Tony awards and with "The Voice"

show. He also performed at two presidential inaugurations (Bill Clinton, 1996 and George W. Bush, 2004, respectively).

He's performed on movie soundtracks such as Disney's Beauty and the Beast, You've Got Mail, The Gangs of New York and many others. He's also performed extensively on Broadway including the Tony-award winning shows, "Fosse", "Elton John's "Aida", and Come Fly Away (Frank Sinatra tribute).



Jon Brye

Jon Brye is a professional bass player hailing from central Pennsylvania and currently studying at Liberty University.

His goal is to support others with his playing, always striving to create a comforting atmosphere for both the audience and his band mates.

Liberty University School of Music Upcoming Events

LU Symphony Orchestra <i>With the VMTA Conference</i>	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Fri, Oct 23, 7:30 PM</i>
*Songwriter Café	<i>Green Hall, La Haye Event Space Fri, Oct 23, 7:30 PM</i>
*Shine & Chamber Singers	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Thurs, Oct 29, 7:30 PM</i>
Performing Artist Series Faculty <i>Jon Werking</i>	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Fri, Oct 30, 7:30 PM</i>
Woodwind Chamber Ensembles	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Macel Falwell Recital Hall M305 Sun, Nov 1, 3:00 PM</i>
Percussion Ensemble and Quartet	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Tues, Nov 3, 7:30 PM</i>
CFAW Chamber Music Showcase	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Instrumental Rehearsal Room M160 Fri, Nov 6, 5:30 PM</i>
CFAW Revive	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Sat, Nov 7, 11:00 AM</i>
String Chamber Ensemble	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Macel Falwell Recital Hall M305 Sat, Nov 7, 7:00 PM</i>
Guitar Ensemble	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Macel Falwell Recital Hall M305 Sun, Nov 8, 3:00 PM</i>
Cello Project Recital	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Choral Classroom M180 Sun, Nov 8, 5:00 PM</i>
*Wind Symphony & University Band	<i>Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Tues, Nov 10, 7:30 PM</i>

**Ticketed Event. Tickets can be purchased at www.liberty.edu/tickets.*

**We would like to thank the
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their faithful support of the School of Music.**

Dr. Dondi Costin, President
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

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