



# DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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Friday, January 16, 2026 • 7:00 PM

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# JIM TROMPETER, PIANO & SCOTT BURNS, TENOR SAXOPHONE

*Faculty Artist Series*

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Mary A. Dempsey and Philip H. Corboy Jazz Hall  
2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

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Friday, January 16, 2026 • 7:00 PM

Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall

**JIM TROMPETER, PIANO & SCOTT BURNS,**

**TENOR SAXOPHONE**

*Faculty Artist Series*

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**PROGRAM TO BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING**

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McCoy Tyner

Effendi

Billy Strayhorn

Chelsea Bridge

Kern/Hammerstein

Nobody Else But Me

Chick Corea

Mirror, Mirror

Anontio Carlos Jobim

Triste

Bobby Hutcherson

Isn't This My Sound Around Me?

Thad Jones

The Interloper

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As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted.

## BIOGRAPHIES

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An instinctive jazz player from the beginning, word of Jim Trompeter's spectacular talent as a jazz keyboardist spread to Chicago jazz circles while he was still in high school.

He won a music scholarship to the University of Miami, and, as a member of their world-acclaimed Concert Jazz Band, won the Down Beat award for "Best Instrumental Jazz Performer"; Montreux Jazz Festivals "Stan Kenton Memorial Scholarship" award for Best Performer in 1983; and five Down Beat awards in the Large Ensemble category.

While a student at the University of Miami, he was hired as keyboardist/arranger by Gloria Estefan and Miami Sound Machine, touring with the band for three years. Trompeter performed on the band's double platinum recording, "Let it Loose," and composed and arranged for its live world tours. Jim has also performed with, Jon Secada, Boy George, Amy Grant, David Lee Roth, Whitney Houston, Sammy Davis Jr, Oprah Winfrey, Shecky Green, Art Garfunkel, Joe Mantegna, Dennis Miller, Sinbad, Paul Rodriguez, Freddie Hubbard, Joe Levano, Arturo Sandoval, Cristian McBride, Kurt Elling, Bob James, Dave Liebman, Randy Brecker, Tim Hagans, Rick Margitza, Steve Rodby, Paul Wertico, Paquito D'Rivera, Bobby Mintzer, Eddie Daniels, Fareed Haque, Conte Condoli, Lou Marini, Andy Narell, Scott Wendholt, George Garzone, Louis Bellson, Bill Watrous and Carl Fontana, Marquis Hill, and Peter Bernstein.

On his return to Chicago from touring, Jim began working as composer/arranger/producer with local jingle producers as well as heading his own group at local jazz clubs. His compositions and keyboard style reflect his admiration of both past and contemporary jazz greats along with the influence of contemporary rock and Latin jazz gained from his relationship with Miami Sound Machine. Along the way, he has gained favor with Chicago's and elsewhere's most prominent entertainment critics:

Howard Reich, entertainment writer for the Chicago Tribune: "Trompeter and his group offer quick-moving harmonic turns and unexpected quirks of melody that keep everything sounding fresh and new. More important is the consistently high level of improvisation and the undeniable sense that Trompeter and friends are reaching for a music of their own making.

Trompeter and colleagues command a richer musical vocabulary in any 16 bars than most bands do in their entire repertoire. Trompeter approaches music in a painterly way, almost every piece suggesting landscapes, places and other kinds of vivid imagery. Beyond the delicacy of his touch, as well as his ability to create a sound that genuinely blends with the ensemble, he commands a remarkable harmonic imagination. With Trompeter it's the strength of the idea, not the virtuosity of the performance."

Tom Moon, entertainment critic for the Philadelphia Inquirer: "The true spirit of improvisation—not some commercially expedient derivative—pulses mightily through Jim Trompeter's confident, articulate lines. Less obvious, but no less significant, is the fact that this same thoughtful spirit goes into his writing. Combined, these elements add up to an important new voice."

Neal Tesser, music critic for the Chicago Tribune and The Reader: "Trompeter is a ferocious improviser. And in hooking up with Pat Metheny's rhythm section, Chicagoans Steve Rodby (bass) and Paul Wertico (drums)—he's crafted a trio that's emblematic of jazz in the 90s: a virtuosic blend of eclectic elements, under the banner of a New Mainstream."

Jim's playing represents the emergence of an inventive, organic, fresh voice, one that is ready for the jazz world's ears.

Jim has followed his passion of composition vigorously, first as a partner in Trompeter/NorianMusic (in 1994), then heading his own Jingle Production Company Earthborne Music (1997). During this time, composing, performing, and producing commercial music for Agencies such as Leo Burnett, DDB Needham, FCB, Burrell and BBDS. Composing for Clients such as McDonalds, Coca Cola, Hallmark, Disney, Gap, Quaker Oats, Delta Airlines, Secret, All State, Morgan Stanley, Polaroid, Frosted Flakes, Maytag, Pert Plus, Harley Davidson, Midwest Express Airlines, Procter Gamble, Ray O Vac, etc.. Jim was a composer for the Oprah Winfrey show. His work has also been heard on many television show's, including HBO's "Sopranos", Dr Oz. Since 2004, Jim has been a Senior Principal composer and sound designer for WMS/Scientific Games/Light and Wonder. In this role, Jim has created slot machine sound packages for games such Monopoly, James Bond, The Simpsons, Willy Wonka, Wizard of Oz, Animal House, Beetlejuice, Dean Martin, Gremlins and Empire.

In 2014, Jim toured as pianist for the Kurt Elling band.

In 2016, Jim joined the faculty at DePaul as lecturer for the jazz piano studio, and combo coach.

In 2021 Jim was recipient of the first Monsignor Kenneth J. Velo Endowed Distinguished Professorship for the 2021/2022 academic year.

Saxophonist and educator **Scott Burns** has been a prominent figure in the Chicago jazz scene for over two decades. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music degree from DePaul University, both in the field of Jazz Studies.

Mr. Burns is a highly acclaimed musician who has led his own ensembles and performed as a sideman in prestigious jazz venues, concert halls, and festivals. He has performed with numerous renowned international jazz artists, including McCoy Tyner, Ahmad Jamal, Clark Terry, Jimmy Heath, Charles McPherson, Kenny Barron, Benny Green, Christian McBride, Ira Sullivan, Bob Mintzer, Joshua Redman, Eric Alexander, Nicholas Payton, Roy Hargrove, Randy Brecker, John Faddis, David Hazeltine, Wyycliffe Gordon, Marquis Hill, Bobby Broom, Peter Erskine, Jeff Hamilton, Harold Jones, Freddie Cole, René Marie, Lou Rawls, Kurt Elling, Tony Bennett, and Harry Connick Jr. Mr. Burns has performed at numerous major festivals and venues across the nation, including the JVC Jazz Festival, the Newport Jazz Festival, the Chicago Jazz Festival, Chicago Symphony Center, Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Ravinia Festival, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He has been a member of the Chicago Jazz Orchestra since 2006. Mr. Burns has performed with numerous symphony and opera orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Philharmonic Society, Lyric Opera Orchestra, Florentine Opera Company, Chicago Opera Theater, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, and Ravinia Festival Orchestra. His discography encompasses over 30 albums and numerous other recording projects. His latest CD, *"Passages,"* released on Origin Records and featuring all original compositions, has garnered critical acclaim and airtime across the nation.

Mr. Burns is also a dedicated educator, having joined the faculty of the DePaul School of Music in 2014, and assuming the role of Director of the Jazz Studies program in 2023. He previously held teaching

positions at Loyola University Chicago, North Park University, and Columbia College Chicago. In 2013, he joined the jazz faculty at Birch Creek Music Performance Center's Summer Music Academy in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin, becoming Assistant Program Director in 2016. Additionally, Mr. Burns has collaborated with students at the Thelonious Monk Jazz Institute's Chicago chapter, Northwestern University High School Music Institute, Milwaukee Jazz Institute, and Chicago Jazz Institute. He has also served as a guest clinician, adjudicator, and performer at numerous high school jazz festivals, Illinois Music Educators Association district festivals, and colleges and universities in the region.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**DEPAUL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

January 24 • 7:00 P.M.

Allen Recital Hall

Voice Area Recital

January 30 • 8:00 P.M.

Gannon Concert Hall

DePaul Percussion Ensemble

January 31 • 7:00 P.M.

Allen Recital Hall

Viktoria Vizin Studio Recital

February 2 • 7:00 P.M.

Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall

DePaul Jazz Ensemble

February 3 • 8:00 P.M.

Gannon Concert Hall

DePaul Symphony Orchestra

February 4 • 7:00 P.M.

Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall

DePaul Jazz Workshop

February 4 • 8:00 P.M.

Gannon Concert Hall

DePaul Wind Symphony

February 5 • 8:00 P.M.

Gannon Concert Hall

DePaul Concert Orchestra

February 6 • 7:00 P.M.

Allen Recital Hall

Double Bass Studio Recital

February 8 • 2:00 P.M.

Gannon Concert Hall

DePaul Vocal Jazz Showcase

**FACULTY ARTIST SERIES**

February 9 • 7:00 P.M.

Allen Recital Hall

Melissa Kraut, cello, Tim Zavadil, clarinet, & John Milbauer, piano

February 21 • 7:00 P.M.

Allen Recital Hall

Ann Marie Brink, viola, Jason Moy, harpsichord, & John Milbauer, piano

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