

Old Dominion University
2017-2018
F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series



Katie Thiroux

with

John Toomey, piano

Chuck Redd, drums

April 16, 2018, 8 p.m.

Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall
F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts



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Biographies

A triple-threat talent, **Katie Thiroux** has garnered considerable attention for her bravura bass playing, assured singing and compelling compositions. With the release of her debut album, "Introducing Katie Thiroux" (2015), her substantial gifts as a bandleader and recording artist are now also on view. Audiences and critics agree, as this release received many awards including "Debut Record of the Year" from the Huffington Post, All About Jazz, Jazz Journalists Association and "Top 5 Debut Records of the Year" from NPR Jazz Critics Poll. Lending contemporary flair to mainstream stylings, Thiroux carries on the hard-swinging tradition of such bass masters as Ray Brown and John Clayton, while channeling the buoyant vocal finesse of iconic singers including Anita O'Day, Chet Baker and Ella Fitzgerald. Thiroux offers in-the-moment jazz that draws upon the rich history of the music, from swing to bebop and beyond.

In 2015 Thiroux was a semi-finalist in the Thelonious Monk Competition, featured on WBGO's "The Checkout," Downbeat Magazine and NPR. Thiroux's recent performances with her quartet include Birdland, the San Jose Summer Jazz Fest, NAMM and the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival. Thiroux's sophomore release, "Off Beat," features Ken Peplowski and Justin Kauflin and released on Capri Records in 2017.

In addition to work with her quartet, Thiroux is an active member of the Larry Fuller Trio and has been heard with pianists Bill Cunliffe, Geri Allen, Helen Sung, Tamir Hendelman and Eric Reed; trumpeters Brian Lynch and Terell Stafford; saxophonists Jeff Clayton, Charles McPhearson and Ken Peplowski; guitarists Mundell Lowe and Larry Koonse; drummers Lewis Nash and Jeff Hamilton; and vocalists Niki Harris and Tierney Sutton. Having performed at jazz festivals in the United States, Mexico, Germany, Finland, Serbia, Singapore and Switzerland as both a leader and a sideman, Thiroux often incorporates workshops for students and audiences. It is her passionate belief that exposure to jazz history, culture and styles is vital in keeping the music alive and thriving. Katie's swinging bass, clear vocals and inspired instrumental arrangements are reflective of her musical idols, both past and present. Katie Thiroux's knowledge, perseverance and fervor for the music make her a rising star in today's scene.



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Professor **John Toomey** has been recognized for excellence in teaching several times, including his designation as University Professor, an honorary title awarded to less than 2 percent of the faculty at the university. Other honors include Teletechnet Professor of the Year, and winner of the prestigious SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award. In 1991, Professor Toomey was designated a cultural specialist in jazz by the United States Information Agency, and was sent to Botswana, Africa, in this capacity to both teach and perform.

In the area of research, Toomey serves as both director and performer for the Attucks Jazz Series under the umbrella of the Virginia Arts Festival, performs often on the Diehn Concert Series with various jazz artists, and served as performer and music director for Havana Nights, a state-of-the-art jazz club in the region. In all of these venues, he has performed in concert with nationally and internationally acclaimed jazz artists, such as Randy Brecker, John Fedchock, John Abercrombie, Terell Stafford, and others. Toomey has toured with jazz vocalist Rene Marie, including appearances at the JVC Festival in France and the Monterey Festival in California, and is featured on the recording "Live at the Jazz Standard." The original score he composed for "The Boys of H Company" was recently aired in Singapore and Japan, and was featured on national television dozens of times during the past few years. Toomey is featured on two recordings that were released in early 2015, "Timely," with Glenn Wilson and John D'earth, and "Fluidity," with trombone great John Fedchock. Before his tenure at Old Dominion University, Professor Toomey performed and toured the world with jazz trumpet legend Maynard Ferguson, with whom he recorded two CDs, "High Voltage 2" and "Big Bop Nouveau."

Chuck Redd is an accomplished performer on both drums and vibraphone. He began performing and recording internationally in 1980 at the age of 21 when he joined the Charlie Byrd Trio. That year, he also joined the Great Guitars (Barney Kessel, Charlie Byrd and Herb Ellis). To his credit are 13 extensive European tours and five tours of Japan with the Barney Kessel Trio, Ken Peplowski, Terry Gibbs and Conte Candoli.

Redd is featured on more than 70 recordings including Arbors CD "All This and Heaven Too," featuring Gene Bertoncini and George Mraz, and "The Swing Kings," an all-star session featuring Bucky and John Pizzarelli, Ray Kennedy and Ken Peplowski. Redd can also be heard on the soundtrack to the popular PBS television series "The Great Chefs" and the NPR broadcast, "Jazz Smithsonian."

In addition to leading his own groups, Redd was a member of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra for 15 years. He frequently performs in New York City and headlines nationally at festivals and clubs. Redd is on the faculty at the University of Maryland School of Music and presents master classes, workshops and lectures around the country.

F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series

2017–2018 Season

Sept. 25, 2017

**Amjad Ali Khan, Ayaan Ali Bangash
and Amaan Ali Bangash**

Oct. 23, 2017

**Jasper String Quartet
with the Norfolk Chamber Consort**

Nov. 13, 2017

Brandon Ridenour

Jan. 22, 2018

Ciaramella

Feb. 12, 2018

Kristian Bezuidenhout

April 16, 2018

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