

2017 Thailand Jazz Workshop

Jazz Artist/Educator Faculty

Dr. Denny Euprasert, Director/Piano

Dr. Denny Euprasert is currently the Dean of Rangsit University Conservatory of Music and the Director of RSU Jazz Orchestra. He earned a Doctor of Arts degree in Music Theory and Composition with a secondary emphasis in Jazz Pedagogy from University of Northern Colorado, a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies from University of North Texas, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Jazz Piano Performance from Cornish College of the Arts, USA.

His recording project, *Masterpiece: Asanee-Wason*, received the Kom Chad Luek Award for Best Instrumental Album in 2008. He is the recipient of the Silpakorn Contemporary Artist Award from the Ministry of Culture for his notable contributions to fine arts and culture, one of Thailand most prestigious Honors in the Arts.

His recent CD, Denny Euprasert with Benny Golson and Joris Teepe has received much international recognition.

Gene Aitken, Director

Grammy-nominated and Fulbright Scholar Dr. Gene Aitken is considered one of the most exciting and energetic jazz educator/clinicians today, and is recognized as a visionary in jazz education, music education, and computer technology.

His activities as a conductor, performer, composer, adventurer, clinician, adjudicator, and producer of educational events have led him to all corners of the globe. His recent travels to many countries in Asia and the Middle East include China, Taiwan, Thailand, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, and many others.

On April 15, 2011, the United States Department of State, on behalf of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, announced Dr. Aitken was the recipient of a Fulbright Specialist Award to assist in developing jazz studies programs and curriculums in Taipei, Taiwan.

In June 2007, Dr. Gene was awarded *DownBeat* magazine's Jazz Educator of the Year and inducted into the *DownBeat* magazine's Hall of Fame. In addition, he was the 32nd member inducted into the 1995 International Association of Jazz Educator's Hall of Fame along with Ella Fitzgerald and Doc Severinson, joining luminaries such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and others. Dr. Aitken is only one of four individuals in the world who have received induction into both organizations' Hall of Fame.

Also, during the same month, Dr. Aitken was appointed the first Cultural Envoy to Nepal by the US Department of State. While there he worked with the Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory ensembles, the Nepal Police Academy Band, the Nepal Army Band, and various community groups.

The State of Colorado in 1992 awarded Dr. Gene the highest honor given to any artist, the Colorado Artistic Award of Excellence. It has been the only time this honor has been presented to an individual in the field of music.

The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences awarded the University of Northern Colorado Vocal Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Gene, a prestigious **1985 Grammy Nomination**. It is the only time NARAS has ever awarded this honor to an institution of higher education in the Vocal Jazz Category.

He retired from the University of Northern Colorado in 2002 after serving 27 years as Director of the UNC Jazz Studies Program. Dr. Gene currently resides in the Bangkok, Thailand and Beirut, Lebanon.

Mariano Abello, Saxophone

Mariano is a versatile player in the jazz and classical idioms of saxophone, flute, clarinet, and oboe. After graduating summa cum laude in Jazz Studies from Florida Atlantic University (FAU), he went on to earn a Masters in Arts in Woodwind Performance and Pedagogy. While at FAU, he taught several jazz courses in the Jazz Studies Program. In 2007 he founded the Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory as well as the non-profit Nepal Music Educators' Society.

Since 2010 he has been performing and teaching in many countries such as Thailand, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. Mariano spends most of the time traveling and living between Madrid, Spain and Kathmandu, Nepal.

Jimmy Lee, Saxophone

A classical and jazz saxophonist, Cheng-Yu Lee teaches saxophone and jazz history/appreciation/theory and performance at National Taipei University of Education, Hsinchu University of Education, and Fu-Jen Catholic University.

Mr. Lee earned his Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Department of Civil Engineering at the National Taiwan University in 1997. He then earned a Performance Diploma from Bowling Green State University in 2001, and a Master of Music Degree in Saxophone Performance in 2003.

During the years in the United States, he studied classical saxophone with Dr. John Sampen, Dr. Eugene Rousseau and Dr. Erick Nestler. In Jazz Studies, he studied with James Miglia, Mike Steniel, James Riggs, and John Murphy.

Mr. Lee leads the Onyx Jazz Quartet and won 2nd Prize in the *Chrysler & ICRT Jazz Competition* in 2005, and the *Creative Award* in the Land Music Awards in 2006. IN 2007, the Onyx Jazz Quartet released their first CD, *Reliance*. Lee released his first classical album *Fantaisie* in 2009 and was nominated the *Best Arranger Award* in the 21st Golden Melody Awards.

Mr. Lee founded and directs the Taipei Jazz Orchestra, one of the preeminent big bands in Asia.

His book, *Jazz Theory for Novices*, is published in 2007 by Mercury Publishing House. Cheng-Yu Lee is an Antigua Artist

Dr. J Kyle Gregory, Trumpet

Currently, Kyle teaches at the Contemporary Music Academy in Beijing, China. Also, he travels throughout the USA, Italy, and Europe, as a solo artist and educator. Dr. J has performed and taught in Canada, Sweden, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, England, Spain, and Romania.

In past years, he performed with numerous internationally known jazz and commercial artists, including Paul Motian, Bob Mintzer, JJ Johnson, Dianne Reeves, Liza Minelli, The Temptations, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble, and the Mingus Dynasty.

Kyle has recorded over 40 albums with various artists and independent labels, including EGEA, El Gallo Rojo, and Almar Records and many others.

Dave Glenn, Trombone

Dave Glenn was Director of Jazz Studies and professor of low brass at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington from 1989-2011. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree in trombone performance from North Texas State University and a Master of Music Degree in composition from the University of Northern Colorado.

Dave spent 11 years as a professional trombonist in New York City and played for ten years with the Gerry Mulligan Concert Jazz Band and toured extensively with Bill Watrous' Manhattan Wildlife Refuge, Diana Ross and Lou Rawls. Dave also subbed on tours with Chuck Mangione, Blood, Sweat and Tears and the Mel Lewis Orchestra. He was on the Grammy-award winning recording *Walk on the Water* by the Gerry Mulligan Concert Jazz Band.

Dave Glenn is an artist for Conn/Selmer Corporation, a member of American Composers Forum and an Origin Records recording artist.

Christine Helferich Guter, Vocal Jazz

Christine is a jazz vocalist and studio singer in the Los Angeles area. She performs frequently in LA and Orange County, and has worked with many legendary musicians including Joe Williams, Bobby McFerrin, Rosemary Clooney, Diane Schuur, Maynard Ferguson, Mercer Ellington, Lionel Hampton, and Mel Torme.

Christine works extensively in studio settings, and has sung on dozens of Hollywood soundtracks including Star Wars Rogue One, Sing!, Storks, Star Trek Beyond, The Jungle Book, Jurassic World, Despicable Me 2, Men in Black 3, and Spiderman 3. She is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists), and is the lead singer in the nationally acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble, *Vocalogy*.

Also an extraordinary educator, Christine is active internationally as a lecturer, adjudicator, and clinician, and has conducted numerous All-State Jazz and Honor Choirs. Christine is a member of the California Alliance for Jazz (CAJ), the Jazz Education Network (JEN), the California Music Educators Association (CMEA), and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). She is presently on the board of ACDA Western Division as Vocal Jazz R&R Chair.

Christine is currently the Director of Vocal Jazz at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach. She teaches private jazz voice lessons, a jazz vocal styles courses, has taught class jazz piano and jazz theory, and directs the university's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, *Pacific Standard Time*.

Rob Thomas, Violin, Cello, Double Bass

Rob Thomas is a highly regarded jazz multi-instrumentalist, fluent on violin, cello and bass. *JazzTimes* calls him "a violinist of exceptional creative resources... riveting as a solo voice with a rich complex tone that can sing. In the mid '90's he toured and recorded extensively with 'downtown' mainstays, The Jazz Passengers, who often featured guest vocalists Deborah Harry and Elvis Costello. He is a veteran of Gregg Bendian's Mahavishnu Project, and can be heard on two critically acclaimed recordings by that adventurous repertory ensemble.

Since 2001, Thomas has held the violin chair in the String Trio of New York, being the fifth in a series of notable violinists to join guitarist James Emery and bassist John Lindberg in this illustrious group, whose presence on the scene spans nearly four decades. Four outstanding recordings by the trio have been issued in the "Thomas era". Rob has also contributed to recordings by Lee Konitz, Andy Summers and Mark Ribot. He records and performs regularly with The Chris Parker Band, Gypsy Jazz Caravan, Chuck Owen's 'Jazz Surge' big band, and Annette Aguilar. He has also worked with John Handy's 'Monterey' Quintet, Max Roach, Jan Hammer, Bobby Previte, Claude Williams, The Soldier String Quartet, Akua Dixon's Quartette Indigo, and Ada Rovatti Brecker's 'Green Factor'.

Thomas has taught in the Northwest at Reed and Marylhurst Colleges, and at Cornish College of the Arts. He is currently a Professor at Berklee College of Music (Boston) and an adjunct instructor at the New School in NYC.

Greg Goebel, Piano

From straight-ahead jazz, funk and pop, to the avant-garde, Greg Goebel is considered one of the Northwest's finest pianists. Praised by critics for "manifesting his ideas with the immediacy and sureness of a master craftsman" (Jazz Times) and as "a force that is stretching known boundaries and moving the music into new territory" (Larry Koonse), pianist Greg Goebel shows himself as firmly rooted in tradition while simultaneously proving to be a unique voice among a new generation.

Goebel has recorded and toured extensively in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, South America, and Japan. Currently recording and touring with singer Gino Vannelli, his contributions can be heard on the CD, *The Best and Beyond* as well as the DVD, *Live in L.A.*

A long time member of David Friesen's Circle 3 Trio, his work can be heard on Friesen's 2009 CD, *Five and Three*, the 2011 CD, *Circle of Three*, the 2013 release, *Brilliant Heart*, and 2014's *Where the Light Falls*.

"Greg Goebel is one of about half a dozen pianists that are redefining the instrument, the literature and the useful purpose of the piano and doing it with the skills of a master. " 5 Stars!" (BrentBlack/@CriticalJazz)

In addition to keeping a busy schedule in the Northwest, Goebel has had the pleasure of performing with notable musicians such as John Handy, Dick Oatts, Terrell Stafford, Larry Koonse, Houston Person, Byron

Philip Dunlap, Piano

A native of Iowa, Phillip Dunlap currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri where he is active as a musician and educator. He holds Bachelor of Music degrees in jazz performance (piano) and music theory/composition and a Masters of Music in jazz performance from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. While there he studied with renowned pianist and educator, Reginald Thomas.

From 2007-2013, Dunlap filled the role of Director of Education for Jazz St. Louis (JSL), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the thriving of jazz in America. In 2014, he was promoted to Director of Education and Community Engagement and charged with creating dynamic programming to engage diverse audiences in St. Louis. In addition to helping JSL operate one of the top-ten jazz clubs in America (Jazz at the Bistro), Mr. Dunlap manages their extensive portfolio of education programs, which are available to all schools, students and teachers in the greater St. Louis area. These programs include student ensembles, in-school jazz performances, artist residencies, a middle school jazz curriculum, professional development opportunities for teachers and an adopt-a-school program.

As a musician, Mr. Dunlap performs throughout the United States and abroad with his own group, the Phil Dunlap Quintet, and as a sideman having performed with musicians such as Jimmy Cobb, Terrell Stafford, John Pizzarelli, Houston Person, Harold Jones, Sara Gazarek, Byron Stripling, Vincent Gardner, Kenny Rampton, Walter Blanding, Christine Brewer. Recent performances include appearances at Jazz at the Bistro, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and Powell Symphony Hall. Phillip also frequently performs with members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and has conducted pre-concert talks for the SLSO on topics covering music history, theory and literature.

Phillip serves on the executive boards of Missouri Citizens for the Arts, Jazz Education Abroad, and Growing American Youth and in 2011, was named "30 under 30" by the St. Louis Business Journal. Stripling, Pete Christlieb, and many others.

Changton Kunjara, Guitar

Changton Kunjara received his Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Chulalongkorn University and Master's Degree in Cultural Studies from Mahidol University. In 1999, he was awarded Berklee College of Music's World Scholarship and came to the United States to study in 2000.

He has worked with jazz artists such as Eric Marienthal, Maria Schneider, Dan Hearle and others, and appears on many international jazz concerts such as the Thailand Jazz Conference, the Hua Hin Jazz Festival, the Taichung Jazz Festival (Taiwan), and Amersfoort Jazz Festival (The Netherlands). Changton is Associate Dean for Administration and Head of Jazz Studies Department at Rangsit University Conservatory of Music. Changton teaches jazz guitar, jazz ensemble, jazz theory and jazz improvisation.

Mike Dana, Guitar

Mike Dana has been Director of Jazz Studies at Fresno City College since 1990. At FCC, he directs the Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combos, co-directs the Jazz Singers, and teaches jazz theory, arranging, history, and advanced improvisation.

He studied with jazz guitar legend Joe Pass, and at the Berklee College of Music. Performance credits include Cannonball Adderley, Gary Burton, Clark Terry, Bob Mintzer, Bobby Shew, Ernie Watts, Arturo Sandoval, Ingrid Jensen, and many others. He also performs regularly with his own quartet, and with the 19-piece Jazz Composers Orchestra, which he founded in 2004.

Mike's compositions for jazz ensemble are widely performed across the United States, and are published by Alfred/Belwin, Heritage/Lorenz, Kendor, UNC Jazz Press, and Walrus.

Damian Erskine, Bass

Damian has performed with Peter Erskine, The Jaco Pastorius Big Band, Les McCann, Javon Jackson, Jeff Lorber and many others. He is featured on the GospelChops.com *Shed Sessionz Vol. 1* DVD.

He is an adjunct professor at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, an instructor at Gerald Veasley's Bass Bootcamp, the National Guitar Workshop, as well as the Berklee College of Music's Guitar Week.

Also, Damian writes for *Bass Player Magazine*, *NoTreble.com*, *Bass Musician Magazine* as well as authoring his own books, *Right Hand Drive* and *The Improviser's Path*.

Gary Hobbs, Drums

Gary Hobbs became a legend in his own time as the drummer who joined the Stan Kenton Orchestra right out of college, following greats such as Gene Krupa and Shelley Manne. He first made his mark in jazz on one of the most dynamic and forward-thinking big band albums of all time; *Kenton '76*.

Through the years Gary has performed with Randy Brecker, Bud Shank, George Cables, Pete Christlieb, Anita O'Day, and many more. In addition to his time with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, he has been the driving force behind other bands such as the Woody Herman Orchestra, the Terry Gibbs Big Band, the Stan Kenton Alumni Big Band, and others.

Gary is very active in jazz education and teaches at the University Of Oregon. He continues to travel throughout the US presenting clinics, concerts, and teaching at summer jazz camps.

Allison Miller, Drums

NYC-based drummer/composer/teacher Allison Miller gathers inspiration from a wide array of genres. Coming from the Jazz tradition, she engages her deep roots in improvisation as a vehicle to explore all music. Described by critics as a charismatic and rhythmically propulsive drummer with melodic sensibility, Miller has been named “Rising Star Drummer” and “Top 20 Jazz Drummers” in Downbeat Magazine’s acclaimed Critics Poll. Her band, Boom Tic Boom, is a 2014 recipient of Chamber Music America’s “Presenter Consortium for Jazz Grant” and is proudly sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation.