



Carmen Staaf Sextet

Nicole Zuraitis – voice

Ingrid Jensen – trumpet

Kris Allen – alto saxophone

Carmen Staaf – piano

Jonathan Michel – bass

George Schuller – drums

Selections will be announced from the stage

Friday, October 5, 2018

8:00 p.m.

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts*

*Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.*

Carmen Staaf, piano

Pianist/composer **Carmen Staaf** is an active voice in the NYC and global music scenes. Her skills and approach have led her to perform in a wide range of settings, with some of the most influential and important musicians of our era. Currently, she is the pianist and Musical Director for NEA Jazz Master Dee Dee Bridgewater. Her past major performances have included the Playboy Jazz Festival in a two-piano setting with the legendary Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter, Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and the Kennedy Center alongside Kenny Barron, Fred Hersch and Joey Alexander. She has been heard at the Village Vanguard, Blue Note, SFJazz and major jazz festivals around the world including the Montreal and North Sea Jazz Festivals, among many others.

Staaf co-leads the group Science Fair with drummer Allison Miller; the band's eponymous debut features Ambrose Akinmusire, Dayna Stephens and Matt Penman and was recently highlighted in the NY Times Playlist and DownBeat Magazine. Paste Magazine calls it "one of the year's best jazz albums". Carmen also performs regularly with Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom, violinist Jenny Scheinman and Allison Miller's Parlour Game, and vocalist/composer Thana Alexa, in addition to her musical direction for Dee Dee Bridgewater. Carmen's most recent solo album is "Day Dream" (2017). She is currently co-orchestrating the music of Ellington (along with Allison Miller) for the American Ballet Theater's October performances choreographed by tap star Michelle Dorrance.

Carmen graduated with a double degree from Tufts University (Anthropology) and the New England Conservatory (Jazz Performance), and immediately thereafter became one of the youngest faculty members ever hired by Berklee College of Music, joining their piano department in 2005. After spending some years touring and recording while based in New York (including winning the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Pianist competition), she was accepted to the prestigious Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance, where she was mentored by the most important living jazz musicians.

An active educator, Carmen has held faculty positions at Berklee, the New School, Stanford Jazz Institute, Swarnabhoomi Academy of Music (Chennai, India), Jacob's Pillow, Litchfield Jazz Camp, and the New York Jazz Academy, and has led masterclasses around the globe. She was also tapped, with Herbie's approval, to provide transcriptions for Herbie Hancock's MasterClass performances and lessons.

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Paul Green, clarinet - Faculty Recital

Wed Oct 10 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 8:00 PM

Tendai Muparutsa - Faculty Recital

Fri Oct 12 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 8:00 PM

Augusta Caso '09, mezzo-soprano - Alumni Recital

Mon Oct 15 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 8:00 PM

Prof. Melinda Wagner - Class of 1960 Lecture

Wed Oct 17 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 4:15 PM

Pre-Concert Talk - Berkshire Symphony

Fri Oct 19 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 7:15 PM

Berkshire Symphony

Fri Oct 19 | Chapin Hall | 8:00 PM