

Williams College Department of Music



Adithya Vaidhyan Thesis Recital

Virtual Apprenticeship through the Lens of the Branford Marsalis Quartet's *Crazy People Music*



Featured Musicians:

Adithya Vaidhyan '24: tenor and soprano saxophones

Avery Allen '27: piano

Jon Fischer: drums

Will Royce '24: upright bass

Program:

Spartacus	Branford Marsalis (1960-present)
Nightwing	Adithya Vaidhyan (2002-present)
Wolverine	Branford Marsalis (1960-present)
Mr. Symple	Adithya Vaidhyan (2002-present)
Rose Petals	Keith Jarrett (1945-present)
0.00437	Adithya Vaidhyan (2002-present)
The Ballad of Chet Kincaid	Quincy Jones (1933-present)

Bio:

10 years into his musical journey, Adithya aims to break musical and cultural boundaries, cultivating a deeper meaning behind his sound. Kris Allen, Mike Kolodny, and Devesh Chandra provide inspiration and mentorship at the highest level at Williams College.

In addition to playing in many ensembles at Williams (jazz ensembles, Zambezi Marimba Band, Vive Latin American music ensemble, for the occasional presidential event, and house party bands), Adithya also plays gigs regularly in the Berkshires with guitarist Michael Junkins and Wingspan, a group made up of Williams alumni. The Adithya Vaidhyan Quartet annually makes a pilgrimage to the Sharp 9 Gallery in Durham and can be found at jam sessions in and around the Triangle.

Adithya is also grateful to be associated with the Litchfield Jazz Camp for the past 3 years. While working at this fabled jazz camp, Adithya has had the opportunity to work with the likes of Dave Ballou, Paul Bollenback, Don Braden, Jimmy Greene, Andrew Hadro, Russ Johnson, Cailey O'Doherty, and Albert Rivera.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

5:00 p.m.

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts*

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

Program Notes:

The inspiration and source material for this thesis and recital is the paradigmatic album by the 1991 Branford Marsalis Quartet: *Crazy People Music*. The first track on the album, “Spartacus,” recalls the energy and creativity of the Wynton Marsalis quintet (who themselves were following in the footsteps of Miles Davis’s second great quintet of the 60s). “Wolverine” is a tribute to Ornette Coleman, whose strides in the avante-garde realm were revolutionary. “Rose Petals” is inspired by the work of Keith Jarrett while he was playing in Europe and recording with the ECM record label. Finally, “The Ballad of Chet Kincaid” is a reinterpretation of Quincy Jones’s “Hikky Burr” from “The Bill Cosby Show.” In addition to these compositions and arrangements from the album, the three compositions from Adithya are intended to substitute three of the tunes from the album not included. “Nightwing” serves as a compositional parallel to Robert Hurst’s “The Dark Knight,” where both tunes take loose inspiration from compositions of the late great Wayne Shorter while still embodying the mysterious, eclectic sound of the Branford Marsalis Quartet. “Mr. Symple” borrows melodic material from Trane’s composition “Ms. Syms” and a harmonic reworking of the blues akin to that of the Marsalis tribute to John Coltrane from *Crazy People Music*: “Mr. Steepe.” Finally, 0.0437 takes the humor, energy, and looseness of Marsalis’s composition “Random Abstract(Diddle-It)” and uses the “burnout” structure of this piece as a model for more open improvisational expression.

2024 *Student Recitals*

Adithya Vaidhyan '24

saxophone Thu **Apr. 11** @ 5 PM
Senior Thesis Recital

Leah Rosenman '24

mezzo-soprano Wed **Apr. 24** @ 4:30 PM

Casey Monteiro '24

soprano Sun **May 5** @ 12 NOON

Molly Arts '24

soprano Sat **May 11** @ 7:30 PM

Richard O'Donnell '27

violin Tue **Apr. 16** @ 6 PM

Frances Hayward '24

violin Thu **May 2** @ 4:30 PM

Paul Kim '24

piano/trumpet Tue **May 7** @ 7:30 PM

Tasan Smith-Gandy '24

cello/piano Sun **May 12** @ 4:30 PM

Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24

piano Sun **Apr. 21** @ 4:30 PM

Karthik Subbiah '24

santoor Fri **May 3** @ 12:15 PM

Peter Miles '24

baritone Thu **May 9** @ 7:30 PM

Petra Hinds '24

mezzo-soprano Sun **May 12** @ 7:30 PM

Robin Wang '24

piano/viola Tue **Apr. 23** @ 4:30 PM

Sara Stebbins '24

soprano Sat **May 4** @ 1:30 PM

Sarah McGinn '24

soprano Fri **May 10** @ 4:30 PM

Leo Marburg '24

baritone/piano Tue **May 14** @ 2 PM

Audrey Shadle '24

violin Tue **Apr. 23** @ 7:30 PM

Lea Obermüller '24

soprano Sat **May 4** @ 4:30 PM

Edmond Laird Raylor '24

tenor Sat **May 11** @ 2 PM

Gwyn Chilcoat '24

tuba Tue **May 14** @ 4:30 PM



All recitals will be held in Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall