



Bigmouth

Visiting Artist Series

Chris Lightcap '93, bass
Craig Taborn, electric and acoustic piano
Tony Malaby, tenor saxophone
Chris Cheek, tenor saxophone
Gerald Cleaver, drums

Program to be announced from the stage.

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 – 8:00 p.m.

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts*

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

CHRIS LIGHTCAP

Bassist and composer Chris Lightcap has worked with Marc Ribot, Regina Carter, Craig Taborn, Glen Hansard, Mark Turner, John Medeski, Jason Moran, Tomasz Stanko, Chris Potter, Paul Motian, John Scofield, Dave Liebman, Paquito D'Rivera, Anthony Braxton, Joe Morris, Sheila Jordan, James Carter, Butch Morris, Ben Monder and many other artists. His playing is featured on over 60 albums and as a bandleader/composer he has produced four critically acclaimed albums of original music.

Born and raised in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Chris played violin and piano before taking up the electric bass at fourteen. As a senior in high school he started to study the upright bass and the following year he enrolled at Williams College. During this period he studied bass, composition and improvisation with Milt Hinton, Cameron Brown, Robert Suderburg, David Kechley, Andy Jaffe, Alvin Lucier, and Bill Dixon. He also had the privilege of studying and performing with master drummer Edward Blackwell shortly before his death in 1992. Upon graduating from Williams with the school's Hutchinson arts grant he moved to his current home, New York City.

Lightcap soon found work with a wide array of material and musicians. He performed weekly with the Cecil Taylor Big Band in 1995 and was invited to perform in a trio with Archie Shepp and Sunny Murray in Paris the following year. For the next two years he worked regularly throughout New York City in a trio led by saxophonist George Garzone. In 2000 Chris joined the ensemble of Regina Carter, an association that continues today. He has performed and recorded extensively with Carter throughout four continents and has been featured alongside the rest of her group with the Boston, Atlanta and Minnesota Symphonies. He has also toured and played major festivals with such bandleaders as Mark Turner, Tomasz Stanko, Ravi Coltrane, Joe Morris, Ben Monder, Terrel Stafford, Ralph Alessi, and Rob Brown. He has played in drummer Matt Wilson's acclaimed quartet since 1998 and also worked with singer-songwriters like Glen Hansard and Rupert Orodorkia, country/rock artist Smokey Hormel and the Brazilian surf guitarist Joao Erbetta.

Throughout his performing career Lightcap has also been a prolific composer. In 1998 he began to write for his own group, a quartet featuring Gerald Cleaver on drums and Tony Malaby and Bill McHenry on tenor saxophones. Lightcap's two recordings with this group, "Lay-Up" (2000) and "Bigmouth" (2003) were released on Fresh Sound Records. Both CDs were on CMJ's top 10 radio chart and received critical acclaim in the New York Times, Jazztimes, Cadence, the Village Voice, and All About Jazz.

In 2005 Lightcap expanded the band to include Craig Taborn on keyboards and named the group Bigmouth. He released his third CD as a leader, "Deluxe" with this group on the Clean Feed Label in 2010 and the CD received critical praise in the New York Times, Downbeat and The Wall Street Journal. The CD was named one of the year's top CDs by NPR, the NY Times, the Wall Street Journal, Jazztimes, the Village Voice and Time Out NY.

In 2011 Chamber Music America awarded Lightcap a "New Jazz Works" commission grant. The result, "New York: Lost and Found" was premiered by Bigmouth at the 2012 Earshot Festival and featured on NPR's "Jazzset with Dee Dee Bridgewater". This music, along with a cover of Lou Reed's "All Tomorrow's Parties" was released as "Epicenter" on Bigmouth's 2015 Clean Feed release. The CD was reviewed in the Sunday New York times and featured as an "Editor's Pick" in Jazztimes.

In addition to numerous US appearances, Bigmouth has performed at major festivals throughout Europe including Willisau, Saalfelden, North Sea, Porto, Ljubljana, Maribor and Edinburgh.

In 2006 Lightcap was commissioned to write "Wiretap" for the contemporary chamber ensemble counter)induction and he has also contributed compositions and arrangements to albums released by Regina Carter, Chad Taylor Rob Brown and others.

Notable recordings featuring Lightcap include releases by Craig Taborn ("Light Made Lighter"), Regina Carter ("Southern Comfort", "Reverse Thread", "Pagannini: After a Dream"), the Swell Season ("Strict Joy"), Matt Wilson ("Gathering Call", "That's Gonna Leave a Mark"), Chad Taylor ("Circle Down"), Gerald Cleaver ("Detroit"), and Joe Morris ("Underthru", "A Cloud of Blackbirds"(Aum Fidelity), and "At the Old Office"). He has also appeared on recordings with Tom Harrell, Dianne Reeves, Marc Ribot, Anthony Coleman, Steven Bernstein, Roy Campbell, Mat Maneri and Joshua Bell.

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TONY MALABY

In his two decades as an integral member of the thriving improvised music community of New York City, saxophonist and composer Tony Malaby has emerged as a wholly unique and singular voice. In recent years, Malaby has led and recorded many of his own projects--his Tamarindo Trio with Nasheet Waits and William Parker, TubaCello with John Hollenbeck, Chris Hoffman and Dan Peck and Palomo Recio with Ben Monder, Eivind Opsvik, Dan Weiss, Billy Mintz and Ben Gerstein. Malaby is also a stalwart sideman, and has lent his talents to such groups as the Paul Motian Electric Be-Bop Band, Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra, Fred Hersch's Quintet, Chris Lightcap's Bigmouth, Eivind Opsvik's Overseas and Ches Smith's These Arches.

Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Malaby's Mexican heritage permeates his musical life. Malaby remembers that, "being a kid, in 1970s Tucson, was very Mexican. There was an atmosphere created there with music, rituals -going to mass,funerals,praying the rosary, plumes of incense smoke ...all of these things, and how they would overlap, have lingered. I really think that's who I am: that's how I came up. And there's really strong imagery for me, from back then. I try to communicate those experiences, with my sound and how I play." Malaby's vivid improvisational work and his sparse, folklike melodies clearly convey these youthful impressions, and are part-and-parcel with his idiosyncratic musical concept. Malaby has dubbed all of projects with Spanish names and that atmosphere pervades all of his recordings.

Malaby has been recording for the Clean Feed label since the 2007 self-titled debut release of his Tamarindo trio, and since that point, he has released a string of records under his own name for Clean Feed: Voladores, a quartet record featuring drummers Tom Rainey, John Hollenbeck, and Drew Gress; the ambitious nonet record Novela, in which Malaby's compositions were arranged by the gifted composer and pianist Kris Davis; and 2010's Tamarindo Live which featured Tamrindo, with the addition of legendary AACM trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith.

In May of 2014, Malaby released his latest record with his Tamarindo trio, Somos Agua, which serves to further solidify the telepathic improvisational connection that he has fostered with Parker and Waits since the band's inception. Unlike many saxophonists who ostentatiously place themselves in front, or solo on top of, a rhythm section, Tamarindo evidences a long-held belief and practice of Malaby's in which he texturally immerses himself within the sounds of his bandmates and the result is, what Malaby called, "an organic, self-generating whole".

CHRIS CHEEK

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Chris Cheek began playing the alto sax at the age of 12. Thanks to a strong public school music program and a highly supportive family, Chris had excellent educational musical opportunities from an early age. While attending Webster University, Chris played with a variety of local Jazz and Blues bands including legendary saxophonist Willie Akins' group and the Bob Kuban Brass. Chris went to Boston in 1988 to attend Berklee College of music where he studied with Herb Pomeroy, Joe Viola and Hal Crook.

Chris moved to New York in 1992 and since then has toured and recorded with Paul Motian, Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra, The Bloomdaddies, and the Orquestra de Jazz de Matosinhos . Chris has also played with Bill Frisell, Brian Blade, Lee Konitz, Carla Bley, Tom Harrell, Wolfgang Muthspiel, Frank Carlberg, Eliot Zigmund, Brad Mehldau, Kurt Rosenwinkel, El Muchacho and many others!

Cheek also plays with the Brooklyn Boogaloo Blowout, Rudder, Steve Swallow's Quintet, Guillermo Klein's "Los Guachos", and the newly formed Axis Saxophone Quartet, alongside Josh Redman, Chris Potter and Mark Turner. In addition to appearing on numerous CD's as a sideman, Chris has recorded 4 albums as a leader for Fresh Sound Records. He currently resides in Brooklyn, NY.

CRAIG TABORN

Craig Taborn has distinguished himself through his work with a variety of prominent musicians. In his hometown of Minneapolis, Taborn studied piano, composition, and music theory with area university professors before going away to college. Before graduating Taborn had already performed on three recordings as a member of the James Carter Quintet. After graduating with a liberal arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1995, DIW released Taborn's first date as a leader, The Craig Taborn Trio. He then moved to N.Y.C., and by the close of the '90s, he performed on two more Carter releases; Roscoe Mitchell's 1999 ECM release, Nine to Get Ready, Carl Craig's Innerzone Orchestra; and on Hugh Ragin's Afternoon in Harlem. In 2002 Taborn released a critically acclaimed trio CD on the Thirsty Ear label, Light Made Lighter featuring Chris Lightcap and Gerald Cleaver. Two years later he released the electro-acoustic project Junk Magic to similar acclaim. He currently performs with a wide variety of groups including Chris Potter's Underground and the Dave Binney group. In 2011 he began an association with the ECM label, releasing "Avenging Angel" that year, followed by "Chants" in 2013.

GERALD CLEAVER

Drummer Gerald Cleaver was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and is a product of the rich music tradition found there and also in his home. Inspired by his father, John Cleaver, also a drummer, he began playing the drums at an early age. He also played violin in elementary school and switched to trumpet during junior high and high school. While in his teens, he gained early working experience with Ali Muhammad Jackson, Lamont Hamilton, Earl Van Riper, and Pancho Hagood and later with Marcus Belgrave, Donald Walden, Rodney Whitaker, A. Spencer Barefield and Wendell Harrison. Cleaver earned a B.A. in music education from the University of Michigan. During his studies he was awarded an National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Study Fellowship to study with drummer Victor Lewis. After graduating he began teaching in Detroit, and later joined the jazz faculty at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. He relocated to New York in 2002.

Cleaver has worked with Roscoe Mitchell, Henry Threadgill, Charles Lloyd, Tomasz Stanko, Jacky Terrasson, Hank Jones, Tommy Flanagan, Mario Pavone, Charles Gayle, Matthew Shipp, Reggie Workman, Joe Morris, Craig Taborn, Ralph Alessi, Eddie Harris, and Miroslav Vitous, among others. In 2002 "Adjust", recorded for the Spanish label Fresh Sound New Talent, was nominated in the Best Debut Recording category. Cleaver also leads the bands Uncle June and Violet Hour.

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

Upcoming Events:

Thu Apr 21	7:15pm	Pre-Concert Talk with Ronald Feldman, conductor of the Berkshire Symphony	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Thu Apr 21	8pm	Berkshire Symphony Soloists Gala NEW DATE!	Chapin Hall
Fri Apr 22	4:15pm	Paul Chihara Music Lecture	Bernhard, room 30
Sat Apr 23	3pm	Senior Piano Thesis Recital with Helen Tang '16	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Sat Apr 23	5pm	Senior Conducting Thesis Recital with Daniel Potter '16	Thompson Memorial Chapel
Sat Apr 23	7pm	Gospel Choir	Chapin Hall
Sun Apr 24	3pm	Senior Piano Recital with Lisa Qiya Li '16	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Mon Apr 25	4:15pm	Master Class: Emerson String Quartet - Visiting Artist Series	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Mon Apr 25	8pm	Emerson String Quartet - Visiting Artist Series	Chapin Hall
Wed Apr 27	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
Wed Apr 27	5pm	Indian Studio Studio Recital with Students of Veena Chandra	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall