

Friday, May 2, 2014, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra

The Legacy of Duke Ellington: 50 Years of Swing!



Peter Varshavsky

Special Guests:
Faye Carol, *vocals*
Matthew Szemela, *violin*
Jules Broussard, *alto and tenor saxophone*
Joel Behrman, *trumpet*
California Shakespeare Theater

Jazz at Cal Performances is sponsored by Nadine Tang and Bruce Smith.

Cal Performances' 2013–2014 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

MARCUS SHELBY JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Marcus Stephens, *alto saxophone/flute*
Tom Griesser, *alto saxophone/clarinet*
Patrick Wolff, *tenor saxophone/clarinet*
Danny Brown, *tenor saxophone/clarinet*
Fil Lorenz, *baritone saxophone/bass clarinet*

Mitch Butler, *trombone*
Rob Ewing, *trombone*
Ryan Black, *trombone*

Scott Englebright, *trumpet*
Rafa Postel, *trumpet*
Mark Wright, *trumpet*
Geechi Taylor, *trumpet*

Joe Warner, *piano*
Ila Cantor, *guitar*
Jeff Marrs, *drums*
Marcus Shelby, *bass/conductor*

Special Guests

Faye Carol, *vocals*
Matthew Szemela, *violin*
Jules Broussard, *alto and tenor saxophone*
Joel Behrman, *trumpet*

CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER

Clive Worsley, *director*
Corrie Bennett, *stage manager*
Aldo Billingslea
Cassidy Brown
Catherine Castellanos
Tristan Cunningham
Gabriel Marin

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PROGRAM

The Legacy of Duke Ellington: 50 Years of Swing!

Black Beauty
Creole Love Call
Black and Tan Fantasy
Perdido
Boy Meets Horn
Moon Mist (featuring Matthew Szemela)
Tourist Point of View
In My Solitude (featuring Faye Carol)
C Jam Blues (featuring Faye Carol)

INTERMISSION

Such Sweet Thunder

Such Sweet Thunder
Lady Mac
Up and Down, Up and Down
Madness in Great Ones
The Star-Crossed Lovers
Sonnet to Hank Cinq
Sonnet in Search of a Moor
Sonnet for Sister Kate
Half the Fun
Circle of Fourths

In 1999, I put together an orchestra primarily to perform original compositions and also to perform and learn the music of Duke Ellington. Although May 2, 2014 is our birthday tribute concert to the maestro Duke Ellington, it's also a recognition of our 15 years together as a band. We are delighted to honor our hero at Zellerbach Hall. The repertoire of the Ellington band, which spans 50 years, is an education within itself. Duke's music begins in the cradle of the roaring 1920s, captures the swing of the 1930s, the urgency of the 1940s, the transition of the 1950s, the exploration of the 1960s, and the modern era of the 1970s. We will perform several works that capture this 50-year period. Our second set will focus specifically on "Such Sweet Thunder", which Ellington and Billy Strayhorn co-wrote in the late 1950s. We are excited to partner and collaborate with the California Shakespeare Theater in bringing this suite to life with the text that accommodates the composed music. Our journey will cover Othello, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, several sonnets, and more. It is a great honor to work with our special guest artists for this program, which includes Miss Faye Carol, Matthew Szemela, Jules Broussard, and Joel Behrman.

—Marcus



MARCUS SHELBY is an accomplished teacher, composer, arranger, and bassist who currently lives in San Francisco, California. Over the past 20 years, he has built a diverse biography. From 1990 to 1996, Mr. Shelby was bandleader of Columbia Records and GRP Impulse! recording artists Black/Note and is currently the Artistic Director and leader of the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra, the Marcus Shelby Hot 7, and the Marcus Shelby Trio. Mr. Shelby was awarded a Black Metropolis Research Consortium Fellowship in Chicago for summer 2009 to conduct research for his commission to compose *Soul of the Movement*. He was also a 2006 Fellow in the Resident Dialogues Program of the Committee for Black Performing Arts at Stanford University to conduct research for his commission to compose *Harriet Tubman*. Mr. Shelby has had the honor of arranging for and conducting the Count Basie Orchestra featuring Ledisi, performing and recording with Tom Waits, and receiving the 2005 *City Flight Magazine* award as one of the “Top Ten Most Influential African Americans in the Bay Area.” He was awarded the Charles Mingus Scholarship in 1991.

Mr. Shelby’s studies include work under the tutelage of composer James Newton and legendary bassist Charlie Haden. Mr. Shelby is also very active in music education and currently teaches at Rooftop Alternative School in San Francisco and the Stanford Jazz Workshop at Stanford University.

In 1999 Marcus Shelby’s interest in composing for big band orchestra and his work in collaboration with the Bay Area multidisciplinary arts organization Intersection for the Arts led him to form the **Marcus Shelby Orchestra**. The Marcus Shelby Orchestra is comprised of some of the San Francisco Bay Area’s most respected musicians including vocalists Faye Carol and Kenny Washington, and several well-known instrumentalists over the years such as Howard Wiley (tenor/soprano), Rob Barics (tenor/clarinet), Gabe Eaton (alto), Mike Olmos (trumpet), Adam Shulman (piano), and Joel Behrman (trombone).

In the last ten years, Shelby has written an extensive series of original compositions and suites as well as orchestrated a broad survey of arrangements from the great composers Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. Shelby has been awarded two residencies with Intersection for the Arts through Theater Communications Group and Meet the Composer and in 2000 was awarded the Creative Work Fund grant to compose for the Marcus Shelby Orchestra. The project resulted in the a theater production of Howard Korder’s play called *The Lights* and featured the Marcus Shelby Orchestra performing the original music live. In 2002 Shelby was commissioned by the Equal Justice Society to compose a suite for jazz orchestra in honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Port Chicago Mutiny. In 2005 Marcus received the Creative Work Fund grant to compose an oratorio for big band orchestra, which honored the life and history of Harriet Tubman. In 2009 he received the Black Metropolis Research Consortium Fellowship in Chicago to conduct research at the University of Chicago and the Columbia Black Music Research Center for his project investigating the music in the civil rights movement.

This research was in preparation for the Marcus Shelby Orchestra’s fourth CD release on January 15, 2011, titled *Soul of the Movement*. This CD received critical acclaim and reached No. 2 on National Jazz Radio Charts (February 2011). In 2011 Marcus Shelby received a Gerbode Award and was commissioned to compose an original musical with Bay Area director, writer, and actress Margo Hall called *Be Bop Baby* which premiered in November 2013.

This production featured the Marcus Shelby Orchestra, which performed the score live at The Z Space in San Francisco. In 2013 the Marcus Shelby Orchestra also performed the live score to *Gwah Guy: Crossing the Street* by artist and writer Flo Oy Wong and Marcus Shelby at the ODC Theater in San Francisco. In addition to developing commissioned works, the orchestra currently performs at Bay Area clubs, universities, high schools, elementary schools, churches, festivals, and concert venues.



Faye Carol is one of the premiere vocalists of her time. Her unique style and gift of connecting with her audience is astonishing. Arranging jazz standards and other popular songs in her own way, is nothing new to Miss Carol. She began this decades ago, well before mixing genres such as hip-hop & jazz were so widely embraced.

This Bay Area living legend remains true to her Mississippi roots infusing the blues into everything from Cole Porter to Michelle Legrand songs. She began singing while still a young girl in Meridian where her grandmother recognized her gift & kept her involved in school & church events. After relocating to Pittsburg, CA she became immersed in gospel music, touring nationally with her church group. In the 1960s her professional career began, and she was a large part of the innovative funk scene in Oakland, CA.

The Dynamic Miss Faye Carol & Her Trio was formed in the 1970s. Heavily influenced

by contemporaries Betty Carter & Aretha Franklin, Miss Carol began to cultivate an audience that remains diverse as her uplifting music. She's also maintained a high level of musicianship in her group, grooming young aspiring musicians like pianists Benny Green and her daughter, Sista Kee.

Miss Carol continues to lead her group, as well as collaborate with other artists. Some of the people she has shared the stage with include Charles Brown, David Murray, Gene Ammons, Ray Charles, Billy Higgins, Steve Turre, Albert King, Bobby Hutcherson, Pharaoh Sanders, Philly Jo Jones, Eddie 'Cleanhead' Vinson, Tootie Heath and Ben Vereen. Now, she can be heard with The Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra, Howard Wiley & The Angola Project, Sista Kee & IOP, and Mal Sharp's Big Money in Jazz Band.

Faye Carol & Her Quartet celebrate the recent release *Faye Sings Lady Day*. This tribute to Billie Holiday was recorded live at Yoshi's in Oakland, CA. It is evident that the Holiday material is dear to Carol's heart and the chemistry she has with her band and her audience is extraordinary. Past Faye Carol recordings include *The Flow*, 1996; *The Dynamic Miss Faye Carol*, 2002; *Alive at The Great American Music Hall*, 1989; and *Classic Caroling*, 1985.

Some of the venues Miss Carol has appeared at include Montreal Jazz Fest, Monterey Blues Fest, DePaul University, Town Hall, UCLA Jazz Fest, Lorraine Hansberry Theater, Yerba Buena, Napa Valley Opera House, Bay view Opera House, Denver Museum of Natural History. Tours include Italy, Germany, Midwest w/ Johnny Talbot, Marvin Gaye's West Coast Tour.

Miss Carol also gives back to the musical community by teaching voice & the History of Black Music. Her teaching career began in 1988 and continues to the present with the after-school program she founded at the Black Repertory Group, called Music in the Community.



Praised by the *New York Times* for his “outrageous fiddling,” **Matthew Szemela** is a violinist who crosses musical genres with ease. In the classical realm, he has performed as soloist, chamber and orchestral musician in several renowned concert halls in New York City (Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully, Merkin Recital Hall) and abroad (Belgium, Luxembourg, Australia, Italy).

Branching away from the classical stage, Matthew has toured extensively with singer-songwriter Nina Nastasia. He appears on her latest release “Outlaster,” which was engineered by Steve Albini. Matthew can be heard on *The Age of Adz*, the most recent album from Sufjan Stevens. In 2008 he appeared on the solo project “¿Cómo Te Llama?” from Albert Hammond, Jr. (The Strokes). In September 2007 he was the featured “fiddler” in the Gateway Playhouse’s production of *Urban Cowboy*, earning high praise from audiences and the *New York Times* alike.

In the summer of 2006, Matthew served as concertmaster of the Hustla Symphony Orchestra for Jay-Z’s Reasonable Doubt 10th Anniversary Concert at Radio City Music Hall, collaborating with ?uestlove and the Illadelphonic, Beyonce, Foxy Brown, Pain in Da Ass, Memphis Bleek, and Sauce Money. Matthew has also had the pleasure of collaborating with Savion Glover for select performances of *Classical Savion*, often as soloist. Further collaborations include performances with Sting, Lana Del Rey, Dave Stewart of Eurythmics, Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Cassandra Wilson, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie

Zane Dance Company, guitarist Vernon Reid of Living Colour, Susan Sarandon, and Olivia Newton John. Matthew is a fervent proponent of violin jazz, ranging from the hot jazz of the late 19th/early 20th century to the jazz rock fusion of the 1970s and beyond. He has appeared in concert with Dan Levinson and his Canary Cottage Dance Orchestra, The Manhattan Ragtime Orchestra, Gregory Moore and his Cosmopolitan Orchestra, Barbara Rosene and Her New Yorkers, and Vince Giordano and The Nighthawks. Matthew is featured on the Stomp Off Records releases *Steppin Around* (Canary Cottage Dance Orchestra) and *It Was Only A Sun Shower* (Barbara Rosene and her New Yorkers). For several years, Matthew was a proud member of The Mahavishnu Project, the official repertory ensemble for the music of John McLaughlin and his contemporaries. With pianist Eric Lewis, he has performed at the American Jazz Festival in Paris, FR; the Traumzeit Festival in Duisburg, DE; the Montreux Jazz Festival; and the Ischia Global Film and Music Festival.

In the fall of 2007 Matthew portrayed an Irish rock violinist in the Warner Brothers film *August Rush*, working with famed music producer Phil Ramone. This film was released on DVD on March 11, 2008. Television appearances include *Good Morning America* (performing with Josh Groban), *The View* (with Rihanna), and *American Idol* (with Lana Del Rey).

Upon moving to Berkeley, CA in the summer of 2011, Matthew began performing with the Berkeley Symphony, under the baton of Joana Carneiro. Shortly afterward, he joined the multi-Grammy-nominated string quartet, Quartet San Francisco, with whom he maintains a busy touring schedule. Matthew can also be seen and heard with the Broken Shadows Family Band, whose sound is best described as an All-Star Americana Balkan Arabic Jazz Experience. An active member of the Bay Area music scene, he can be often be seen collaborating with such groups as Family Folk Explosion, Classical Revolution, Telegraph Trio, Musical Art Quintet, Alta California, The Glasses, and Rupa & The April Fishes.



Jules Broussard, a stalwart of the San Francisco music scene, was born in Louisiana and began his career when he was only twelve years old organizing bands and playing lead saxophone for audiences in and around his home town. Jules' career spans over four decades performing with such luminaries as Ray Charles, Boz Scaggs, Van Morrison, Carlos Santana, Earl Grant, Elvin Bishop, Art Garfunkel, and Doctor Hook, to name a few. Known as an eclectic alto and tenor player, Jules has been pleasing audiences for decades with a mix of jazz, blues, funk, R&B, and rock 'n roll in venues around the Bay Area, such as Roland's in San Francisco and Sweetwater in Mill Valley.

Jules' first love has always been jazz, and he has devoted his life to the study of that art form and honing his craft since his career began. He was part of the Fillmore Jazz Heritage scene in the 1960s, as evidenced by the etching of his name in the Fillmore Street sidewalk alongside other artists who appeared there at that time. Jules recently completed a studio recording project which includes many of his favorite tunes going back to when he was a young musician. Personnel on the project include a ten-piece string orchestra and a four-piece rhythm section. The CD *Jules Broussard...with Strings Attached* is currently available through Amazon.com as well as iTunes. Jules especially enjoys performing live, though, where his varied styles, techniques, and ability to play to almost any audience can be heard. Awards include: Outstanding Jazz Musician—San Francisco Cabaret Gold Awards and Best Reed Player—BAMMIES.



Joel Behrman started playing trumpet and trombone at age nine. He grew up in a suburb of St. Louis, a city that has a great legacy of jazz and blues music and musicians. At age 18 he moved to Miami and studied with local musicians like Ira Sullivan, Barry Reis, and with the talented faculty at the University of Miami. In 1996, while in the middle of his education, he began a tour with K.C. and the Sunshine Band. After five years of juggling college, a teaching assistantship and touring, he decided to reconnect with his jazz roots and move to San Francisco.

Joel has been performing in the Bay Area for 14 years and is currently working with several local groups, including the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra and the Glide Change Band. He also works regularly with such local stars as Tony! Toni! Tone!; Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers; Lydia Pense and Cold Blood; and former Tower of Power lead singer, Lenny Williams. He has made appearances with such artists as Natalie Cole, Bobby McFerrin, Robben Ford, The Four Tops, The Temptations, The O'Jays, Gladys Knight, Boz Scaggs, Etta James, The Funk Brothers, Barry Manilow, and Josh Groban. Joel's newest ventures include touring with drumming superstar Sheila E as well as her father, Latin jazz legend Pete Escovedo. Joel has released a new straight ahead jazz album, entitled *Steppin Back*, on his own label.



Clive Worsley is the Director of Artistic Learning at the California Shakespeare Theater and the former Artistic Director of the Town Hall Theatre Company. As an award-winning actor, he has appeared on many Bay Area stages including Cal Shakes, Berkeley Rep, Marin Theatre Company, TheatreWorks, The Magic Theatre, and many others. Special thanks to George Mount and the Seattle Shakespeare Company.

Corrie Bennett is a Bay Area stage manager and proud member of AEA. Favorite credits include *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Blithe Spirit* (Cal Shakes), *The Arsonists*, *Body Awareness* (Aurora), *Old Wicked Songs*, *A Marvelous Party* (Center Rep), *Animals Out of Paper* (SF Playhouse), and *Chosen* with Keith Hennessy's Circo Zero. She has also worked with The Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, TJT., A.C.T., PlayGround, CounterPulse and SOMArts. Ms. Bennett is a producer for Homo A Go Go, a nonprofit multi-disciplinary arts festival.



Aldo Billingslea is a professional actor who has performed at A.C.T., the Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, TheatreWorks, and with Shakespeare Festivals of: California,

Dallas, Marin, Oregon, Santa Cruz, Utah, and Arabia. He is Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Professor of Theatre in the department of Theatre and Dance at Santa Clara University where he teaches acting.



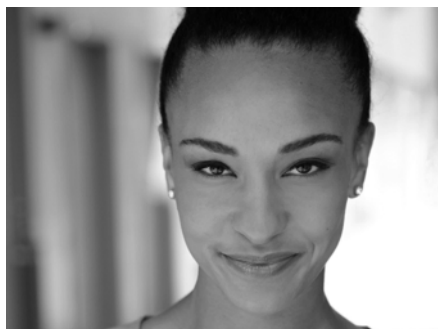
Cassidy Brown is an actor, improviser, producer, and emcee based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has worked with numerous theaters locally and regionally including Theatreworks, Shotgun Players, Center Rep, Capital Stage, San Jose Rep, Pacific Rep, The Aurora Theatre, Marin Shakes, and SF Shakes. His voice and commercial work runs the gamut from bible stories to sports cars. He has been seen in numerous short films, including the BBC World Radio/Web Series "How to Make Your First Billion" and the Steampunk short "Pressure." As an improviser, he has worked with a number of groups, including The Original Action Pack, Revolution Allstars, and Crisis Hopkins. He is currently part of the variety improv duo Sofa and Love. Cassidy is also the co-host and co-producer of a monthly storytelling show, *The Shout*.



Catherine Castellanos has been an Associate Artist with California Shakespeare Theatre and a company member of Campo Santo at

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Intersection for the Arts for more than a decade. Her most recent role was Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, a collaboration between both companies along with the Minneapolis-based theatre company Ten Thousand Things. Catherine has been a resident of San Francisco for over 20 years, acting and teaching throughout the Bay Area. She has also performed regionally at Arena Stage (Washington, DC), La MaMa (NYC), Cherry Lane Theatre (NYC), The Lensic (Santa Fe), and Yale Repertory Theatre (New Haven). Catherine has been honored with nominations and awards from the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle, receiving recognition for her contribution to theatre as one of the Faces honored recipients in 2013 from Theatre Bay Area. In addition, she was interviewed for TBA magazine's "Encore" feature in March 2014. Her passion and greatest fulfillment is tackling world premieres and working with writers. Her ultimate life work is found in her two nearly full-grown sons, both of whom are always providing constant inspiration and lessons of generosity



Tristan Cunningham started her performing days when she was only ten with Vermont's own country circus, Circus Smirkus. After touring for eight years, she decided to change her focus to acting and recently graduated with a B.F.A from SUNY Purchase Acting

Conservatory. Her Bay Area credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, *A Winter's Tale* with California Shakespeare Theater, and *The Arsonists* with The Aurora Theater. This summer she will be in *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with California Shakespeare Theater. She is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and honored to be performing in this event.



Gabriel Marin has been seen as Meizo Prevet in *Napoli!* at American Conservatory Theatre; Donaldo in *Storefront Church*, Tom in *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* and Jackie in *The Motherf**ker with the Hat* at the San Francisco Playhouse; Man in *This Is How It Goes* at Aurora Theatre; Musa in *Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World* at Center REpertory Company; and Gary in *The Happy Ones* at the Magic Theatre. Locally, Marin has appeared in over 50 productions with American Conservatory Theater, Aurora Theatre Company, Bay Area Playwrights Foundation, Black Box Theatre, Center REpertory Company, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, PlayGround, San Francisco Fringe Festival, San Jose Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, TheatreWorks, The Jewish Theatre, Thick Description, Word for Word, Z Space, and many others. Marin has performed on NBC, CBS, PBS, and the BBC.