

and Sonny Greenwich. His innovative rhythmic approach combined with his extensive harmonic lexicon place him at the forefront of young pianists poised to carry on the lineage of creative masters like Herbie Hancock and McCoy Tyner.

Bassist/composer **Drew Gress** performs extensively with artists on the cutting edge of contemporary improvised music. His latest project-*The Irrational Numbers (Premonition)*, features Drew's original compositions for quintet. Earlier releases include the critically-acclaimed *7 Black Butterflies* (2005), *Spin & Drift* (2001), and *Heyday* (1997). Future projects include a new quintet project, a solo bass recording, and an electronics project soon to be unveiled. Drew can also be heard within the ensembles of John Abercrombie, Ralph Alessi, Tim Berne, Don Byron, Uri Caine, Bill Carrothers, Ravi Coltrane, Marc Copland, Mark Feldman, Fred Hersch, John Hollenbeck, Tony Malaby, and John Surman. (In an altogether previous musical life, he grounded the performances of Buddy Hackett, Phyllis Diller, Zoot Sims, Cab Calloway, and Pia Zadora). Drew has toured North and South America, Europe, and Asia, and has served as Artist-in-Residence at St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia and at the Paris Conservatoire. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, and Chamber Music America, and currently resides in New York. Drew is an endorsing artist for Thomastik Strings.

Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, **Mark Ferber** began his musical studies on the piano at the age of five. He was later introduced to drumming and percussion. Mark studied classical percussion with Mitchell Peters and drums with Billy Higgins and Joe Labarbera. He has maintained a very busy playing schedule in Europe and on both the west and east coast. A partial list of his playing credits include Lee Konitz, David Liebman, Don Byron, Norah Jones, Kenny Werner, Steve Swallow, Fred Hersch, Billy Childs, Bud Shank, Anthony Wilson, and Larry Goldings. Mark can be heard on recent recordings with various artists on Soul Note, Fresh Sound/New Talent, Sunnyside, Omnitone and Steeplechase Records. He is a part time faculty member for the City College of New York and the School of Improvisational Music and currently resides in Brooklyn, New York.

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111th Season, 56th program



## SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall  
8:00 p.m.

Monday evening  
February 21, 2011

### THE VANGUARD SERIES

presents

## RALPH ALESSI JAZZ QUINTET

*Ralph Alessi, trumpet*  
*Tony Malaby, saxophone*  
*Andy Milne, piano*  
*Drew Gress, bass*  
*Mark Ferber, drums*



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

## Mark Ferber, drums

### PROGRAM

*All original works by Ralph Alessi.  
Selections will be announced from the stage.*

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### ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

**Ralph Alessi** received degrees in jazz trumpet and bass—he studied under the legendary Charlie Haden at CalArts—and then lit out for New York, where he swiftly became a presence on the downtown scene and a leading figure in jazz education. He's been a frequent collaborator with such notables as Steve Coleman, Don Byron, Ravi Coltrane, Uri Caine, Fred Hersch, James Carney, Jason Moran, Drew Gress, Scott Colley, Dafnis Prieto, and Brad Shepik. Alessi has recorded five albums of originals which draw on everything from post-bop to neo-classical. He prefers simply to think of his tunes as “organic”: he uses whatever fits his needs, including expanded forms, complex rhythms, and a broad harmonic spectrum, to explore the confluence of composition and improvisation. Jazz Times named the group's debut outing one of the ten best recordings of 2002, while All About Jazz dubbed its 2007 follow-up Look “an outstanding work of intellect and fire.” Although Alessi is an adjunct faculty member at NYU, his most significant achievement as an educator may be founding and directing Brooklyn's School for Improvisational Music (SIM), which is playing an influential role in the development of jazz's next generation. Instructors at the school constitute an all-star lineup of prominent jazz progressives, but what really distinguishes SIM is what jazz writer Chinen describes as its “determined spirit of collectivity”: the school's mission statement asserts that “Students (through their own experiences together) can learn a great deal for and from themselves and needn't always wait passively for instructors to provide them with answers.”

Originally from Tucson, Arizona, **Tony Malaby** has been permanently based in New York since 1995 and has been a member of many notable jazz groups including Charlie Haden's Liberation Orchestra, Paul Motian's Electric Bebop Band, Mark Helias' Open Loose, Fred Hersch's quintet and Walt Whitman project, Michell

Portal's Birdwatcher, various projects with Daniel Humair and bands led by Mario Pavone, Tim Berne, Chris Lightcap, Kris Davis, Angelica Sanchez, Michael Attias and Marty Ehrlich. His debut cd *Sabino* (Arabesque) made the NY Times and Philadelphia City Paper's top ten jazz lists for 2000. He has a brand new release: *Tamarindo* with bassist William Parker and Nasheet Waits on drums on the Clean Feed label. His other releases include: *Adobe* available on Sunnyside in the US, featuring Drew Gress and Paul Motian; *Apparitions* on the Songlines label featuring Tom Rainey, Mike Sarin, and Drew Gress; and *Alive in Brooklyn Vol. 1 and 2* featuring Angelica Sanchez and Tom Rainey. Tony leads several projects of his own including: APPARITIONS featuring: Drew Gress, Tom Rainey and Mike Sarin. The Tony Malaby CELLO TRIO, featuring Chicago cellist Fred Lonberg-Holm and percussionist John Hollenbeck. The quartet PALOMA RECIO (Loud Dove) with Ben Monder, Eivind Opsvik and Nasheet Waits. The trio TAMARINDO featuring bassist William Parker and Nasheet Waits on drums. Tony co-leads the Malaby Sanchez Rainey Trio.

Toronto native **Andy Milne** draws inspiration from various forms of music, politics, philosophy, comedy, and science fiction. Some of his musical influences include Thelonious Monk, Art Tatum, Herbie Nichols, Bela Bartok, Joni Mitchell and Stevie Wonder. A recipient of the New Works commission and the French-America Jazz Exchange grants from Chamber Music America in 2006, and voted “Rising Star Keyboardist” by *Down Beat Magazine* in 2004, Milne is one of the most important and respected voices in jazz today. His highly recognizable group Dapp Theory blends funk, hip-hop and jazz with seamless precision. Their current release, *Layers of Chance* [ObliqSound/Contrology–2008], features fresh compositions by Milne that blend various instrumental textures, infectious grooves, layered with lush harmonies and poignant lyrics. In addition to his multiple projects, Milne tours and records with trumpeter Ralph Alessi, teaches at The School for Improvisational Music, and is an adjunct professor at New York University, The New School University and The Banff Centre. Andy Milne has established himself as a distinctive voice at the heart of New York's creative jazz scene, performing throughout the world in numerous settings, including collaborations with a range of artists including Ravi Coltrane, Carlos Ward, Carla Cook, Sekou Sundiata, Avery Brooks, Geri Allen, Dianne Reeves, Robin Eubanks, Red Mitchell,