

The mission statement of the *Boptism Jazz Society* is to preserve, promote, and present the performance of live jazz, our National American Treasure,* in a wholesome, family-friendly environment.

We present a concert on the first Sunday of every month featuring musicians from both near and far, always striving to make your listening experience meaningful, enjoyable, and memorable.

Boptism Jazz Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in May of 2024 by Rich Willey, an active member of the Asheville area music community since 2002 and now president of the *Boptism Jazz Society* (with his wife Janet as vice-president).

We are 100% donation-supported, our expenses being rent of the concert space, the monthly tuning of the piano, advertising in the *Mountain Xpress* and the compensation for the musicians Rich hires.

*In the 100th U.S. Congress on March 3rd, 1987, Rep. John Conyers, Jr. [D-MI-1] Introduced H.Con.Res.57 designating Jazz as a National American Treasure. It went through the House (Post Office Committee and Civil Service Committee) and was passed on to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill was approved in the Senate on December 7th of 1987 and signed into law.

SPECIAL THANKS TO Walton Davis, our attorney who set up the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to Dianne Johnston and the very hip congregation of *Abernethy United Methodist Church* for their willingness to host the *Boptism Jazz Society* concerts. Definitely, thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow, and a special thanks to Janet Willey for being the most loving and supporting wife a nutty jazz musician could ever hope to have. And thanks to you in the audience for being here to listen to these jazz musicians who are pouring their hearts out for the sake of the music. We couldn't do this without you. — *Rich Willey*



Boptism Jazz Society Monthly Concert Series September 1, 2024

Abernethy United Methodist Church
1418 Patton Ave., Asheville NC

Presenting

Meschiya Lake
and her Mood Swingers



Meschiya Lake (vocalist and bandleader): Meschiya's professional career began at age nine in a singing contest at a Rapid City, South Dakota steakhouse. She won the contest: a \$500 prize and a weekly in-house singing gig. Later, in her early twenties, Meschiya did stints as a member of the *Know Nothing Family Zirkus Zideshow* and *End of the World Circus*, and realized her calling. During some downtime in the French Quarter of New Orleans she found her lifelong home base. Her *Little Big Horns Jazz Band* made their 2010 debut album, *Lucky Devil*, and that was the beginning of a decade's worth of accolades, tours, and awards. From the stages of Lincoln Center in NYC, to Brazil, Canada, Denmark, The Netherlands, Italy, Russia, the U.K., and Ireland, she's shown people how to express love of life through music and dance. This passion, seemingly tireless energy, and expert skill has garnered much praise, from NPR's top ten albums of 2010, to *First Lady of Jazz 2013*, at the *Sun Valley Jazz Festival*. Today she resides in beautiful Asheville and continues performing and travelling all over the world.

Dylan Hannan (saxophone): Dylan got his B.A. degree, majoring in Jazz Studies, at the *University of Central Florida*. While there he performed with many artists such as John Allred, Dave Liebman, and Emmet Cohen. He performed frequently with the *Orlando Jazz Orchestra* and the *Space Coast Symphony*. Dylan did two tours with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, performing in eighteen states and four Canadian provinces and appears on their 2023 album, his seventh appearance on recordings. Dylan moved to Asheville in April of 2022 and is busy performing and teaching all levels of saxophone as well as teaching theory and improvisation.

Nick Garrison (trombone): Nick has an active freelance career performing orchestral, jazz, and contemporary music. He is currently the second trombonist with the *Acadiana Symphony Orchestra*, a position he's held since 2010. Nick currently resides in North Carolina and has performed with the *Charlotte Symphony Orchestra*, *Asheville Symphony Orchestra*, and holds a faculty position teaching applied trombone at *University of North Carolina-Asheville*. Nick has shared the stage with such musical giants as Rufus Reid and Ellis Marsalis, and trombone legends including Joseph Alessi, Bill Reichenbach and Alex Iles. Nick runs the low brass studio at UNC-Asheville.

Andrew Fletcher (piano): Raised in Michigan farm country and the mountains of Western North Carolina, Andrew has been playing music for twenty years, specializing in pre-WWII jazz piano (à la Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller, and early Earl Hines) with a healthy dose of rock and roll (Jerry Lee Lewis anyone?). Andrew advocates for street performers and musicians (buskers) and is also a graphic designer and IT consultant. Andrew has recorded with Americana star Pokey LaFarge and is a longtime member of the *Firecracker Jazz Band*.

Rich Willey (tuba): from Clearwater, FL, is a trumpeter, bass trumpeter, tubist, composer and arranger. He studied at *North Texas State University* and *University of South Florida*, earned a masters degree in jazz performance/trumpet from *Manhattan School of Music*, and has played and/or toured with many name bands including the *Tommy Dorsey Orchestra*, Mel Tormé, and Maynard Ferguson's *Big Bop Nouveau*.

Justin Watt (drums): A native of northeastern Ohio, Justin has lived in the Asheville area since 2008. After receiving his B.M. in Percussion Performance from *Kent State University* and his M.M. in Percussion Performance from *Youngstown State University*, Justin spent over two years as the drummer for the *Glenn Miller Orchestra*, touring the United States, Canada and Japan. Since moving to Asheville, Justin manages a busy schedule of teaching (*University of North Carolina-Asheville*, *Furman University* and the *Asheville Music School*) and performs regularly as a free-lance drummer/percussionist in a variety of styles.

Meschiya Lake and her Mood Swingers

Today's selections will be drawn from the following:

Blue Drag
Comes Love
Dream A Little Dream Of Me
Dreamboat
Exactly Like You
Gee Baby, Ain't I Good To You?
I Hear You Knockin'
I'll Wait For You
It's Only a Paper Moon
Jack I'm Mellow
Joseph, Joseph
Just A Closer Walk With Thee
Lay Your Racket Daddy
'Lectric Chair
Lucky Devil
Marie
My Heart Belongs To Daddy
On The Sunny Side Of The Street
Organ Grinder
Prairie Moon
Rosetta
Some Of These Days
Someday, Sweetheart
Sweet Lotus
Twenty-Four Robbers
Who's Sorry Now?