

THE BUTLER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
*presents*

*The* MUSIC  
*at* BUTLER  
*Series*

**BUTLER UNIVERSITY  
LATIN ENSEMBLE**

Kent Hickey and Pavel Polanco-Safadit, *directors*

*with*

Leah Crane, *vocalist*

**Monday, April 14, 2025**

**7:30 P.M.**

**Schrott Center for the Arts**

## PROGRAM

### *September*

Maurice White  
Allee Willis  
Al McKay

### *No Vale La Pena*

Juan Gabriel  
arr. Humberto Ramirez

### *Ceora*

Lee Morgan

### *Chan Chan*

Compay Segundo  
arr. Pavel Polanco-Safadit/Kent Hickey

### *La Duena Del Swing*

Rafa Rosario

### *Levante*

Oswaldo Golijov  
arr. Michael Johnson/Pavel Polanco-Safadit

### *Sincero*

Pavel Polanco-Safadit  
arr. Richard Dole

### *Micaela*

Luis Flores

### *Cong*

Enrique Garcia

## BUTLER UNIVERSITY LATIN ENSEMBLE

### Kent Hickey and Pavel Polanco-Safadit, *directors*

Caitlyn Everroad – Voice  
Amy Yactayo – Trumpet/Voice  
Aiden Smith – Tenor Saxophone  
Zachary Ford – Trombone  
Michael Johnson – Piano  
Owen Gohr – Bass  
Matthew Rhoad – Drums/Percussion  
Ivan Gooch – Drums/Percussion

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### LEAH CRANE

Indianapolis vocalist Leah Crane is well known to audiences in the Hoosier state, throughout the Midwest, and beyond. The versatile singer studied at the renowned IU Jacobs School of Music. Equally at home on the international concert stage, in commercial recording studios, and in faith communities, she is also the lead vocalist for Pavel & Direct Contact (Latin Jazz and Salsa).

Following her collegiate musical studies, Leah embarked on a varied and extensive career as a professional vocal soloist and choral artist. She has been featured as soloist in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* and *Chichester Psalms*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise*, John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Haydn's *The Seasons*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Ned Rorem's *Evidence of Things Not Seen*, and Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*.

In 2013, she was selected to be the soprano soloist in the release of composer Carson Cooman's *In Beauty Walking*, recorded in the Czech Republic with Maestro Kirk Trevor and the Slovak National Symphony Orchestra. In 2019, she appeared as soloist in Carissimi's historic mid-17th century oratorio, *Jephte* with Alchymy Viols. Most recently, she was a soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Indy Baroque Orchestra and Lafayette Symphony Orchestras, in Arvo Pärt's groundbreaking oratorio, *Passio*, as well as with Anderson Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Pops concert in 2019.

Her versatility shines in recent projects as the vocalist for Latin Jazz & Salsa band, Pavel & Direct Contact. Leah is an accomplished studio session singer, and she can often be heard on national promotional recordings for various music publishers, including Walt Disney, Hal Leonard, Beckenhurst, Lorenz, Alfred, Carl Fischer, and Shawnee Press. She recently finished recording a solo album of jazz and Brazilian standards with Chicago-based producer/arranger Paul Langford, "Lucky to Be Me" available on all platforms.

Throughout central Indiana, Leah continues her work as a musician in faith-based communities, singing as a soloist in many churches and synagogues. She is currently the Contemporary Worship leader at the historic Tabernacle Presbyterian Church. In addition to her many musical pursuits, she is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at IU Health's Riley Hospital for Children, having earned a graduate degree in Social Work from Indiana University. She and her husband Jeff reside in Indianapolis with their two children, Karis and Carson.

## KENT HICKEY

Kent Hickey is an in-demand trumpet player and educator based in Indianapolis, IN. He received his undergraduate degree in jazz studies from Butler University and his master's degree at the esteemed Indiana University Jacobs School of Music under the tutelage of John Raymond. Locally, Kent has played alongside some of the jazz scene's best, including Sean Imboden, Rob Dixon, Nick Tucker, Joel Tucker, and Kenny Phelps, among others. The trumpeter currently leads two of his own projects: the Hickey-Shanafelt Collective and the Kent Hickey Trio. Previously, Kent worked as a trumpeter aboard Royal Caribbean cruise ships in the summers of 2018 and 2019.

The Hickey-Shanafelt Collective is an Indianapolis-based jazz nonet that highlights composers and arrangers within the ensemble with a goal of sharing this music with the community. The Collective plans to release their debut album, "illuminate," independently later this year. The Kent Hickey Trio performs Kent's original compositions and lesser-known jazz standards. The group draws inspiration from groups led by Avishai Cohen, Mike Rodriguez, John Swana, and Tim Hagans. Kent's groups have performed at several venues in the past year including McGowan Hall, Merriman's Playhouse, Chilly Water Brewing Co., Blockhouse Bar, the Chatterbox, and the world-famous Jazz Kitchen.

In addition to performing, Kent is also a passionate educator who strives to share his love of music with the next generation. He maintains a private studio of about 30 trumpet students at various schools in the Indianapolis area and is also the outreach liaison for the Butler Youth Jazz Program, a branch of the Butler Community Arts School. Recently, Kent was appointed Adjunct Professor of Jazz Trumpet at both Butler University and the University of Indianapolis.

## PAVEL POLANCO-SAFADIT

Pavel Polanco-Safadit is originally from the Dominican Republic, and he holds an undergraduate degree in composition from the University of Arkansas, a master's degree in composition and music theory from Eastern Kentucky University, and is currently a dissertator completing a DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) degree in composition from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studies under Steve Dembski.

His compositions have been performed in many locations throughout the U.S., Europe, and Latin America. He has composed pieces in various styles, such as modern music, popular Latin music, and jazz. As a pianist, Pavel performs classical, orchestral, modern, salsa, merengue, bachata, and Latin Jazz music. He has performed with several artists, including Roscoe Mitchell, Romulo Castro, Guillermo Anderson, Richard Davis, Hector Tricoche, La Palabra, Ricky Gonzalez, and Sergio George. Pavel has performed in a variety of venues, such as the annual Summerfest, the International Double Reed Society Convention, and the Latin Festival in Milwaukee. He also serves

as musical director for the Latino Cultural Alliance (LCU) based in Milwaukee, WI, and accompanies visiting musicians in their performances of Latin-American music.

He appears as a soloist, vocal coach, director of Latin bands, guest artist, and as a lecturer in universities around the country. Pavel has served as a guest lecturer for the music and Latin-American Studies departments at the University of Arkansas and the University of Wisconsin.

Pavel also is a vocalist and has composed, performed and recorded several of his own pieces, some of which are now available on CD and DVD. Pavel has taught students of all ages. He taught a music theory course at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, co-taught classes at Eastern Kentucky University in choral and music theory studies, and is currently an Artist-in-Residence at the Butler University School of Music.

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### **JCA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We gather here at Butler University on the traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed from this place. These peoples include the Myaamiaki (Miami), Lenape (Delaware), Bodewadmi (Potawatomi), Saawanwa (Shawnee), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Peouaroua (Peoria) peoples. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the indigenous peoples past and present who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This acknowledgement calls us to commit to hearing and engaging Indigenous voices and perspectives and to being better stewards of the land we inhabit. It also calls us to action. Learn more by scanning the QR code for additional information.



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