

THE BUTLER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
*presents*

*The*  
**DUCKWALL**  
**ARTIST**<sup>Series</sup>



**KENT HICKEY, *trumpet***  
*with*  
**Evan Drybread, *tenor sax***  
**Gary Walters, *piano***  
**Thomas Brinkley, *bass***  
**Chelsea Hughey, *drums***

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall**

## PROGRAM

### *Doodlin'*

Horace Silver (1928-2014)

### *Barbara*

Horace Silver

### *Silver's Serenade*

Horace Silver

### *Room 608*

Horace Silver

### *Peace*

Horace Silver

### *Nica's Dream*

Horace Silver

### *Jody Grind*

Horace Silver

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### 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 from 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 9ollective 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 9ollective 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 9ollective released their debut album, "illuminate," in October of 2022. 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 venues like the Chatterbox, Merriman's Playhouse, Blockhouse Bar, Fulton Street Collective (Chicago), Blu Jazz+ (Akron), 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. Kent is also Adjunct Professor of Jazz Trumpet at both Butler University and the University of Indianapolis, where he teaches applied lessons and jazz combo.

### **EVAN DRYBREAD**

Evan is a freelance saxophonist and composer who has performed with Johnny Mathis, The Temptations, Josh Kaufman, Emmet Cohen, and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. He frequently performs at the Jazz Kitchen, Chatterbox Jazz Club, and many other events in the Indianapolis area, including Indy Jazz Fest and Concerts on the Canal with the finest musicians in the Midwest.

In 2022, Evan released his debut album, "Tiger Tail," featuring all original compositions by himself and pianist Christopher Pitts. In addition to Evan and Chris, the album features Mark Buselli on trumpet, Scott Pazera on bass, and Kenny Phelps on drums. The album has received international radio play and made multiple jazz charts including peaking at #49 on the JazzWeek Jazz Chart, #11 on the NACC Top 30 Jazz Chart, and placing in the top 10 on several Roots Music Report charts (#6 Jazz Album, #1 Contemporary Jazz Album, and #1 Indiana Album).

The Indianapolis-based saxophonist frequently performs as a sideman on all saxophones, clarinet, bass clarinet, and flute with many of the area's finest groups such as Roy Geesa's Cool City Band and the Sean Imboden Large Ensemble. Although performing mostly in Central Indiana, Evan has performed around the globe, including time as a showband musician for Royal Caribbean International. Evan graduated from Ball State University, where he studied improvisation and arranging with Mark Buselli. As a graduate student at Purdue University, he served as the Jazz Program Assistant Director and was the jazz saxophone instructor at nearby Wabash College. Evan continues to teach locally and is the Professor of Saxophone at Marian University.

Evan is a Conn-Selmer Regional Artist and performs on instruments manufactured by Selmer, Yanagisawa, and Conn.

### **GARY WALTERS**

Gary Walters, renowned jazz pianist and composer living in Indianapolis and performing throughout the United States, grew up on Indianapolis' Eastside and has been playing piano since elementary school. He concentrated more on percussion at Howe High School in Indianapolis and Ball State University, because he wanted to play in the school bands. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Ball State in percussion, with a minor in classical piano. After graduation, he auditioned for several small orchestras but found too many people competing for too few percussion jobs, so he went back to piano full-time. He taught middle school band and general music in the early years. He co-owned a small recording studio, but after a few years trying to make the studio part work, he sold his interest and devoted his efforts to performing and recording.

Walters returned to teaching in 2000 at Butler University, DePauw University, and Indiana-Purdue University. By 2004 he limited his teaching to Butler University as an adjunct professor of Applied Jazz Piano, leading jazz combos and the jazz band, plus a few years teaching jazz theory and jazz history. In 2004 he began work to complete a master's degree in composition at Butler, studying with Dr. Michael Schelle, and receiving the degree in 2008.

"I have found him to be one of the most generous and nurturing educators I have worked with," Butler graduate Eli Uttal-Veroff said. "He treats every one of his students like family. Gary also has a special way of getting his students to find ways to answer their own questions and give themselves ownership of their education." One of the things Walters has been able to do as a teacher is model how to conduct a career. He approaches work as a musician and not as someone who plays one particular style. Over the years, Walters has become well known in Indiana music circles for his variety of work – with the jazz quintet Small Talk; as a sideman for jazz musician Cathy Morris and acoustic performer Carrie Newcomer; as a founding member of The Icarus Ensemble; playing pops concerts with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra; with the Feinstein Foundation's Great American Songbook competition; and as a solo performer. He released his first solo CD, *Moments in Time*, in 2010; his second solo CD, *The Way Through*, in 2017; and his piano trio recording, *The Covid Sessions*, in 2021. He retired from teaching in May of 2019, to

give himself time to practice, perform, and compose, and with the outlook of many more wonderful musical experiences in the years ahead.

### **CHELSEA HUGHEY**

Chelsea Hughey is a jazz drummer, percussionist, and educator. An Indianapolis native, she attended Butler University and received a BA degree in Music focusing on classical percussion and jazz studies. Chelsea relocated to Jersey City, NJ, and attended New Jersey City University, where she completed her MM degree in Jazz Performance. She studied with master drummer and composer Tim Horner, vibraphonist Mark Sherman, and Broadway drummers Paul Pizzuti and Jared Schonig. Chelsea also earned her MBA in Music Business through Southern New Hampshire University and the Berklee School of Music.

Throughout her freelance jazz career, Chelsea has shared the stage with Indianapolis jazz legends Steve Allee, Rob Dixon, Frank Glover, and Frank Smith. She has also performed with notable NYC-based jazz musicians Walt Weiskopf, Bob Malach, Dave Douglas, Steve Davis, Steve Wilson, Jimmy Greene, Charles McPherson, and Bobby Sanabria.

Chelsea is active in the Indianapolis jazz scene, frequently appearing at the Chatterbox Jazz Club and The Jazz Kitchen with various local jazz musicians including Frank Glover, Monika Herzig, Peter Lerner, The Cohen-Rutkowski Project, and the Gary Walters Trio, among others. She currently shares the role of percussionist for Beef and Boards Dinner Theater, which includes performances of shows "An American in Paris," "Beauty and the Beast," "Grumpy Old Men," and "White Christmas" this season. Furthering her diverse experience and background, Chelsea has also performed with the Danville Symphony Orchestra and the White River Wind Symphony.

As an educator, Chelsea has had the opportunity to work with middle and high school-aged students since 2010 in and around Indianapolis as well as throughout northern New Jersey. Currently, Chelsea teaches privately at Ben Davis High School, Roncalli High School, Zionsville High School, and Sycamore School. She has appeared as a guest artist for the Butler Youth Jazz Program and as a mentor for Jazz Girls Day at Noblesville High School. In the fall of 2023, Chelsea joined the faculty of Butler University's Jordan College of the Arts as the Adjunct Professor of Drum Set.

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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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