



The Jazz Loft
275 Christian Avenue
Stony Brook, NY 11790
631-751-1895
For immediate release

June 25, 2024

The Jazz Loft's All-Star Sextet and "Project 450" to Perform Two Nights of Original and Legendary Compositions

Stony Brook, NY- The Jazz Loft will be offering two performances this summer as part of the [Art and Outreach Program at the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics \(SCGP\) at Stony Brook University](#). Both performances at the SCGP are free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, July 9, at 5 p.m. the first performance with the Jazz Loft's Sextet will celebrate Manuel's original compositions, as well as the talented musicians right in Stony Brook's backyard. The Sextet includes trombonist Ray Anderson, bassist Dean Johnson, drummer Dan Pugach, guitarist Steve Salerno, tenor saxophonist John Marshall, and cornetist Tom Manuel.

Anderson has been named five straight years as the best trombonist in the DownBeat Critics Poll and declared "the most exciting slide brass player of his generation." Johnson is a bassist who has performed and recorded with groups such as the Paul Jost Quartet and worked on projects with Roseanna Vitro and Bill Mays. Pugach is a Grammy-nominated drummer and composer who lives in Brooklyn, New York. Salerno is a guitarist who has played all over the world and is

in a variety of music groups in both jazz and classical styles. Marshall has worked with and recorded alongside many Jazz greats such as Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy Rich, and Gerry Mulligan to name a few.

On Tuesday, August 6, at 5 p.m. there will be a second performance at the Simons Physics Center debuting the Jazz group, "Project 450." The clever name originated from adding up each of the musicians' ages in the group which ultimately equals 450 total years of Jazz history. Bassist Bill Crow (96), drummer Steve Little (89), tenor saxophonist Houston Person (89), cornetist Warren Vaché (73), pianist Larry Fuller (58), and cornetist Tom Manuel (45).

Crow was the bassist with Gerry Mulligan's Sextet and Quartet, and he studied the bass with Fred Zimmerman of the New York Philharmonic. Little is best known as the drummer on one of Duke Ellington's most celebrated recordings, "And His Mother Called Him Bill." Person spent many years recording, performing, and touring with Etta Jones and he has more than 75 albums recorded as a bandleader. Vaché has been known for playing with multiple jazz greats such as Benny Goodman, Gerry Mulligan, Benny Carter, and he has been a part of Dixieland bands and even Broadway pit shows. Fuller, as one of the premier Jazz pianists today, has performed at famous venues such as Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and the Hollywood Bowl.

"It is always an honor to perform on the Simons Center stage. Jim Simons had a fond appreciation for Jazz and I was fortunate to share a few inspirational conversations with him about Jazz over the years," Manuel said. "The two ensembles I will be presenting this year are quite contrasting, but both are equally inspiring. I am especially excited to present "Project 450," an ensemble that boasts legends of Jazz that collectively bring together 450 years of Jazz history!"

For more information visit <https://www.thejazzloft.org>.



Caption: Thomas Manuel, Jazz Loft founder and cornet player, is passionate about sharing his original compositions and group collaboration with the public. Two free performances will be performed at The Simons Center on Tuesday, July 9 and Tuesday, August 6 both at 5 p.m.