

**The Jazz Loft**

**275 Christian Avenue**

**Stony Brook, NY 11790**

**631-751-1895**

**For immediate release**

**June 23, 2023**

***The Harlem Suite!***

Jazz Loft’s Sextet Performs New Compositions about

Harlem- It's History, Culture and People

***Stony Brook, NY:*** The Jazz Loft's sextet will perform two FREE concerts of The Harlem Suite, an original composition by Jazz Loft founder Thomas Manuel. The first performance on Tuesday, June 27, at 5 p.m. will be at Stony Brook University's Simons Center for Geometry and Physics. The same performance will be at Frank Melville Memorial Park Sunday, July 30, at 5:30 p.m. as part of their Summer Concert Series.

The sextet will feature Ray Anderson on trombone; Tommy Campbell on drums; Sam Dillon on tenor saxophone; Dean Johnson on bass; Thomas Manuel on cornet; and Steve Salerno on guitar.

"My newly-written Harlem Suite focuses on the story of Harlem and reflects on the history of housing practices in Harlem, New York," states Thomas Manuel. "This project addresses, among other things, the question of whether public schools in the United States should acknowledge the highly politicized and debated intersections of race, history, and violence."

"(The Harlem Suite) is a musical soundscape that explores the reality that Long Island districts are separated by race and income. African Americans and Latinos are clustered in areas of extremely high concentrations; 74% of Blacks would have to move to achieve racial balance making Long Island the third most racially segregated region in America," Manuel stated. "Harlem represents such a rich, vibrant, complex, fascinating history, and it's a story that is still relevant today."

Simons Center of Geometry and Physics is located at State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY 11794 and Frank Melville Memorial Park is located at 1 Old Field Rd, East Setauket. For more information visit [***https://www.thejazzloft.org.***](https://www.thejazzloft.org/)



*Caption: Thomas Manuel, Jazz Loft founder and cornet player, is passionate about the issues and struggles that are part of Harlem’s history. That led him to create his new composition, The Harlem Suite. FREE sextet performances will be held at Simons Center for Geometry and Physics on June 27 at 5 p.m. and Frank Melville Memorial Park on Sunday, July 30, at 5:30 p.m.*