

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

## University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

---

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

---

4-3-2023

### 42nd UMN Morris Jazz Fest is April 14

Communications and Marketing

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel\\_news](https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news)

---

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

# MORRIS

## 42nd UMN Morris Jazz Fest is April 14

After a three-year hiatus, the University of Minnesota Morris Jazz and Contemporary Music Studies will welcome regional middle and high school students, alumni, and friends to campus for Jazz Fest 2023 on Friday, April 14.

Guest artists Justin Ray (trumpet), Rick Simerly (trombone), Bill Bares (piano), Zach Page (bass), and Michael W. Davis (drums) will participate in clinics throughout the day, and headline the evening concert.

This year marks the 42nd Jazz Fest, a non-competitive festival open to middle- and high-school jazz big bands and combos. It provides area students with memorable and interactive jazz experiences, through masterclasses, instrument clinics, “meet the artist” sessions, and more.

Tickets are on sale now for the Friday evening performance: \$12 for general admission and \$8 for students. New this year is an Enhanced Ticket, which allows a single ticket holder to attend the afternoon master classes with guest clinicians and the evening concert. Tickets are available at [tickets.umn.edu](https://tickets.umn.edu).

### About the guest artists:

#### Justin Ray

As a professional touring musician and educator, Justin Ray recently retired from Michael Bubl e’s orchestra where he spent almost two decades as trumpet soloist, vocalist, and arranger. He has toured 45 countries, appeared on Grammy-winning recordings, and has performed at the Sydney Opera House, Radio City Music Hall, and the Hollywood Bowl along with multiple performances on The Late Show with David Letterman, The Tonight Show (with both Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon), the Oprah Winfrey Show, and Saturday Night Live.

#### Rick Simerly

Rick Simerly has been described by David Baker as “one of the most exciting and consistently creative trombonists in jazz today.” Jamey Aebersold depicts him as “an astounding player with fantastic range and a keen sense of developing a solo. His playing takes you on musical journeys and each one is different and exciting.” The Online Trombone Journal states “Rick Simerly is in the upper ranks of contemporary trombonists”, while the Jazz Review declares “when jazz fans think about great trombone players, only a few names come to mind, J.J. Johnson, Steve Turre, or maybe Bill Watrous. Soon jazz fans will be praising the slide horn of

Rick Simerly.” The International Trombone Association Journal wrote “Rick leaves no doubt about his mastery...Rick is ‘scary’”!

#### Bill Bares

Dr. William Bares holds a MM in jazz piano performance from the University of Miami and a PhD in ethnomusicology from Harvard University under the supervision of the Quincy Jones Professor of African American Music. He has taught at Harvard, Brown, NEC, Suffolk University and Berklee College of Music before becoming co-director of Jazz Studies at UNC Asheville, where he conducts research, directs several ensembles and teaches courses on jazz history, harmony and improvisation, and African American music, as well as in the humanities. His book, *Jazz and the European Dream: A Transatlantic Eternal Triangle*, is forthcoming on Routledge Press.

#### Zack Page

One of the southeast United States top call double bassists, Zack Page's music career has taken him to all 50 U.S. States, the Caribbean islands, Australia, South America, Europe and the Far East. Following time spent in Los Angeles and New York City, Zack and his family relocated to Asheville, NC where he enjoys a busy performing and recording schedule with many of North Carolina's finest musicians. Current projects include The Page Brothers Band, Eleanor Underhill and Friends and The Core.

#### Michael W. Davis

Michael W. Davis is a drummer, educator and recording artist based in Brooklyn who has worked with such artists as Wayne Krantz, Joshua Redman, Jason Moran, Tim Lefebvre, James Genus, Sara Caswell, Cyrus Chestnut, Bob Sheppard, Gregory Tardy, Gregg Belisle-Chi, Bob Lanzetti and many others. He is also a founding member of soul-rock band Caitlin Krisko & The Broadcast, with whom he records and tours internationally. He has earned degrees from Manhattan School of Music and City College of New York, and is currently an adjunct professor at City College of New York.