SUMMER JAZZ CAMP
June 15-26, 2015

Faculty

Wally Schnalle, Camp Director
Wally Schnalle has been playing drums well over 40 years and has a long history of working with San Jose Jazz. For the past 20 years he’s been sharing his knowledge and experience as a teacher, bandleader, recording artist, and sideman with many great Bay Area bands. He performs and teaches in many genres, including Latin, funk, and rock and blues, but the bulk of his work is in Jazz and fusion. He has performed widely, including gigs at the San Jose Jazz Summer Fest, Monterey Jazz Festival, and San Francisco’s Jazz in the City series. Schnalle has six CDs of original compositions in release and was awarded a compositional commission from the Santa Clara University School of Music and Dance. In addition, he has worked with DRUM! Magazine as Music Editor and columnist for over 15 years. Wally earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Jazz Performance at San Jose State University.

Gary Ortega, Camp Manager
Gary Ortega is a dynamic music educator and performer with a passion for the arts and student development. Mr. Ortega graduated with a BM in Jazz Studies in 2012 and an MA in Music in 2014 at San Jose State University. He received his California teaching credential in music from San Jose State University and student taught at Lincoln High School in San Jose in 2015. He has previously served as a teacher at San Jose State University, St. Leo the Great Catholic School, Alum Rock Jazz, Leigh High School, and with the Sacramento Mandarins Drum and Bugle Corp. He will be a District Music Teacher this Fall in Evergreen Elementary School District teaching middle school and elementary band and choir.
Staff

**Hristo Vitchev** is a modern jazz guitarist and composer from Sofia, Bulgaria. Now residing in the Bay Area, Hristo leads his modern jazz quartet which features the Latin Grammy-nominated pianist Weber Iago, drummer extraordinaire Joe De Rose, and virtuoso bassist Dan Robbins. He has toured nationally and internationally and has led guitar clinics in Europe and Japan. In addition to touring nationally and internationally, Hristo has written more than 270 original compositions, many articles on jazz improvisation, and a book on chordal theory and construction. Hristo has performed in world-class jazz venues and festivals, including Yoshi’s (Oakland, CA), Anthology (San Diego, CA), The Herbst Theater (San Francisco, CA) and many jazz festivals, including San Jose Jazz Summer Fest, Monterey Jazz Festival, Okazaki Jazz Festival, and many more.

**David Flores** was born into the rhythm section while sitting behind his father's bass rig and his uncle's drum set. David is adept at playing jazz, soul, R&B, Brazilian, hip-hop, Afro Cuban, and orchestral compositions. Although a drum set player at heart, David is also a highly skilled Latin jazz hand-percussionist. David has worked with Lauryn Hill, John Santos, John Calloway, Donna Summer, Pete Escovedo, Jesus Diaz, Orestes Vilato, Francisco Aguabella, Karl Perazzo, Michael Spiro, Bobbi Céspedes, Ray Vega, and many more. With enthusiasm and great respect for his craft, David shares his musical experience with students hoping to foster the interest and dedication. In 1990, David began teaching music to elementary, high school and adult students. As an educator he has led clinics, master classes, set curriculums and helped prepare students for auditions, recitals, concerts and gigs.

**Kat Parra** is an award-winning vocalist, composer, arranger, and educator with four critically acclaimed CDs in release. Named “Best Latin Jazz Vocalist of 2010 and 2008” by Latin Jazz Corner, she received a 2008 nomination for “Latin Jazz Album of the Year” from the Jazz Journalists Association. With her thirst for the exploration of myriad world rhythms and tonalities, Parra developed a style of music that encompasses sounds that transcend and bend the stereotypical definition of Latin jazz. She has incorporated not only Afro-Cuban music, but also Afro-Peruvian, Middle Eastern, South American folklore, and Nueva Trova. Parra studied Classical Flute Performance and Ethnomusicology at UCLA, earned a Bachelor’s of Music in Jazz Studies and Vocal Performance at San José State University where she is currently enrolled in a music education Master’s Degree program.

**Dr. Marcus Wolfe** holds a D.M.A in Jazz Studies and Theory/Composition from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as a M.M. and a B.M. in Jazz Studies and Saxophone from the University of North Texas. Known for his work as Director of Jazz Studies at Valley Christian Conservatory of the Arts—where his jazz ensemble received recognition the Downbeat Magazine Student Music Awards and Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival—Marcus regularly adjudicates and guest conducts festivals and summer camps throughout the United States and Canada. As a professional jazz saxophonist Marcus has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe and the Middle East and has freelanced in several major urban centers of the United States. He has released two CDs on the Nojoh record label, was recognized with
three Downbeat awards, and has also authored a method book entitled *Rollplay Musical Dice Game: Strength Training for Fundamental and Advanced Technique on All Instruments*.

**John Worley** is a trumpet/flugelhorn player, composer, recording artist, owner of Dancing Sumo Records, Jazz educator, and co-founder and co-host (with Oscar Pangilinan) of San Jose Jazz’s twice monthly Jazz Jam at the Hedley Club. Adept at a multitude of styles, John has played with many national and international artists in Canada, Europe, Central and North America. He’s recorded and played with such artists as McCoy Tyner, Louie Bellson, Joe Henderson Big Band, Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Quincy Jones, Pete Escovedo just to name a few. Worley has played at the San Jose Jazz Summer Fest, Monterey Jazz Festival, Chicago Jazz Festival, Yoshi’s, and more. John currently teaches privately at Hope Street Studios and West Valley Music in Mountain View, CA. John is a clinician for Bach Stradivarius Trumpets, member of BMI, and the International Trumpet Guild.

**Jimmy Biala** studied music at San Jose State University, University of Matanzas, Cuba, and Oficina Investigacao Musica, Salvador Bahia, Brazil. A Latin percussionist with a creative and cultural twist, Jimmy founded SambAsia combining Rio style Samba with Japanese Taiko drumming in 2002. He has taught Cuban and Brazilian percussion at Santa Clara University (1999-2006) and taught Brazilian percussion in Taiwan (2005-2007). He recently returned from a 3-year residency in Beijing where he founded the SambAsia Beijing samba school, the only drumming ensemble dedicated to Brazilian percussion study in China. He has performed with many great artists including Carlos Santana, Celia Cruz, Charanga Nueve and French jazz pianist Christophe Lier. Jimmy resides in Sunnyvale, CA, teaching and performing throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia.

**Saúl Sierra** is a bassist, composer, arranger, and educator. He was born and raised in Mexico City and attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA where he graduated with a degree in Performance. He received the U.S. Scholarship Tour Award and the Outstanding Performer award at Berklee. As a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, Saúl has performed, toured and recorded with countless performers, including Nestor Torres, Jimmy Bosh, Eddie Montalvo, Johny Rodríguez, Jesús Díaz, Wayne Wallace, Jackeline Rago, and many more. For the past 10 years Saúl has been a member of some of the leading Bay Area bands, including The John Santos Quintet/Sextet, Bobi Cespedes’ band, Anthony Blea y su Charanga, Jesús Díaz y su QBA, The Bay Area Afro-Cuban All Stars, and The Venezuelan Music Project. Saúl is also a member of the California State University East Bay Music faculty.

**Joel Behrman** is a Bay Area-based trumpeter, trombonist, educator, composer, and arranger who started playing trumpet and trombone at age 9. He has performed with such notables as Wynton Marsalis, Jimmy Heath, Gerry Mulligan, Joe Henderson, Bobby Mcferrin, Maria Schneider, Pete Escovedo, Sheila E, Jenifer Lopez, The Four Tops, The O’Jays, Natalie Cole, The Temptations, Bono, Rita Moreno, Electric Flag, Gladys Knight, and Etta James. Behrman teaches brass instruments, theory, improvisation, and technique at the Oakland School for the Arts; teaches trumpet and trombone privately (15 years); and taught trumpet, trombone, jazz
trumpet, jazz trombone, and improvisation at the University of Miami as a Teaching Assistant. Behrman earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Jazz Performance at the University of Miami: Frost School of Music.

Brian Ho began playing piano at the age of five when he took lessons at Stanford University and San Jose State University. By sixteen, he was playing professionally and was hired to play organ for a South Bay African American Baptist Church for several years where he forged his love affair with the Hammond Organ. Currently, Brian performs on a Hammond XK3c Pro XK dual manual system with the Hammond XPK-200 pedals and Leslie 3300. Brian has performed at San Jose Jazz Summer Fest, Stanford Jazz Festival, Healdsburg Jazz Festival, Sonoma Jazz Festival, and Benicia Jazz Festival. In addition, he is musical director for the Old Orchard Elementary School in Campbell and writes for Keyboard Magazine. Brian is a clinician for and endorses the legendary Hammond Organ. Brian earned his Bachelor’s Degree in music performance at San Jose State University.