

Loyola University New Orleans
School of Music and Theatre Professions
Presents

Jazz Underground
***Ed Wise and His
Outdoor Cats***

featuring
Ed Wise, bass
Eric Merchant, guitar
Ronan Cowan, drums



Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Nunemaker Auditorium

The Outdoor Cats

Outdoor Cats is a jazz trio, consisting of bassist Ed Wise, guitarist Eric Merchant and percussionist Ronan Cowan. The trio came together during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 to perform “porch concerts” for live streaming on Facebook, to give people an opportunity to hear live jazz when all the jazz clubs were dark. Guests appeared with the band - vocalist Meryl Zimmerman and saxophonists Sam Taylor, Zahria Sims, Marius Toussaint, Noah Boshra, Jake Peff and Sam Korn. Pianists Larry Sieberth and Jeff Lashway also made guest appearances. John Mahoney has performed with the group on both trombone and piano. Bassists Sam Dingle and Amina Scott have also performed with Ed moving to piano. The trio continues to make appearances around town.

During the pandemic, Ed and his wife Liz produced 70 streaming concerts, including performances in Austin, Philadelphia and New Jersey with local artists from those cities. But the majority of the concerts were performed by the Outdoor Cats trio.

Personnel

Ed Wise, a native of Houston, Texas, has been performing music professionally for over 50 years. An accomplished performer on both string bass and electric bass, Ed has toured with Harry “Sweets” Edison, Monty Alexander, and Texas R&B legend Delbert McClinton. He has performed with world-famous jazz musicians, including Lee Konitz, Mose Allison, Arturo Sandoval, Herb Ellis and Jim Hall, as well as legendary vocalists Billy Eckstine, Cab Calloway and Frank Sinatra Jr.

In 2005, Ed Wise was a recipient of New Orleans Magazine’s Jazz All-Star award. As an educator, Ed is currently on faculty at Loyola University in New Orleans, where he teaches bass instruction, jazz combo, pop ensemble and music theory.

Eric Merchant is a New Orleans-based jazz guitarist, bandleader, composer, arranger and educator. He earned a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies from the University of New Orleans in 2016, and is now an adjunct guitar instructor at both UNO and the University of Southern Mississippi. Eric performs regularly around the city, both in groups and as a solo guitarist.

Ronan Cowan is a professional drummer living in New Orleans. A native of Florida, he studied music at Florida State University. Upon graduating in 2019, he moved to New Orleans, where he quickly became one of the top call musicians in town. He has performed with Nicholas Payton, Peter Washington, the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra and Victor Goines, among others. Ronan has also taught privately for many years. Many of his students have gone on to receive scholarships and earn degrees in music. He is currently continuing his own musical studies as a graduate student at University of New Orleans.

Upcoming Events

Cain Budds & Luther Enloe, guitar

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker | Free admission

Dramatic Voice Symposium

September 22-23

Nunemaker | Registration required

Opera Gala

Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Roussel | Ticket required

Loyola Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

Dr. Peter Wood, trumpet

Monday, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

Singer-Songwriter Night

Thursday, Oct. 13, 9 p.m.

Neutral Ground Coffee | Free admission

Opera Scenes

Friday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

Jazz Underground: Cyrus Nabipoor

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker | Ticket required

Music Education Guest Series:

Dr. Constance McKoy, “Culturally Responsive Teaching”

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

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