
ST. OLAF JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Directed by Joseph L. Jefferson
Featuring Guest Artist, Willerm Delisfort, *jazz piano*

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026 | 7:30 P.M. | THE PAUSE

PROGRAM

ST. OLAF JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Corner Pocket Freddie Green (1911–1987) / Don Wolf / arr. Ernie Wilkins
Caroline Farris, *tenor sax* • Logan Rasmussen, *trumpet* • Will Christensen, *drum set*

TIPTOE Thad Jones (1923–1986)
Emma Clift, *soprano sax*

Purple Gazelle Duke Ellington (1899–1974)
Clara Hall, *clarinet* • Caroline Farris, *tenor sax*

The Nearness of You Ned Washington (1901–1976) / Hoagy Carmichael, / arr. John Clayton
Sophia González, *vibes*

Flamingo Ted Grouya (1910–2000) / Edmund Anderson / arr. Billy Strayhorn
Charlotte Buchman, *vox*

Continuum Mike Tomaro (b.1960)
Sophia González, *vibes* • Logan Rasmussen, *trumpet* • Ryan Cheng, *bari sax* • Owen Cosgrove, *piano*

Breath Away (All Day Muse) Willerm Delisfort (b. 1983)
featuring Willerm Delisfort, *piano*
Charlotte Buchman, *vox*

Del Corazón Mike Tomaro
featuring Willerm Delisfort, *piano*
Caroline Farris, *tenor sax* • Joe Durben, *piano*

The Ponderous Pachyderm of the Planks Sherman Irby (b. 1968)
featuring Willerm Delisfort, *piano*
Will Kroner, *trombone* • Emma Clift, *alto sax* • Joe Durben, *piano*

Caravan Duke Ellington (1899–1974) / Juan Tizol
arr. Alan Baylock
Will Kroner, *trombone* • Emma Clift, *alto sax* • Ryan Cheng, *bari sax* • Joe Durben, *piano*

Unauthorized photography or video/audio recording is prohibited. This concert is archived at <http://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia>. Please silence your cell phone or other personal communication device.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Pianist, composer, and educator **Willerm Delisfort** is a messenger of life using music as his tool. His career extends the continuum of musical styles that ranges from Jazz, Gospel, R&B and many more. Because of this, Willerm's versatility has created a high demand for him with prominent artists and groups in many genres of music.

Born in Little Haiti Miami, Florida, in 1983 he began playing piano at the age of ten and quickly showed a natural talent for music. As a young man he would go on to study with south Florida legends such as John McMinn, Melton Mustafa, Christopher Dorsey. After graduating high school, he would go on to attend a higher education at Florida A&M University, where he would be able to study and play with musicians such as Marty Robinson, Longineu Parsons, Leon Andersen, Rodney Jordan and more. This would be the time when he founded his band Willerm Delisfort Project. Later on after his time in Tallahassee, FL he moved on to the Chicago area to attend Northern Illinois University, where he went on to study with the great Willie Pickens, and Ronald Carter who truly inspired him to want to be a great educator in music. This would lead him on a path where he would work with some of Chicago's greats such as Von & George Freeman, Ernest Dawkins, AACM, Fareed Haque, Bobby Broom. Also with some of Chicago's young lions on the come up such as Marquis Hill, Christopher McBride, Corey Wilkes, Maurice Brown, Milton Suggs, MaKaya McCraven, Junius Paul and so many more. After 3 years of working in the great city Chicago, he would go on to move to New York city where he is based right now.

Delisfort, as a leader, has released two albums: *Freedom Riders* (2009) and *Black Element(s)* (2023). On many other projects as a sideman has also been featured on albums by other artists, such as Wayne Tucker, Dezron Douglas, Nickel & Dime Ops, Chris Davis, Chris Massey, Ernest Dawkins (Organ & Piano), Fareed Haque, Milton Suggs, Jason Marshall (Organ), Patrick Terbrack and more..

As a composer and arranger, since the age of 16, his penmanship has written over 7 suites, more than 80 compositions & arrangements; you can find the peers of his generation and younger performing on records and club dates til this day. Delisfort believes that his compositions are his way to express the multitudes of hurdles we deal with in life everyday, and simply hopes his melodies, lyrics and harmonies resonate with others to bring awareness, love, discussion, understanding, empathy and more to everyone's life.

In addition to his musical career, Delisfort is also active in many communities. He is a frequent speaker at schools and community events, and is committed to using music to educate and inspire others in Hope, not in hospice. Whether it is as a faculty member at the New School University, teaching theory & improv. A teaching artist at Jazz at Lincoln Center, educating and molding the next generation in jazz with their High School Jazz Academy. Or as a teaching artist at Carnegie Hall, sent out all over the city writing lullabies with parents to help connect with the new addition to their family. In addition to working with (who he believes are some of the most talented, honest and brilliant) musicians incarcerated. Traveling all over the world teaching with educational companies such as Little Stompers, Swing Makes You Sing, it is a privilege to continue the work of Louis Armstrong teaching everyone about this beautiful art form we call Jazz.

Willerm Delisfort is a gifted musician, composer, educator, and community leader. His music is a reflection of his own unique experiences and perspectives, and it is sure to resonate with audiences. He is a rising star in the world of jazz, and he is sure to continue to make a significant contribution to music for many years to come.

Joseph L. Jefferson is an award-winning educator, trombonist, and scholar whose career reflects both artistic versatility and a deep commitment to music education. He is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Ensembles at St. Olaf College, where he also teaches applied jazz/commercial trombone. His students and ensembles have earned national and international recognition, and in 2025, under his direction, St. Olaf Jazz I was selected to perform at the Midwest Clinic.

A dynamic performer, Dr. Jefferson moves seamlessly across jazz, symphonic, and commercial styles. He has appeared with artists and ensembles including Vanessa Williams, Sean Jones, Catherine Russell, Jennifer Wharton, Nick Finzer, Randy Brecker, the Cab Calloway Orchestra, The Colour of Music Orchestra, and Rubacão Jazz. He has also been featured as a soloist with the Marshall University Jazz Ensemble, George Fox University Jazz Ensemble, West Virginia University Wind Symphony, and Mt. Hood Symphonic & Jazz Band. His international teaching and performing engagements include appearances in Bermuda, Thailand, and Brazil.

Recognized nationally for his leadership in jazz education, Dr. Jefferson was named to Yamaha's 40 Under 40 Class of 2023 and honored as the Jazz Education Network's Ellis Marsalis, Jr. Jazz Educator of the Year in 2022. He frequently appears as a clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator at leading festivals, and organizations, including Jazz at Lincoln Center, TMEA, and the International Trombone Festival.

Dr. Jefferson's research includes work on the Shout Band tradition and publications such as *The Art of Jazz Programming*. Through his performances, teaching, and mentorship, he approaches music with deep respect for its power to move and transform people and continues to inspire the next generation of musicians worldwide.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

VOCALIST

Charlotte Buchman '26

REEDS

Emma Clift '26, *1st alto sax*
Clara Hall '28, *2nd alto sax*
Caroline Farris '26, *1st tenor sax*
Kiera Stanford '28, *2nd tenor sax*
Ryan Cheng '29, *bari sax*

TROMBONES

Will Kroner '27, *1st trombone*
Ava Clift '29, *2nd trombone*
Wyatt Menke '28, *3rd trombone*
Leo Barks '27, *bass trombone*

TRUMPETS

Jayden Sanchez '29, *1st trumpet*
Logan Rasmussen '27, *2nd trumpet*
Sam Hall '26, *3rd trumpet*
Gonzalo Díaz Tavárez '28, *4th trumpet*
Olive Coburn '26, *5th trumpet*

RHYTHM SECTION

Owen Cosgrove '28, *piano*
Joe Durben '26, *piano*
Sophia González '26, *vibes*
Max Xu '26, *bass*
Will Christensen '26, *drum set*

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Louis Epstein, *department chair*
Tracey Engleman, *department vice-chair*
Barbara Barth, *academic administrative assistant – Music*
Lisa McDermott, *academic administrative assistant – Music*
Faith Kimbrell, *instrument coordinator*
Brian Knox, *piano technician*
Charles Sadler, *assistant piano technician*

MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLEGE RELATIONS

Michael Kyle '85, *vice president for enrollment and college relations*
Jean Parish '88, *director of college relations for music organizations*
Terra Widdifield '95, *associate director of music organizations*
Connor Smith, *assistant director of music organizations for audience development*
Sarah Gingerich '11, *assistant director of music organizations for project management*
Jonathan Kopplin, *associate librarian for ensembles and performing rights*
Aaron Looney '24, *coordinator of music organizations*
Amelia McNeil-Maddox, *ticketing manager*

BROADCAST/MEDIA SERVICES

Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, *director of broadcast/media services*
Sean Tonko, *associate director of event operations*
Grant Furgiuele, *associate director of broadcast engineering*
Mia Pardo, *assistant director of production*

FINE ARTS ADMISSIONS

Molly Boes Ganza '08, *associate dean of fine arts recruitment*

Many St. Olaf events, including concerts and chapel services, are streamed live and archived at: <https://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia>