Angelo Versace

Winner of the 2012 Phillips Jazz Piano Competition, Dr. Angelo Versace has been described as “a fleet-fingered keyboard dynamo (Lawrence budman) and the “next star on the jazz scene.” (Dwayne Dolphin)

From humble beginnings in the small town of Indiana, Pennsylvania, Versace’s passion has led him all across the globe. His trio has performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival (Netherlands), the Tucson Jazz Festival (Arizona), the New Orleans Jazz Festival (Louisiana), the Pensacola Jazz Festival (Florida), the Mellon Jazz Festival (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), and the Coral Gables Jazz Festival (Miami, Florida).

He has had the privilege of working as a sideman with several internationally recognized artists, including Khristian Dentey, Brice Winston, Troy Roberts, Dave Stryker, Sammy Figueroa, Wyckoff Gordon, Dave Koz, Tim Ries, Kevin Mahogany and Ignacio Berroa.

Versace has dedicated his life to education. He attended William Paterson University from 2004 to 2008, studying with Mulgrew Miller, a seminal figure in jazz and a man whom Versace cites as being a main musical influence. He subsequently earned his Master of Music degree and Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Miami, studying jazz piano, composition, and arranging.

During his time in Miami, Versace was on faculty at the Superior Academy of Music, an award-winning institution backed by the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program. He also worked closely with two high school jazz band programs, which found success at the prestigious Essentially Ellington competition: CGCC Community Arts Program and Dillard High School. Versace moved to Tucson in 2014 to join the University of Arizona faculty as director of jazz studies at the Fred Fox School of Music. That same year he also began working for the Tucson Jazz Institute (the three-time winner of the Essentially Ellington competition), giving regular clinics, lessons and master classes.

Versace’s career is multifaceted. He has been contracted as a performer, teacher, composer, arranger, producer, music director and an engraver. From 2009 to 2013 Versace held the piano chair in the Mancini Institute Orchestra, a multi-genre crossover orchestra under the direction of Terence Blanchard. He currently tours extensively with Khristian Dentley, and is preparing for two upcoming record releases. The first one is a collaboration with Mr. Dentley, titled Easy Simple Life. The second CD will be the release of his first record as a leader, First Take, and will feature Brice Winston.
UA Studio Jazz Ensemble & Fox Sextet

Angelo Versace, director
Monday, November 23, 2015, Crowder Hall, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Fox Sextet

Moment's Notice ................................. John Coltrane (1926-1967)
Superman .......................................... Charlie Parker (1920-1955)
Moanin' ............................................. Bobby Timmons (1935-1974)
Evidence ........................................... Thelonious Monk (1917-1982)

INTERMISSION

Studio Jazz Ensemble

Kennewick Man ..................................... Jim Knapp
Petite Fleur ......................................... Neil Hefti (1922-2008)
Fun Time ............................................ Sammy Nestico (b. 1924)
Home .................................................. Jim Knapp
Skyhawk .............................................. Fred Sturm (1951-2014)
Sky Blue .............................................. Maria Schneider, (b. 1960)
Down By the Riverside .......................... Oliver Nelson (1932-1975)

The UA Studio Jazz Ensemble (aka Jazz A) was founded by Tom Ervin in 1972. Jeff Haskell began conducting the ensemble regularly in 1977. In its ranks have sat some of the finest young musicians in Southern Arizona. The players’ names read like a “who’s who” and so does the list of soloists who have starred with the band over the years. The quality has always been high. In the 1980s, the band was hired to tour with Dizzy Gillespie, a tour that exposed the students the great teaching expertise that Dizzy had at his command. Since then, the band has backed up some of the most high-profile and legendary jazz artists of our time including Bill Watrous, Bobby Shew, John Fedchock, Brian Lynch, Chris Potter, Michael Davis, Troy Roberts and many more. Most recently, they undertook their second (this time month-long and all expenses paid) successful tour throughout China under the direction of Moisés Paiewonsky. Due to this and several other international trips and initiatives which the group has undertaken over the last 10 years, the UA Studio Jazz Ensemble was recently named winner of the 2013 UA Global Excellence Award. Angelo Versace, director of jazz studies, currently serves as director of the ensemble.

Fox Sextet

Horns
Johnathan Black, trombone
Max Goldschmid, trumpet
Chris Herald, alto

Rhythm
Nick Stanley, piano
Jeffrey Sandberg, bass
Gibb Mandish, drums

Studio Jazz Ensemble

Saxophones
Chris Herald, alto I
Gabriel Paco, alto II
Harry Bryant, tenor I
Dan Hawthorne, tenor II
David Lasansky, baritone
Natalie Groom, clarinet

Trombones
Johnathan Black, lead
Drew Sheets, II
Saul Millan, III
David Dayoub, IV

Trumpets
Max Goldschmid, lead/II
Anthony Gibes, lead/II
Cory Driscoll, III
Morgana Ortiz, IV
Ricky Vejar, V

Rhythm
Sean Gale, guitar
Nick Stanley, piano
Jeffrey Sandberg, bass
Gibb Mandish, drums