

Mike Holober

Pianist/Composer/Arranger/Conductor/Educator

Mike Holober served as Artistic Director/Conductor of the Westchester Jazz Orchestra (WJO) from 2007-2013, and Associate Guest Conductor of the hr-Bigband (Hessischer Rundfunk - Frankfurt, Germany) from 2011-2015. With WJO he has written and conducted for Joe Lovano, Kate McGarry, John Scofield, John Patitucci, Randy Brecker, and Paquito D'Rivera. Projects for the hr-Bigband include arranging and conducting concert length projects for Kurt Rosenwinkel, Billy Cobham, Jane Monheit, Terje Rypdal, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Miguel Zenon, and a concert of the works of Frank Zappa for the 2015 Frankfurt Jazz festival. With the WDR Big Band (WestDeutsche Rundfunk - Cologne, Germany) he has written and conducted projects for Avishai Cohen and Eli Degibri, and for legendary drummer Al Foster. Other projects include arrangements for a concert featuring Eli Degibri with jazz orchestra and strings, which was performed at the Israeli Opera House in Tel Aviv in 2014, as well as arrangements for a WDR concert featuring Joshua Redman, and a work for the Stockholm Jazz Orchestra's recent recording. He has also written multiple works for OJM (Portugal) and pianist Fred Hersch.

After a busy period of writing and arranging for some of the world's most renowned large ensembles, Mike has returned to the helm of his own stellar big band with the release of *Mike Holober & The Gotham Jazz Orchestra: Hiding Out* (ZOHO, 2019). This double-CD features two major extended form compositions: *Hiding Out*, commissioned for The Gotham Jazz Orchestra by The Philadelphia Museum of Art (funded by the Pew Foundation) and *Flow; In Celebration of the Hudson River*, commissioned by WJO (funded by a NYSCA Individual Artist's Grant). The recording also includes an arrangement of Jobim's *Caminhos Cruzados*, a WJO commission that was written as a feature for trumpet master Marvin Stamm. Other featured artists on *Hiding Out* include Billy Drewes, Jason Rigby, Scott Wendholt, Adam Kolker, Jon Gordon, Steve Cardenas, and Jesse Lewis.

Mike was a 2017-18 recipient of a Chamber Music America New Jazz Works Grant for *Don't Let Go*, which was premiered at Symphony Space (the Leonard Nimoy Thalia) in June 2018. Structured as a song-cycle in the tradition of Robert Schumann, Samuel Barber, and Ralph Vaughn-Williams, *Don't Let Go* was written for Mike's octet *Balancing Act*, whose eponymous premiere recording was released in 2015 (Palmetto). The recording features Mike's original compositions (several with lyrics), performed by Kate McGarry, Dick Oatts, Jason Rigby, Marvin Stamm, Mark Patterson, John Hebert, and Brian Blade.

In addition to his 6 records as a leader, Mike can be heard as a sideman on over 70 recordings. He has performed with or had his works performed and recorded by numerous ensembles, including The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, Zagreb JazzOrkestar, The Gotham Wind Symphony (where he is Composer-In-Residence), UMO, RTV Big Band Slovenia, The Airmen of Note, The Army Blues, The Tim Ries Rolling Stones Project, John Patitucci, Jason Rigby, Marvin Stamm, The Prism, American, and NY Saxophone Quartets, and many others.

Mike is a Full Professor at The City College of New York and was named the inaugural Stuart Z. Katz Professor of Humanities and the Arts in 2018. He is a five-time MacDowell Fellow, Ucross Foundation Fellow and Yaddo Guest. He also teaches composing and arranging at The Manhattan School of Music. From 2007 - 2015 he served as Associate Director of the BMI Jazz Composer's Workshop, (founded by legendary jazz composers Bob Brookmeyer and Manny Albam), where he taught with Musical Director Jim McNeely.

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