

Information/Booking
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mikeholober.com

DON'T LET GO

MIKE HOLOBER & BALANCING ACT

PETER NORTON
symphonyspace
Leonard Nimoy Thalia

2537 Broadway @ 95th Street

Thursday June 14, 8:00 pm



UNION ARTS CENTER

a venue for creative expression
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2 Union Street, Sparkill NY

Sunday June 17, 3:00 pm

DON'T LET GO

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MUSICIANS

Jo Lawry - voice

Marvin Stamm - trumpet

Dick Oatts – reeds

Jason Rigby - reeds

Mark Patterson - trombone

John Hébert – bass

Mike Holober – piano/composer

Gerald Cleaver - drums

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Chamber
Music
America

“Don’t Let Go” is a Chamber Music America New Jazz Works commission, with generous funding from the Doris Duke Foundation. Inspired by the song-cycles of Robert Schumann, Samuel Barber, and Ralph Vaughn-Williams, “Don’t Let Go” explores the nuances and complexities of the concept of “hope” in the context of current social, political, and environmental realities.

mikeholoberdontletgo.wordpress.com

SPECIAL THANKS

Chamber
Music
America

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MIKE HOLOBER & BALANCING ACT

Over the past decade-plus, pianist and composer Mike Holober has become one of the jazz world’s busiest and most renowned big band mainstays—as a composer, arranger and conductor. After focusing on jazz orchestra for over a decade, “Balancing Act” is meant to satisfy his urge to lead a smaller group again, and to make a completely personal statement. The group’s first recording, titled “Balancing Act” (Palmetto) was released in 2015, and featured vocalist Kate McGarry, saxophonists Jason Rigby and Dick Oatts, trumpeter Marvin Stamm, trombonist Mark Patterson, bassist John Hébert and drummer Brian Blade. “Balancing Act” speaks to Mike’s creative examination of contrasting elements and ideas. The album mixes both new and older original songs, plus two covers from outside the jazz canon and an original contribution from Rigby. Mike’s original compositions for “Balancing Act” continue a musical journey in which physical and emotional landscapes provide inspiration and self-awareness.

mikeholober.com

BIOS

Jo Lawry Voice

Australian-born, New York based vocalist Jo Lawry's debut album *I Want to Be Happy* was released in 2008 to rave reviews and named among the "Best CDs of the Decade" by *Downbeat Magazine*. She has become known beyond jazz circles for her work with Sting - with whom she has been recording and touring since 2009 - and more recently with Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel. She was also featured in the recent Oscar-winning documentary, *20 Feet from Stardom*.

Marvin Stamm Trumpet

Marvin Stamm has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a veteran of the bands of Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra, the Duke Pearson Big Band, the Bob Mintzer Band, and the American Jazz Orchestra. He also advanced a 23-year career in the NYC recording studios as well as performing with Frank Sinatra and the Benny Goodman Sextet. Since the early '90's, Mr. Stamm eschewed studio work to concentrate his efforts as a jazz soloist, touring throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Jason Rigby Reeds

Voted "Best College Jazz Instrumentalist" by *DownBeat Magazine* in 1999, saxophonist Jason Rigby has performed at major venues in the US, Japan, Russia, and Europe as both leader and sideman, and has appeared on numerous critically-acclaimed recordings. His debut recording, *Translucent Space* (Fresh Sound Records), was named one of 2006 Records of the Year by WIRE. His second Fresh Sound release, *The Sage*, was also highly praised. Rigby's *Detroit-Cleveland Trio* is his main current project, and features bassist Cameron Brown and drummer Gerald Cleaver. *Heaty Merge* is an explosive trio which Rigby co-leads with pianist Russ Lossing and drummer Jeff Davis. Recently he has been touring with the Mark Guiliana Jazz Quartet. Additional sideman work includes performing with Cameron Brown, George Schuller, Eivind Opsvik, Mike Baggetta, and bassist/film composer Kyle Eastwood. A strong advocate for music education, Rigby is an Assistant Professor of Jazz/Commercial Saxophone at Towson University.

Dick Oatts Reeds

Born and raised in Iowa, Dick Oatts moved to New York City in 1977 and began his jazz career with the Thad Jones / Mel Lewis Orchestra. For the past 40 years Oatts has toured, recorded, and taught music world wide. He has been a leader on 15 of his own CDs and has had an extensive career as a sideman. In 2009 he won a Grammy for the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra Recording *Live at the Village Vanguard*. Oatts is a Professor of Music at Temple University and an Artist-in-Residence at the Amsterdam Conservatory of Music since 1998. Oatts continues his 41-plus years of playing Monday nights at the Village Vanguard with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra.

Mark Patterson Trombone

Trombonist Mark Patterson has toured with John Hollenbeck, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Maria Schneider, Barbra Streisand and Steely Dan. He has worked with jazz artists such as Clark Terry, Sir Roland Hanna, Charli Persip, and Jaki Byard, and he has played in the orchestra of several Broadway shows, including *Spamalot*, *42nd Street*, and *South Pacific*. He was a soloist with the Ridgefield (CT) Symphony in a trombone-premier of Eddie Sauter's *Focus*, and he has played with the New York Pops, and the Central City Opera. A graduate of the BMI Jazz Composer's Workshop, Mark is also an accomplished composer and arranger, and teaches at Temple University and various jazz camps.

John Hébert Bass

Born in New Orleans, bassist John Hebert has worked with artists such as Lee Konitz, Paul Bley, John Abercrombie, Kenny Wheeler, Paul Motian, David Liebman, Fred Hersch, and Maria Schneider. He was voted a "Rising Star Acoustic Bassist" for 6 consecutive years by *Downbeat Magazine*, and his 2006 release with Andrew Hill was awarded "Record of the Year" by Downbeat's Jazz Critics Poll. His own group, *Byzantine Monkey*, released its debut recording in 2009 and was critically acclaimed. John has performed at festivals around the world, and in New York City's most established venues, including The Village Vanguard, Blue Note, The Jazz Standard, and Iridium.

BIOS (cont'd)

Gerald Cleaver Drums

Drummer Gerald Cleaver, born and raised in Detroit, is a product of the city's rich music tradition. He has performed or recorded with a wide variety of artists: Roscoe Mitchell, Henry Threadgill, William Parker, Kevin Mahogany, Charles Gayle, Ralph Alessi, Jacky Terrasson, Muhal Richard Abrams, Joe Morris, Tomasz Stanko, Jeremy Pelt, David Torn, Miroslav Vitous, Charles Lloyd and Bill Fisell. Cleaver currently leads the bands *Uncle June* and *Black Host*.

Mike Holober Piano/Composer

Mike Holober has released 5 recordings as a leader and can be heard on over 70 recordings as a sideman. Mike's projects include "Mike Holober & Balancing Act," an octet including voice, "The Gotham Jazz Orchestra," and "The Mike Holober Quintet." He also performs in duo settings with trumpeter Marvin Stamm and tenor saxophonist Jason Rigby.

Mike's work as a composer and arranger has earned him a reputation as one of the jazz scene's most respected jazz writers. From 2007 - 2015 he was Associate Director of the BMI Jazz Composer's Workshop, and from 2007 - 2013 he served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Westchester Jazz Orchestra (WJO). From 2011 - 2015 he was Associate Guest Conductor of the HR Big Band (Hessischer Rundfunk - Frankfurt, Germany), and he has served as guest conductor of the WDR Big Band (WestDeutsche Rundfunk - Cologne, Germany).

A Full Professor at The City College of NY (1995-present), Mike was recently endowed as the inaugural Stuart Z. Katz Professor of Humanities and the Arts (2017-2018) for his project *This Rock We're On: Imaginary Letters*, an extended work in the form of an oratorio for Jazz Orchestra, voice, cello, and percussion.

DON'T LET GO

Composed by Mike Holober 2018

Breathe Deep

Morning Hope

Four-Letter Words

Kiss the Ground

Burnin' Daylight

A Midnight Summer's Dream

Necessary

I Wonder

You're a Long Way from Home

You Never Know

Smile Slow

Letting Go

Touch the Sky

Don't Let Go