

Central PA Jazz Camp Faculty



Pianist/composer **Helen Sung** has spent most of her life in two distinct worlds. A classical student from a young age who transitioned to jazz in her early twenties, she has forged a great career in jazz. Originally from Houston Texas, she studied at the Univ. of Texas, receiving a Master's in Classical Piano Performance and only studying jazz the last few years of her stay there. She was accepted at the Monk Institute at New England Conservatory and moved to NYC in 1999. She released her first CD, Push, in 2003 and has recorded with Clark Terry, Steve Turre and Regina Carter while touring with her own group in the U.S. and internationally. Sung appeared on Terry Lynne Carrington's GRAMMY® Award-winning Mosaic recording in 2011 and her latest release, *Anthem for a New Day*, is on Concord Records.



JONATHAN RAGONESE, composer-arranger-saxophonist, is a native of Central PA. He has lived in New York City for eight years, where he completed his undergrad and Master's degrees at the Manhattan School of Music. As a saxophonist he has performed and recorded with local and international performers Terrell Stafford, David Liebman, John Swana, Tim Warfield, JD Walter, The Harrisburg Symphony, Steve Wilson, Jimmy Heath and James Moody. As a composer his works have been premiered by saxophonist Steve Wilson, the Vermont Mozart Festival Orchestra, the Solar Winds Quintet, The Harrisburg Youth Symphony, and the Manhattan School of Music Jazz Orchestra. His debut release, Ardent Marigolds , a duo album with pianist Steve Rudolph, was released in November 2013 on R&L Records. He has taught at The Children's Learning Center in NYC and West Chester Univ. Camp.



KIRK REESE has been an active part of the jazz scene in Pennsylvania for thirty years. He has performed with numerous notable jazz artists including Phil Woods, Lou Marini, Marvin Stamm, Tim Warfield, Jr. and Terrell Stafford, and has been asked to be the opening act for Bela Fleck, B.B. King and others. An active recording artist, he has appeared on countless CDs including one by the Reese Project, *"Blue Etude"*, which received a Grammy nomination in 2002.

Reese has been on the music faculty at Messiah College for nearly 10 years and in that time has established a culture of small-group jazz that has enhanced the department, reinforced the big bands, and has been the catalyst for many students developing a lifelong appreciation for the art form. His latest recording - *Impressions* - was released in February 2015.

STEVE MEASHEY is originally from Lebanon, PA where he now lives with his wife Erin and their three children, Samantha, Chester and Robyn.

For more than 25 years, Steve has made a living playing bass in Central PA and around Philadelphia where he has had the privilege of playing with many of the finest musicians in the region.

Meashey has also been involved in many recording projects through the years including CDs with the *For Peace Quartet*, the Kirk Reese Trio ,the Joe Hunt Trio.

JEFF STABLEY teaches Jazz Studies at York College of Pennsylvania where he directs the jazz ensemble and the percussion ensemble. He is also a music teacher at Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 in York County and is the contemporary music director and pianist at Zion Lutheran Church of York.

For more than ten years, Stabley has been the music director of the First Presbyterian Church of York's popular jazz vespers concerts honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This concert has featured many notable artists including Chris Bacas, John Swanna and Paul Carr.

Locally Jeff can be heard drumming with Kirk Reese, Tim Warfield, Jr., and Jim Wood. He also plays keyboard with Kris Kostoff's hip-hop jazz group *Compound*.

The Jeff Stabley Trio has released a CD entitled "Music To Listen to Music To" with Steve Meashey & Andy Roberts.

