

# Montavilla Jazz Festival 2018 Artist Bios

**Artist:** Randy Porter

**Set Name:** Randy Porter Trio with Nancy King

**Short Description:** Portland jazz master Randy Porter performs music from his Grammy-nominated album *Porter Plays Porter*, featuring Nancy King, and new music created for this MJF 2018 set.

**Headliner Bio:** Jazz pianist Randy Porter has a refined understanding of improvisation and the spontaneous communication among musicians. Lynn Darroch of the *Oregonian* has stated, “Porter has built a reputation as a musician’s musician, a knowledgeable, inventive, and sophisticated player with a remarkable sense of time and gorgeous keyboard facility.”

Nominated for the 60th Grammy Awards, Porter’s recent release *Porter Plays Porter with Nancy King* is a mix of swing, harmony, and lyrical adventure. In the spirit of Cannonball Adderley and Nancy Wilson, King’s vocal stylings are interspersed with instrumental tracks featuring the Randy Porter Trio. John Wiitala on bass and Todd Strait on drums bring their wonderful swing skill set and intuition.

Porter currently performs with Charles McPherson, Madeline Eastman, the New York Voices, Rebecca Kilgore, and Nancy King. Bassist David Friesen’s 2001 Trio CD, *Name of a Woman*, received 4 stars from *Downbeat* in June of 2002 and featured Porter as pianist and composer.

Porter’s performance highlights include performing at Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center with Diane Schuur, Seattle’s Jazz Alley with New York Voices, and the House of Blues in Chicago and BB King’s Blues Club in NYC with Gino Vannelli.

Porter has been a performer and educator at the Jazz Camp West, the Port Townsend Jazz Festival, and the Stanford Jazz Workshop, where he has coached many young jazz musicians. He teaches master classes and adjudicates student combos and bands at high school and college jazz festivals. Porter teaches jazz piano at Lewis & Clark College.

Nancy King has been called everything from a “cult figure” and an “uncompromising artist” (*Earshot Jazz*) to “the greatest living jazz singer” (Herb Ellis). As one of the few improvisers in vocal jazz to master the vocabulary, King has “indefatigable scat chops and a remarkably elastic range” (the *Oregonian*).

**Lineup:** Randy Porter, piano; Nancy King, vocals; John Wiitala, bass; Todd Strait, drums

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**Artist:** Nicole Glover

**Set Name:** Nicole Glover Quartet

**Short Description:** This New York City rising star and Portland hometown hero returns to perform an energetic acoustic set with Portland jazz masters.

**Headliner Bio:** Nicole Glover's journey in music began when her father introduced her to jazz and blues music. She began playing the clarinet at ten, transitioning to tenor saxophone the following year.

In high school, Glover was one of nineteen students from across the nation to be selected for the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra. They embarked on a national tour that involved performances with Bobby Watson and Julian Lage and concluded with a performance at the Monterey Jazz Festival with Wynton Marsalis.

After studying at William Paterson University, Glover returned to her hometown of Portland, Oregon, in 2011. She was invited to record on Esperanza Spalding's Grammy-winning album *Radio Music Society*. She became a pivotal member of several groups led by internationally acclaimed multi-instrumentalist George Colligan. In 2013, Glover was invited to travel to France to play in the Vannes Jazz Festival in an Alan Jones Academy of Music quartet. Glover is also member of Ural Thomas and Pain, who was voted *Willamette Weekly's* Best New Band of 2013, received an Emmy Award for a feature episode of *Oregon Art Beat*, and has opened for Parliament Funkadelic and Booker T. Jones.

In August 2015, Glover released her debut album *First Record*, featuring George Colligan (piano and trumpet), Jonathan Lakey (bass), and Alan Jones (drums). *All About Jazz* gave it 4.5 out of 5 stars, calling the album "a sonically and emotionally powerful one" and stating that Nicole is "making quick approaches to sole propriety of her own sound, which, especially for her age, is as important as it is rare."

Glover moved to New York City in 2017, where she now resides. She has since recorded and toured with the great Gene Perla and has performed/recorded with Steve Wilson, Rodney Green, Rudy Royston, Linda May Han Oh, Winard Harper, Jeff "Tain" Watts, and Bill Goodwin. Additionally, Glover has had the pleasure of performing with such great musicians as Mulgrew Miller, Wynton Marsalis, Esperanza Spalding, Kenny Garrett, Geoffrey Keezer, Bennie Maupin, Bobby Watson, Chuck Israels, Mike Clark, Bill Stewart, Mel Brown, Terrell Stafford, and Helen Sung.

**Lineup:** *Nicole Glover, tenor sax; George Colligan, piano; Jon Lakey, bass; Alan Jones, drums*

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**Artist:** Dmitri Matheny and Darrell Grant

**Set Name:** Dmitri Matheny and Darrell Grant

**Short Description:** Longtime duo partners Dmitri Matheny and Darrell Grant lead an all-star quartet in a performance of new chamber jazz works.

**Bio:** Acclaimed for his warm tone, soaring lyricism, and masterful technique, American flugelhornist Dmitri Matheny has been lauded as “one of the most emotionally expressive improvisers of his generation” (*International Review of Music*). An honors graduate of the Berklee College of Music, Matheny vaulted onto the jazz scene in the 1990s as the protégé of jazz legend Art Farmer. With over one hundred recordings to Matheny’s credit, his latest is *Jazz Noir*, a fresh spin on film noir movie themes. In 2017, Matheny received NW Instrumentalist of the Year honors in the Seattle Earshot Jazz Golden Ear Awards. The *San Francisco Chronicle* has called Matheny “one of the jazz world’s most talented horn players.”

Since the 1994 release of his debut album *Black Art*, selected one of the year’s top ten jazz CDs by the *New York Times*, Darrell Grant has built an international reputation as a pianist, composer, and educator who channels the power of music to make change. Grant’s compositions include “Step by Step: The Ruby Bridges Suite,” honoring civil rights icon Ruby Bridges, and “The Territory,” which explores the connection to place through Oregon’s landscape and history. In 2017, Grant received a Northwest Regional Emmy. Grant is a professor of music at Portland State University, where he directs the Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute.

**Lineup:** *Dmitri Matheny, trumpet, Darrell Grant, piano; Eric Gruber, bass; Michael Raynor, drums*

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**Artist:** Farnell Newton

**Set Name:** Evolution

**Short Description:** Revitalizing jazz, funk, and soul with a new twist, Farnell Newton has been stirring up a ton of noise in the Northwest music scene.

**Bio:** Trumpeter Farnell Newton is one of the most versatile musicians and educators in the Northwest, playing straight-ahead jazz, smooth jazz, Latin music, soul, hip-hop, funk, and more. When he is not teaching jazz at Portland State University or working with his youth jazz group, PDX Jazz Project, he is touring, recording, and sharing the stage with Skerik, Lettuce, Slightly Stoopid, Karl Denson, Galactic, Nigel Hall, sax man Mike Phillips, the DooDooFunk All-Stars, and many more.

In the last few years, Newton has been touring with three-time Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Jill Scott and with the legendary Bootsy Collins. In previous years, Newton has performed with Lalah Hathaway, Ron Isley, CeeLo Green, Fantasia, Gladys Knight, Charlie

Wilson, Chaka Khan, Najee, Will Downing, Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind and Fire, and many more.

For the Montavilla Jazz Festival, Newton will be debuting his latest set, Evolution, which merges jazz, soul, funk, and world music.

**Lineup:** *Farnell Newton, trumpet; Kyle Molitor, trombone; Charlie Brown III, piano; Peter Knudsen, bass; Tyrone Hendrix, drums*

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**Artist:** Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble feat. James Miley

**Set Name:** Watershed Suite

**Short Description:** In a new suite, renowned composer James Miley honors Oregon's diverse waterways, from the mighty Columbia to the serenity of Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge.

**Bio:** James Miley, recipient of the IAJE/Gil Evans Fellowship in Jazz Composition, is assistant professor of music at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, where he directs the Willamette Jazz Collective and teaches improvisation, composition, jazz history, music technology, and music theory. A versatile composer and pianist comfortable in both the jazz and classical idioms, he has written music for a variety of chamber and choral ensembles in addition to his work for jazz orchestras. Miley's music is sophisticated yet tuneful. It is full of rhythmic vitality and covers a broad range of aesthetic territory, making poignant, ethereal statements sometimes with tongue solidly in cheek.

Miley has appeared as a guest composer and performer at numerous festivals and universities over the past decade, including the University of Michigan, University of Miami, University of Idaho, University of Texas, California State University Northridge, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, the Jazzmandu and Sundance Festivals in Nepal, and the Monterey, UNC/Greeley, and Reno Jazz Festivals.

Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble is a twelve-piece jazz chamber orchestra that commissions and performs original works by its members and by other jazz composers in the Portland community and beyond. It also operates a grassroots label, PJCE Records, which releases albums of original music by local jazz artists.

**Lineup:** *TBD*

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**Artist:** Tim Willcox

**Set Name:** Superjazzers

**Short Description:** Tim Willcox's saxophone sings and, at times, broods passionately and inventively in the vein of Jan Garbarek, as well as modern master Rick Margitza.

**Bio:** Based in Portland, Oregon, Tim Wilcox has been honored with multiple awards, including a Presidential Scholar of the Arts honor and the Stan Getz/Clifford Brown fellowship. He has performed and recorded with music greats including David Friesen, George Mitchell, Gino Vannelli, Peter Erskine, Larry Grenadier, and Ingrid Jensen.

Superjazzers will appeal to fans of Keith Jarrett's 1970s European Quartet. Willcox's saxophone sings and, at times, broods inventively in the vein of Jan Garbarek, as well as modern master Rick Margitza. Pianist David Goldblatt carries shades of icons such as Jarrett and Fred Hersch. Holding down the rhythmic force of the group, bassist Bill Athens and drummer Charlie Doggett work together masterfully to establish a lush backdrop that ebbs and flows with the quartet's dramatic musical landscape.

**Lineup:** Tim Willcox, tenor sax; David Goldblatt, piano; Bill Athens, bass; Charlie Doggett, drums

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**Artist:** George Colligan

**Set Name:** Other Barry

**Short Description:** Downbeat poll-winning pianist and Portland State professor George Colligan leads a powerhouse fusion trio and unleashes a new release on PJCE Records.

**Bio:** George Colligan is a New York-based pianist, organist, drummer, trumpeter, teacher, and bandleader who is one of the most compelling jazz artists of his generation. An award-winning composer (Chamber Music America/Doris Duke Foundation grant recipient) and player (Jazzconnect.com Jazz Competition winner), Colligan is highly in demand as a sideman, having worked with players like Cassandra Wilson, Don Byron, Buster Williams, and Lonnie Plaxico, incorporating showtunes to funk, free improvisation to twentieth-century classical. He has released twenty-four recordings; his latest CD on the Origin Label is called *The Endless Mysteries*. Colligan was on the faculty of the Juilliard School for two years and is currently an assistant professor at Portland State University. He is a member of Jack DeJohnette's New Quintet.

**Lineup:** *George Colligan, keys; Enzo Irace, guitar; Micah Hummel, drums*

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**Artist:** Christopher Brown

**Set Name:** Art of the Dialog

**Short Description:** The busiest jazz group in Portland performs for the first time at Montavilla Jazz Festival, presenting a set that explores the dialogue between artist and audience.

**Bio:** Portland native Christopher Brown is once again a full-time Portland resident, performing at numerous venues in town. During his seventeen-year hiatus from Portland, he served four years in the Marine Corps, followed by fourteen years in the US Army. He earned two degrees in jazz studies from Rutgers University and taught there. Brown appeared in the movie *American Gangster* (starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe) and a music video with Beyoncé. He has toured with the Roy Hargrove Quintet and experienced a number of other notable performances with many of the greatest musicians in the world, including Wynton, Branford, and Delfeayo Marsalis, David Sanborn, Don Alias, Geoff Keezer, George Colligan, Benny Golson, John Patitucci, Ralph Bowen, Sean Jones, Ralph Peterson Jr., Charles Fambrough, Chuck Israels, Conrad Herwig, Randy Brecker, Paquito D' Rivera, Jimmy Heath, Mel Brown, and Esperanza Spalding.

**Lineup:** *Christopher Brown, drums; John Nastos, alto sax; George Colligan, piano; David Captein, bass*

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**Artist:** Creative Music Guild

**Set Name:** Sound Foundry

**Short Description:** One of Portland's most adventurous musical organizations hosts an improvised set with top-flight instrumentalists.

**Bio:** The Creative Music Guild is a Portland, Oregon, all-volunteer, nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote experimental, improvised music by presenting concerts, workshops, and other events that bring together internationally recognized musicians with local performers, audiences, and music students of all ages. For over twenty years, the CMG has been a leader in cultivating Portland's experimental and improvised music.

There are four major components of the organization: the Outset Series; the Improvisation Summit of Portland; Confluence: The Visiting Artist Series; and the Extradition Series.

**Lineup:** *Jimmie Herrod, vocals; John Savage, reeds; Mike Gamble, guitar; Chris Johnedis, drums*

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**Artist:** Alan Jones

**Set Name:** Social Music

**Short Description:** Alan Jones's Social Music aims to create a refreshing atmosphere of relaxed comradery, with music that is accessible and engaging for audiences.

**Bio:** With Pacific Northwest roots, Alan Jones has enjoyed a rich performing career both in Portland and across Europe. Beginning his touring career at just sixteen years old with Amsterdam-based organist Count Dutch, Jones has performed or recorded with local legends such as Jim Pepper and Ralph Towner and international phenomena like Kenny Wheeler and Lee Konitz. His own band, the Alan Jones Sextet, has recorded four albums and performs in Portland regularly.

In addition to maintaining a steady performing career, Jones has established himself as one of Portland's premier jazz educators. Established 2007, the Alan Jones Academy of Music has gained a reputation of producing excellent musicians. Jones has pioneered a movement to make live music more accessible.

**Lineup:** *Alan Jones, drums; Joe Manis, tenor sax; Randy Porter, piano; Jon Lakey, bass*

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**Artist:** Ryan Meagher

**Set Name:** Ryan Meagher's Evil Twin

**Short Description:** Acclaimed for his compositional acumen, Ryan Meagher and his double trio spontaneously compose a set and celebrate their newest release.

**Bio:** Ryan Meagher (pronounced Marr), originally from San Jose, California, is a jazz guitarist and composer. His debut album Sun Resounding announced his arrival on the modern jazz scene. His third album, Tone, was recorded in New York City around his master's studies at University of Nevada, Reno, and it received international critical acclaim.

After the completion of his master's in music degree, Meagher relocated to Portland, Oregon, where he released Tango in the City of Roses. He is a cofounder and the programming director of the Montavilla Jazz Festival, among many other roles in the Portland jazz scene. His MJF 2018 set celebrates the release of his seventh album, Evil Twin.

**Lineup:** *Ryan Meagher and Mike Gamble, guitars; Tim Willcox, tenor sax; Lee Elderton, woodwinds; Charlie Doggett and Tim DuRoche, drums*

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**Artist:** Shao Way Wu

**Set Name:** Salting

**Short Description:** Portland bassist Shao Way Wu's collaborative project, Salting, features Randy Porter and Jason Palmer performing new compositions that examine the role of truth in today's society.

**Bio:** Shao Way Wu is a freelance jazz bassist and Portland resident who grew up in Hong Kong. He moved to and the Bay Area in 1971 at the age of fifteen. Shao Way has business degree with an art minor University of San Francisco.

Wu met Randy Porter at Humboldt State College in the 1980's. Two years ago, Wu approached Porter about a duet recording project. Later, Porter recommend drummer Jason Palmer for the project.

Salting is partially influenced by the Tribe Called Quest album, People's Instinctive Travels and the Paths of Rhythm, with its film music-like, digital-age-influenced musical montages. Salting's underlying theme is the role that truth and deception play in society.

**Lineup:** *Shao Way Wu, bass; Randy Porter, piano; Jason Palmer, drums*

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