

# THE INSTITUTE'S 32ND ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL 2023

## Featured Artists

### *Big Chief Donald Harrison Jr.*



(alto sax) In 2022, the National Endowment of the Arts awarded Harrison the prestigious title of NEA Jazz Master. Harrison honed his experience playing with Roy Haynes, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers (along with fellow New Orleans native Terence Blanchard), Eddie Palmieri, Dr. John, Lena Horne, McCoy Tyner, Dr. Eddie Henderson, Miles Davis, Ron Carter, Billy Cobham, Chuck Loeb, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Digable Planets, Guru's Jazzmatazz, The Headhunters, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and The Notorious B.I.G.

Harrison is the recognized Big Chief of Congo Square in Afro-New Orleans culture and was made a Chief in 2019 by Queen Diambi Kabatusuila in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa.

He has performed with over 200 jazz masters and created three influential styles of jazz. At the age of 19, he created a modern jazz take on the New Orleans second-line tradition and introduced his composition, New York Second-Line to the jazz world in 1979. By the mid-80s, he created Nouveau Swing, a distinctive sound that blended the swing beat of modern jazz with hip-hop, funk, and soul music. In the 90s, Harrison recorded hits in the smooth jazz genre. He began exploring music through the lens of quantum physics in 2000. With quantum jazz, Harrison heard how to move music from a two-dimensional state into a four-dimensional state. Harrison has been a mentor to artists as diverse as The Notorious B.I.G., Jonathon Batiste, Christian Scott, Trombone Shorty, and Esperanza Spaulding.

Harrison has recorded around 25 albums as a leader (including seven with a group he co-lead with Terence Blanchard). In addition, he has recorded six albums as a member of the powerhouse jazz group, The Cookers (with whom he has toured since 2010), and numerous albums as a sideman. As part of his dedication to preserving New Orleans traditions, Harrison appeared in Spike Lee's *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*, a documentary about the devastation of the city after Hurricane Katrina hit, and also in the post-hurricane New Orleans HBO series *Treme*. He continues to celebrate and promote the culture and music he loves.

### *Dan Kaufman*

(piano) has emerged as a leading young voice in jazz piano. As a versatile and sensitive sideman, he has performed for audiences around the world, with many of the most prominent figures in jazz, including Jimmy Heath, Wynton Marsalis, Donald Harrison, Christian McBride. He is also an accomplished composer and arranger. Kaufman began classical piano studies at age four and was working professionally as a teenager. He then moved to Boston to attend the New England Conservatory, where he studied with Fred Hersch and Danilo Perez, joined the Grammy nominated group The Either/Orchestra, and extensively with Jeremy Pelt, Miguel Zenon, and Bob Moses. Kaufman moved to New York to attend the Juilliard School on a full scholarship for the inaugural class of jazz studies where he studied with Kenny Barron, and has established himself as an in-demand pianist in New York, joining the working bands of Donald Harrison, Ben Wolfe, Wycliffe Gordon, Rodney Green, Wayne Escoffery and Dominick Farinacci. He also works regularly for many of the world's top jazz vocalists including Nnenna Freelon, Kevin Mahogany, Robin McKelle, Allan Harris, Gretchen Parlato and Marilyn Maye. His debut album as a leader, "Familiar Places," is available on Red Piano Records.



### *Nori Naraoka*

(bass) was born in Sapporo, Japan and came to the USA in 1998 when he received a scholarship to Berklee, but after two years resolved to immerse himself in the jazz culture by moving to the birthplace of Jazz, New Orleans. He now lives in Brooklyn but is performing all over the country and world. Naraoka has performed and recorded with many top industry musicians including: Allen Toussaint, Nicholas Payton, Playing for Change, Engelbert Humperdinck, Zigaboo Modeliste, Vernon Reid from Living Color, Cyril, Ivan and Ian Neville from Neville Brothers, Kaoru Watanabe from Kodo, The Wild Magnolias, Oz Noy, DJ Logic, Marlon Jordan, Russell Batiste Jr., Christian Scott, Donald Harrison Jr., Delfeayo and Jason Marsalis, Trombone Shorty, Papa Grows Funk, Kishi-Bashi, Kermit Ruffins, Big Sam's Funky Nation, and Bonerama. He has also recorded four albums as his own project, about 30 projects as a recording producer, and many more as a recording engineer at his own recording studio in Brooklyn, NY.



### *Brian Richburg*

(drums) was born and raised in New Orleans and began playing in his father's church at an early age. While growing up, he was exposed to the diverse sounds and cultures that define the uniqueness of that city. Richburg's drumming incorporates the African and Caribbean inspired rhythms of the New Orleans street bands. Richburg is a National Young Arts Finalist, a 2016 ASCAP Louis Prima Award Winner and subsequently attended Berklee on a full scholarship. He has toured/recorded with Nicholas Payton, Cautious Clay, Joss Stone, Kiefer, Donald Harrison Jr., Ellis Marsalis, Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah, Delfeayo Marsalis, Marsha Ambrosious, and many others.

