

Greg Hopkins on “Livin’ The Dream” —

I’m blessed to get to work at, and make a living, and spend all my creative time and physical energy delving deeply into all the things I care so much for in my life. The old adage: “If you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life” certainly describes a big part of my life in music, and here at Berklee for the past 48 years. I played the trumpet first and that opened the doors to many other worlds in music creation such as composition, arranging, conducting, teaching, and traveling to share these ideas. Growing up in Detroit in the 50s and 60s helped a lot—so many great players and mentors and lots of fast cars. It seems that I’ve always “played for money and composed for art.” I’ve always loved to play notes on the trumpet, be it improvised or written. I learned from an early age on both fronts, thanks to my dad George, who played violin, but somehow coaxed me into playing along with him on some old tunes. Then he got very interested in reading music for shows, and got me in there also, so I got to play music in many various and diverse situations. He encouraged me to play things by ear and play what I heard, whereas all the other folks stressed the reading side of learning. So I was equally at home playing by ear or reading. The improvising did tend to take on its own life of its own, and it has turned out to be a life long study, which is still ongoing and so rewarding. Sight-reading music with good players is an unequaled experience that you only get one chance at, then it’s over. Playing a show or a steady gig is so rewarding as the music can reach superb ensemble levels only achieved with repeated performances. This is where the notes really come off the page and you are not really reading, but playing more by ear, and the music takes on a whole new life. Then there’s the joy of sharing music, teaching, with others which I always did as I was growing up. You really learn something if you try to teach it to someone else, it offers whole new perspective on the process, doing it and describing it for others. Initially, when I took the position at Berklee, I was going to get off the road just for a year and rest a bit, but here I am still in Boston and Berklee 49 years later. I fell in love with the school, the area, and a lot of people around here. They helped set me up with very musical settings, and it just kept on blossoming into a truly wonderful situation. I learned how to teach this Berklee system of writing and harmony, which made so much sense to me, so when I got into it, I discovered that that’s the way I was already conceiving the musical process, so it was very natural to me to want to show others how it works. I love teaching this music and the music for me always comes first, and here, in this deeply rich and incredibly musical environment, I learn so much from the students and the faculty. I want to thank so many, who helped along my way: George and Olive (Mom & Dad)—Ewa and Leo—Deb and Byron—Phaedra—Billy Maxted—Buddy Rich—Marcus Belgrave—Louis Smith—Andy Goodrich—JC Heard—Johnny Trudell—Charlie Winkler—Denis Solee—Ursula Walker—Buddy Budson—John Bavicchi—Bob Curnow—Shannon LeClaire—Larry Berk—Lee Berk—Larry Monroe—Ted Pease—Bob Pilkington—Joe Lovano—Chris Neville—Gary Burton—Mike Gibbs—Herb Pomeroy—John LaPorta—Alan Dawson—Tony Teixeira—Dean Earl—Joe Viola—Mick Goodrick—Bill Pierce—Gary Chaffee—Jim Stinnett—John Repucci—George Garzone—Jeff Stout—Rick Stepton—Mike Zavarella—James Williams—Wayne Naus—Joe Hunt—Hal Crook—Tony Lada—Paul Fontaine—Phil Wilson—John Neves—Ray Santisi—Fred Buda—Gordon Brisker—Jimmy Derba—Dave Chapman—Artie Cabral—Maggie Scott—Alex Ulanowski—Kenny Wenzel—Jay Daly—Bob Gullotti—Ralph Peterson—Jim Gwin—Tim Ray—Eugene Friesen—John Lockwood—Mark Walker—Bob Patton—Scott deOgburn—Charlie Lewis—Gunther Schuller—Ken Pullig—George Russell—Tom Riley—Bob Friedman—Robert H—Julie and Lisa with Un-Gyve and so so so many more....

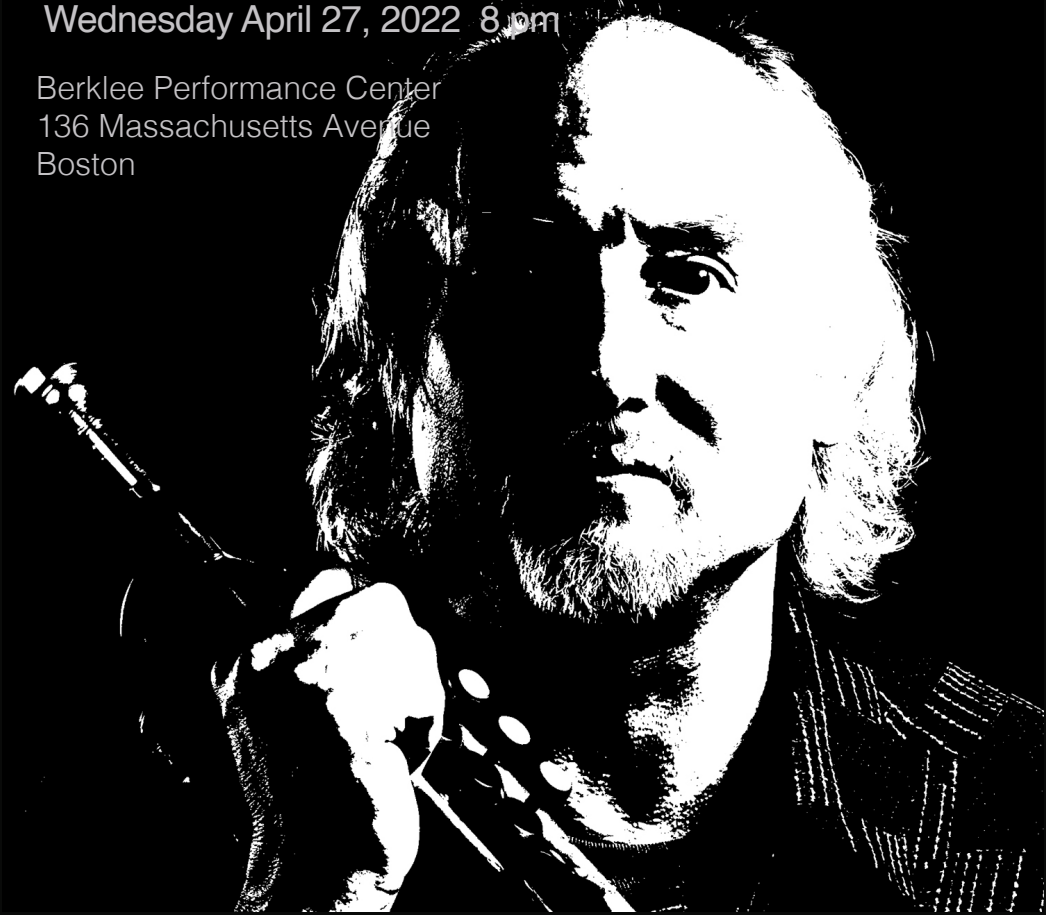
THE GREG HOPKINS FAREWELL CONCERT WITH THE BERKLEE CONCERT JAZZ ORCHESTRA

special guests

Bill Pierce, Tim Ray, Eugene Friesen, Yoron Israel
student accordionist Giorgio Albanese
and Juan Andrés Ospina

Wednesday April 27, 2022 8 pm

Berklee Performance Center
136 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston



THE GREG HOPKINS FAREWELL CONCERT WITH THE BERKLEE CONCERT JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Directed by Greg Hopkins

Melancholy Cats—Comp & Arr: **Toru Dodo** '01

The First Step—Comp & Arr: **Jiwon Kwon** '19

Body and Soul—Comp: **J Green**/Arr: **G Hopkins**

Featuring: **Bill Pierce**—Tenor Sax

The Great Pumpkin Waltz—Comp: **Vince Gauraldi**/Arr: **D Thornburg** '22

Recuerdos de un Reloj de Pared—Comp & Arr: **Juan Ospina** '08

Featuring: **Giorgio Albanese**—Accordion

The Variants—Comp & Arr: **G Hopkins**

Featuring: **Yoron Israel**—Drums

Tre Corda—A Chamber Jazz Trio

Tim Ray—Piano, **Eugene Friesen**—Cello, **Greg Hopkins**—Trumpet

Church Rhythms—Comp & Arr: **T Ray** & **E Friesen**

In A Sentimental Mood—Comp: **Duke Ellington**/Arr: **G Hopkins**

The Red Dog Tackles the Threat of the Tyrannical Triplets—

Comp & Arr: **G Hopkins**

Berklee Concert Jazz Orchestra

Carlos Ramos	Trumpet	Downey, CA
Miles Thompson	Trumpet	Durham, NC
Richard Stanmeyer	Trumpet	Great Barrington, MA
Aybie Drori Israeli	Trumpet	Tel Aviv, Israel
Isaac Bergner	Trumpet	Ipswich, MA

Danny Thornburg	Trombone	Rapid City, SD
Jeremy Duke	Trombone	Birmingham, AL
Andy Garcia	Trombone	Downey, CA
Ben Romanow	B Bone	Newton, MA

Ege Yağmur Soydemir	Flute	Ankara, Turkey
Ori Menache	Alto	Tel Aviv, Israel
Liam Laird	Alto	Carbondale, CO
Max Roark	Tenor	Portland, OR
Ray Logan	Tenor	Las Vegas, NV
Peter Antinozzi	Baritone	Shelburne, VT

Giovanni Piacentini	Guitar	Modena, Italy
Cesare Panizzi	Piano	Parma, Italy
Nick Isherwood	Bass	Spokane, WA
Guilhem Fourty	Drums	Toulouse, France

These nineteen exceptional musicians join the ranks of outstanding alumni of this band—Roy Hargrove, Jaleel Shaw, Seamus Blake, Ingrid Jensen, Diego Urcola, Lionel Loueke, Lage Lund, Mark Whitfield Jr., Kendrick Scott, Dayna Stephens, Anat Cohen, Avishai Cohen, Melissa Aldana, Uri Gurvich, Nir Felder, Alex Terrier, Leo Genovese, Lyndon Rochelle, Miguel Zenón, Antonio Hart, Geoffrey Keezer, Bill Vint, Jim Black, Ido Meshulam, Massimo Biolcati, Ferenc Nemeth, Darren Barrett, Billy Buss, Steve Enos, Leo Blanco, Christian Marrero, and so many others—and they are joined tonight by **special guests**:

Saxophonist and Berklee College of Music Woodwind Department Emeritus Chair **Bill Pierce** has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a music educator and performer. Pierce was a Berklee faculty member for more than four decades and has performed with some of the indisputable masters of jazz: Freddie Hubbard, Tony Williams, Art Farmer, Hank Jones, James Williams, Kevin Eubanks, Branford Marsalis, Wynton Marsalis, and Art Blakey.—Perhaps best known as Tony Bennett's most recent pianist and musical director, **Tim Ray's** wide-ranging skills as a soloist and accompanist have afforded him the opportunity to perform with legendary performers from all walks of music. Tim has performed in concert with an extensive list of pop music icons, notably Aretha Franklin, Lyle Lovett, Jane Siberry and Soul Asylum.—Four-time Grammy Award-winner **Eugene Friesen** is active internationally as a concert and recording artist, composer, conductor and teacher. Eugene has worked and recorded with such diverse artists as Dave Brubeck, Martin Sexton, Toots Thielemans, Betty Buckley, Dar Williams, Will Ackerman, and Dream Theater. Recording credits include five albums of original music and more than 30 CDs with the Paul Winter Consort. Eugene is an artist-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City **Yoron Israel**, a native Chicagoan, is one of the most gifted and sought-after musicians of his generation, as Jack DeJohnette notes “a drummer who has good taste. He has a sense of direction and a feeling of joy in his drumming, compositions, and arrangements.” His talents are spotlighted on his most recent release “This Moment” (Ronja Music).—Currently living in between New York City and Bogotá (Colombia), **Juan Andrés Ospina** is one of the most active and prominent exponents of a very outstanding generation of Colombian musicians. His wide range of musical projects make him hard to define: he might as well be producing and arranging, conducting his big band, touring as a sideman pianist, composing for film, or creating comedy content for the internet.—Born in Ostuni (Puglia) in southern Italy **Giorgio Albanese** has represented Italy three times at the prestigious World Accordion Championships and won more than 30 national and international musical competitions—one of the youngest accordion players with the most awards; and has collaborated with Karl Berger, John Thicai, Gianni Lenoci, Steve Potts, Mirko Guerrini, and many others.