

New York City-based saxophonist, clarinetist and composer Cam Collins is quickly establishing himself as a nationally recognized and highly versatile young talent. Hailing from Columbus, Indiana, Cam was raised in a supportive artistic environment and has been studying and performing music for as long as he can remember.

At age 19, Cam auditioned for and was accepted as lead alto saxophonist and soloist with the "Next Wave Jazz Ensemble", a contingency of the United States Naval Academy Band in Annapolis, MD. Cam also served as soloist with the "Superintendent's Combo", the Navy's premiere jazz quartet. While in the Navy, Cam performed countless clinics and concerts throughout the United States for over 7 years.

In 2005, Cam, and long-time friend and musical peer JJ Wright, started the quartet "Turn Around Norman", a musical collective playing an ever-increasing repertoire of original music, composed by each member of the group. The group, now including bassist Adam Hopkins and drummer Nathan Ellman-Bell, recorded its first album "We Turn Around" early in 2010 and



Cam Collins Guest Artist

continues to perform regularly along the East Coast. (www.weturnaround.com)

Living in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area proved to be very advantageous for Cam musically, as he has had the opportunity to play with and learn from some of his most revered influences. In 2009, internationally acclaimed bassist and composer Michael Formanek asked Cam to join his newly formed quartet, "Cautious Optimism". This group continues to rehearse and perform Mr. Formanek's music.

Cam has played with many people and bands including Fred Hersch, Michael Formanek, Dave Samuels, Bill Warfield, Alex Brown, Ben Williams, Paul Gemignani, Ned Rothenberg, Tom Kubis, Steve Allee, Gunther Schuller, Bobby Rydell, Wayne Bergeron, and Bill Watrous, to name a few. Cam was recently called for a performance with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, where he was featured on a new work. He has also played such venues as The Kennedy Center, Iridium Jazz Club, Blues Alley, Strathmore Hall, The Sylvan Theater, The Rainbow Room, and The Warner Theater. Cam has performed for many dignitaries, foreign and domestic, including Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

In 2009, he was accepted to the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, teaching clarinet and saxophone in the Preparatory Division. Cam attributes his love of teaching to his many wonderful teachers including David Baker, Tom Clark, Tom Walsh, James Campbell, Bill Stultz, B.J. Marks, Pat Harbison, Luke Gillespie, Walt Weiskopf and Steve Wilson. Cam has attended Indiana University and the Manhattan School of Music.



Marja Harmon Guest Artist

Marja is excited to be returning home and joining the Columbus Philharmonic for a wonderful evening of music. As a native of Columbus and graduate of Columbus East High School Marja spent most of her youth on the Columbus stage. In addition to being a member of the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir, Marja also participated in several Mill Race Players productions, had the honor of singing the National Anthem at Pacers games, and was a recipient of the Mayor's Arts Award in 2001.

Broadway: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Sookey and understudying/performing Maggie the Cat) opposite James Earl Jones, Phylicia Rashad, Anika Noni Rose, and directed by Debbie Allen. Off Broadway: *Encores Merrily We Roll Along*. National Tours: *The Lion King* (Nala), *Aida* (Aida). Regional: *Ragtime* (Sarah), *Hairspray* (Dynamite), *Dreamgirls*, and *Jekyll and Hyde*. Training: University of Southern California.

Chasten Harmon Guest Artist

Chasten was just seen playing Eponine in the National 25th Anniversary Tour of *Les Miserables*. Broadway: *HAIR*, winner of the Tony Award for best musical revival. Off-Broadway: *Iphigenia 2.0* (dir. by Tina Landau) at the Signature Theatre, *Crind* (Clementine) at The York Theatre. Regional: *Once on This Island* (Ti Moune) and *All Shook Up* (Lorraine) at the Marriott Theatre, *Leader of the Pack* (Mickey) at the Cape Playhouse. Chasten received her training

at NYU from Tisch School of the Arts and is currently working on her MFA in Acting at Yale School of Drama. Much love to Nicolosi & Co., and her amazing friends and family for their love and support!