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### Davison Plays Davison

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University of Richmond  
Department of Music

**Fall 2023-Spring 2024  
Concert Series**

# **Davison Plays Davison**

Friday, October 20, 2023

7:30 pm

Camp Concert Hall  
Booker Hall of Music



[music.richmond.edu](http://music.richmond.edu)

## **PROGRAM**

*All selections composed and arranged by Mike Davison*

**My Leg**

**Chris Craft**

**Is it You Gene?**

**A.D.I.L.O.T.**

**Eveitis**

**Breakfast Bop**

## **PERFORMERS**

Mike Davison	Trumpet, Flugel Horn, Akai Electronic Valve Instrument
J.C. Kuhl	Soprano, Alto, and Tenor Saxophones
Weldon Hill	Piano, Synthesizer
Alan Parker	Guitar
Randall Pharr	Bass
Brian Caputo	Drums
Willie Roman	Congas/Percussion

*Please silence all electronic devices before the performance begins.  
Recording of any kind and photography are strictly prohibited.*

Distinguished trumpeter **Dr. Michael Davison** is a gifted performer, respected professor, published composer, and ethnomusicologist. Davison's love of music has shaped his life and career. He is in demand across the country as a classical and jazz performer and educator. As a performer, he has given jazz and classical recitals all over the United States as well as in France, the Netherlands, Spain, South Africa, China, and Cuba. Davison has recorded four jazz CDs as both a leader and sideman. His classical CD, *Fenster*, received rave reviews from the *International Trumpet Guild Journal*. Widely considered an expert in Cuban music, he performs and teaches Cuban music at the University of Richmond and worldwide. As a jazz musician, Davison has performed with the late tenor saxophonist and 11-time Grammy winner Michael Brecker, popular jazz trombonist Curtis Fuller, and legendary Latin jazz saxophonist and composer Justo Almario. He has also performed alongside some of Motown's most iconic singers and groups, including Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, and The Four Tops. As a classical musician, Davison has performed with Rhythm and Brass, a group that plays everything from Bach to Pink Floyd. He has performed with the Wisconsin and Whitewater Brass Quintets, the Rochester Philharmonic, Wisconsin Symphony, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and the Richmond Symphony. Davison has performed for Pope John II and George Leonard Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Davison has published two transcription books on famed trumpeter Randy Brecker: *Randy Brecker: Artist Transcriptions/Trumpet* was published by Hal Leonard Publishing Company and *The Music of Randy Brecker: Solo Transcriptions and Performing Artist Master Class CD* was published by Warner Bros. Inc. In addition to transcribing, Davison has

also published jazz and Afro-Cuban compositions with Walrus Music. In 1986, Davison accepted a job as head of the jazz and trumpet programs at the University of Richmond. A respected scholar of Cuban musical styles, Davison has taught many courses on jazz and Cuban music since arriving in Richmond, and was recently awarded the prestigious Educator of the Year award. His influence as an educator goes beyond the University of Richmond's campus. Since 1988 Dr. Davison has also served as trumpet teacher and head of the brass area at the world-renowned Interlochen International Arts Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. Dr. Davison hosted the International Trumpet Guild Conference in 1999 and is an Edwards Instrument Performing Artist. Dr. Davison, along with producer Ed Tillett, completed *Cuba: Rhythm in Motion*, a documentary tracing the musical genealogy between Cuban rhythms and American jazz. The film premiered on the University of Richmond campus in 2007 and has been shown around the world, including Spain, Australia, Romania, Cuba and Mexico. Dr. Davison is presently researching, filming, and producing another documentary, titled *The Sound of Santiago*.

**J.C. Kuhl** has been an adjunct professor of jazz saxophone at VCU since 2005. A native of Baltimore, he plays saxophone, flute, and clarinet and studied at Towson State University, where he majored in jazz/commercial music. After working in clubs in the Baltimore/Washington, DC area, he moved to Richmond in 1995 and joined the eclectic rock band Agents of Good Roots, which fused many different styles including jazz, hip-hop, and classical. They toured incessantly for six years, playing more than 200 shows a year. After Agents, J.C. was a member of Devil's Workshop Big Band, Modern Groove Syndicate, Bio Ritmo, and The Thompson/D'earth Band.

Kuhl has performed and/or shared the stage with Dave Matthews Band; John Scofield Uberjam Band and Quartet; Béla Fleck and the Flecktones; Bruce Hornsby; Blues Traveler; Karl Denson's Tiny Universe; Medeski,

Martin, and Wood; Big Head Todd and the Monsters; The Neville Brothers; The Temptations; Soulive; Pat McGee Band; Moe; and G Love and Special Sauce. He toured as part of the H.O.R.D.E. tour for two years with artists such as Lenny Kravitz, Me'shell Ndegeocello, Rusted Root, Neil Young and Crazy Horse, King Crimson, Ben Harper, and Blues Traveler, and continues to perform extensively throughout the U.S. and Canada. He is currently a member of Mekong Express, Mike Davison's Latin Jazz Messengers, John D'earth Group, Jones/Kuhl Duo, Brian Jones Group, Ombak, Old New Things, Three Sheets to the Wind, The Winn Brothers Band, and the Bachelor Boys Band.

J.C. resides in Richmond with his family and is a freelance performer, live and in studios. He also teaches at The Collegiate School and has taught at Ashland Music Center and Harrison Music/Music and Arts.

A native of Richmond, **W. Weldon Hill** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from Virginia Union University and Master of Music (composition) and Doctor of Philosophy (musicology) degrees from The Catholic University of America. He also completed post-graduate work in jazz studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a 1986 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and completed post-doctoral certifications in higher-education leadership as a 1994 Plan for Social Excellence Fellow (Harvard University Management Development Program), and a 2000-01 American Council on Education Fellow.

Having served as provost, dean, department head, and faculty member over a 40-year career in higher education, Dr. Hill is well-known as a stalwart practitioner in higher-education administration, having published and presented at many professional meetings on topics such as economic development, ethnomusicology, town-and-gown partnerships, and educational leadership. Dr. Hill is also involved in educational and public affairs outside the university, having most recently served on the New College Institute Board of Directors (Martinsville, Virginia; appointed by Gov. Ralph Northam) and, currently,

the Culture Works Board of Directors (Richmond).

Now retired from higher education, Dr. Hill remains active as a musicologist and pianist. Many scholars consider his the definitive treatise on the Sacred Concerts of Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington. He has performed with numerous nationally known artists including Joe Williams, Herb Jefferies, Panama Francis, Ethel Ennis, Benny Carter, Milt Hinton, Billy Pierce, Steve Wilson, and Byron Stripling. He also performs with the United States Air Force Rhythm and Blue Ensemble, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, and the Virginia Symphony and Jazz Orchestra. His discography spans nearly 40 years, including his own recordings as well as those featuring Jon Faddis, René Marie, and Joe Kennedy, among others.

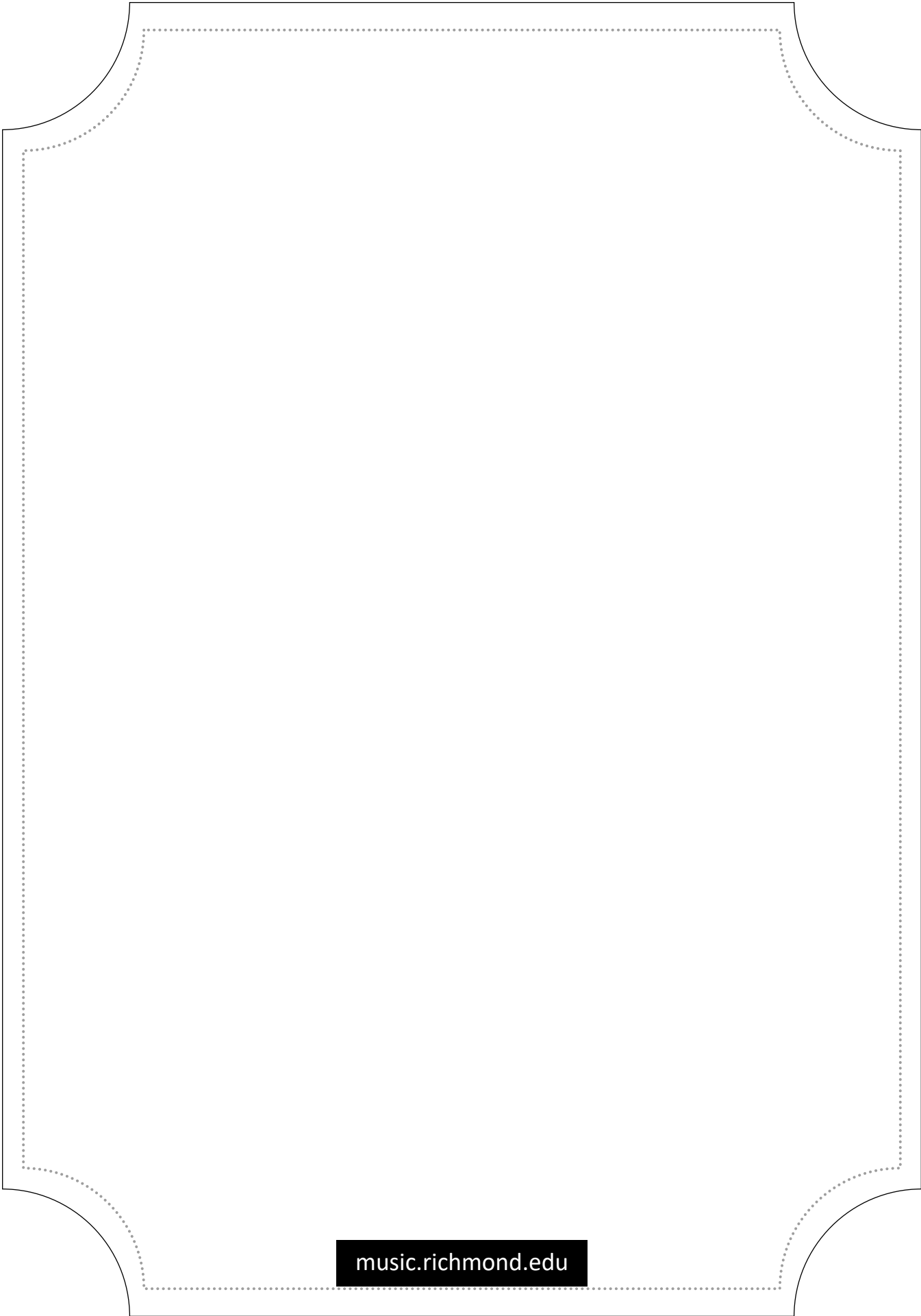
**Randall Pharr** is a versatile bassist based in Richmond, excelling in American and Latin music genres. From solo performances to expansive ensembles, he thrives in diverse musical contexts. Notably, he has collaborated with the Doug Richards Orchestra and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Pops, demonstrating his adaptability across jazz and symphonic settings. Randall embraces a spectrum of musical ventures, including international tours, festivals, recording sessions, club gigs, and weddings. Randall has previously taught jazz bass and coached small ensembles at Virginia Commonwealth University and currently teaches electric and jazz bass at the University of Richmond.

**Brian Caputo** has been a fixture on the Virginia music scene since 1993, performing and recording with diverse music groups from Richmond, Charlottesville, DC, and Hampton Roads markets. He is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, having studied jazz and classical percussion. Since June 2019 Brian has been running a piano trio residency every Monday at the Oakhurst Inn in Charlottesville. He currently resides in Richmond.

**Will Roman** was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, with native roots from the island of Puerto Rico. Will is a self-taught musician who began feeling the Latin pulse at the age of 3 and began playing the congas at the age of 5. While living in New Jersey, he developed his skills playing traditional Cuban *son*, *timba* and salsa music. Through this teaching, Will has been able to develop his own sound. He appeared on NPR's Tiny Desk Series with Bio Ritmo, which has generated over 126,000 YouTube views. Will also has his own YouTube channel, "Roman Percussion," which has a following of over 3,600 subscribers. Will Roman is an endorsing artist for Tycoon Percussion, Los Cabos Drumsticks, Saultone Cymbals, and Code Drumheads. He is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) for the Grammy Pro Washington DC Chapter.

*The Department of Music at the University of Richmond leads students to integrate creative and practical musical skills with critical thinking and intellectual inquiry, empowering them for a lifetime of learning. The curriculum provides an excellent foundation that prepares students to be adaptive learners equipped to actively engage in their communities through the arts.*





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