



June 6, 2021
4:00 pm

St. Paul's Music Guild &
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Present

An afternoon of Sacred Jazz Music with The Deanna Witkowski Trio

*The program will be selected from the following.
All pieces are composed or arranged by Deanna Witkowski unless otherwise indicated.*

Hymn tune: *HYFRYDOL (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling)*

Tune: Rowland H. Prichard (1830)

We Belong to God

His eye is On the Sparrow

Text: Civilla D. Martin (1866-1948)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African-American spiritual

Force of Nature

Lonely Moments

Mary Lou Williams (1910-1981)

Prelude in E minor, Op 28, No 4 (Chopin) / Insensatez (Antonio Carlos Jobim)

Hymn tune: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN (All Creatures of Our God and King)*

Auserlesen Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng (1623)

Who Do You Say?

Magnificat



Deanna Witkowski, piano, vocal, compositions

An amazingly diverse bandleader who moves with ease between Brazilian, jazz, classical, and sacred music, pianist-composer-vocalist **Deanna Witkowski** consistently thrills audiences with explosive performances that combine virtuosity and heart. Winner of the Great American Jazz Piano Competition and a past guest on Marian McPartland's historic *Piano Jazz* radio program, Witkowski's accessible yet surprising sound is unmistakably her own.

Witkowski's seven recordings include the forthcoming *Force of Nature* (MCG Jazz, October 2021) featuring all Mary Lou Williams compositions, [Makes the Heart to Sing: Jazz Hymns \(Tilapia Records\)](#), featuring 14 jazz arrangements of classic hymns alongside a companion sheet music book, and the solo piano album, *Raindrop: Improvisations with Chopin*. A noted Mary Lou Williams scholar, her biography, [Mary Lou Williams: Music for the Soul \(Liturgical Press\)](#) will be published in August 2021. Witkowski has lectured and performed Williams's music at the Kennedy Center, Fordham University, the University of Pittsburgh, and as a featured soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

As a frequent guest music leader, Witkowski has shared her original liturgical jazz in over one hundred churches throughout the United States. Her catalog includes more than eighty sacred music originals and arrangements, including two jazz Masses. Witkowski's modern anthem, "[We Walk in Love](#)," appears in the Justice Choir songbook and has been sung at the sixtieth anniversary of the Little Rock Nine at Central High School in Little Rock, AK; as the closing song at the 2020 Chorus America conference; by a 1000 voice choir at the 2018 St. Olaf Choral Festival; and by school, church, and community choirs nationwide. Witkowski's newest choral piece, "Make My Joy Complete," is the October 2020 second place winner of the National Sacred Music Choral Composition Contest. Additional wins include the Hymn Society in the US and Canada's Annual Hymn Search, the ChoralArt New England Carol Contest, the Illinois-ACDA Choral Composition Contest, and the Colorado Chorale commissioning contest.

Bilingual in Portuguese, Witkowski's love of Brazilian culture fuels her upcoming project, the [Nossa Senhora Suite](#). The suite will merge Afro-Brazilian expressions of the Virgin Mary with new jazz composition for Witkowski's quartet, percussion, and four vocalists. To deepen her research, Witkowski spent two months in Bahia, Brazil in 2018 visiting religious ceremonies and interviewing women with particular devotion to Mary while on a Sacatar Institute Fellowship. Witkowski plans to record the new work in the fall of 2022.

Witkowski is currently a PhD student in jazz studies at the University of Pittsburgh. She holds a M.A. in jazz studies from the City College of New York and a B.M. in classical piano performance from Wheaton College (IL).

Experience Deanna's music at deannajazz.com.

Tony DePaolis, bass

Tony DePaolis has been playing the bass professionally for more than twenty years. Over the course of his career, he has received wide acclaim for his playing, arrangements, and unique compositional voice. He has shared the stage with Sean Jones, the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, the Boilermaker Jazz Band, Jimmy Ponder, Poojie Bell, Roger Humphries, Eric Kloss, Curtis Fuller, and many others. While he has appeared as a sideman on many recordings, in 2009 he released his debut solo CD, *The Contemporary Dynamic*, featuring a diverse cross section of the Pittsburgh jazz community. In addition to festival performances in the US, Canada, and Europe, Tony has been involved in several educational outreach programs as a presenter at the Pitt Jazz Seminar, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Thomas Wendt, drums

Thomas Wendt has been playing the drums professionally since the age of 14. A graduate of The Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, he has studied with master drummers Roger Humphries, Joe Harris, and Kenny Washington. Thomas maintains a busy freelancing schedule with Pittsburgh's top jazz artists such as Dwayne Dolphin, Joe Negri, Sean Jones, David Budway, Kenia, the Latin jazz group, Salsamba, and the newly re-formed Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra. He has also played with many visiting international artists like David "Fathead" Newman, Donald Byrd, James Moody, Jimmy Heath, Clark Terry, Benny Golson, Phil Woods, Freddy Cole, Monty Alexander, Bill Watrous, Paquito D'Rivera, Curtis Lundy, Wycliffe Gordon, Ann Hampton Calloway and Javon Jackson. In 2008, Thomas played on the Emmy Award winning soundtrack for the PBS documentary, "Fly Boys" and in 2010 he recorded an album featuring trombonists Jay Ashby and Steve Davis, entitled *Mistaken Identity*. Thomas has also recorded albums with Gene Ludwig, Sandy Staley, Salsamba, David and Maureen Budway, and Joe Negri. Recently, he has been working with Jazz legend Hubert Laws and has appeared with him at the Litchfield Jazz Festival and the Miami Jazz Festival. In 2013, Thomas performed with pianist Alan Broadbent for the Nyack NY Library Concert Series. Thomas has been on the faculty at the Afro-American Music Institute in Homewood since 1998 and Duquesne University since 2016.

*Your financial support of the Evensong Concert Series at St. Paul's is appreciated.
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- The 2021-22 Evensong Concert Series will begin on October 3, 2021 with the **Delgani String Quartet** Wyatt True, Violin, Jannie Wei, Violin, Kimberlee Uwate, Viola, Eric Alterman, Cello
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Look for our exciting new concert series to be announced in June. We thank you for your continued support!

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