



Photo by Jacob Blickenstaff

Matthew Whitaker

Sun, May 21, 2023 at 7 pm
The Theatre at Ace Hotel

**CENTER
FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE
UCLA**

Welcome

TO THE 2022-23 SEASON

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross cultural platforms — by leading artists from around the globe.

Our mission aligns with UCLA's mission of education, research and civic engagement by providing cultural and experiential programs that provoke inquiry and facilitate connection and creativity.

cap.ucla.edu





CAP UCLA Presents

Matthew Whitaker

Sunday, May 21 at 7 pm
The Theatre at Ace Hotel

Program duration: 90 minutes
No intermission



Funds provided by the Henry Mancini Tribute Fund and the Kevin Jeske Young Artist Fund.

About the artists

Matthew Whitaker: Born in 2001, Matthew Whitaker's love for playing music began at age three, after his grandfather gave him a small Yamaha keyboard. At nine, Matthew began teaching himself how to play the Hammond B3 organ. Four years later, he became the youngest artist to be endorsed by Hammond in its eighty plus year history. He was also named a Yamaha Artist at fifteen, becoming the youngest musician to join the stellar group of jazz pianists.

He's toured both in the U.S. and abroad, performing on prestigious stages around the country including Apollo Theater, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center for The Performing Arts, SF Jazz Center, Monterey Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Festival and at international venues in France, Italy, Germany, Indonesia, U.K., Australia, Switzerland, Portugal, Japan, Spain, Morocco and South Korea to name a few.

Matthew's television appearances include FOX TV's *Showtime at the Apollo*, *The Today Show* documentary series "Boys Changing the World," *The Harry Connick Jr. Show*, an appearance on the syndicated TV talk show *Ellen* and a segment on the most-watched news magazine on television *60 Minutes!*

Whitaker is the 2019 and 2020 Winner of the ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composers Award for his original compositions "Emotions" and "Underground."

Ivan Llanes (percussion): Ivan Llanes was born on December 30, 1985 in Camaguey, Cuba. He made his way to Havana in 2008 and joined Ricardo Leiva y Sur Caribe, and Grammy-nominated Orlando "Maraca" Valle y Otra Vision.

After a U.S. tour with Maraca in 2011, he relocated to New York to expand his musical career with world-renowned musicians. Since then, Llanes has become an indispensable member of the Latin and Latin Jazz communities. Also the versatility on his playing has made him a very successful musician, collaborating with Great Artists from different scenes. He has performed/recorded with Katreese Barnes, Colin Hay, Arturo O'farril and The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra,

Nella, Carlinhos Brown, Descemer Bueno, Mario “Mayito” Rivera, to name a few.

Llanes is currently working on his own project, the Cuban Way. It is an effort to reflect the wide variety of Ivan’s musical influences, while incorporating elements from Cuba and US, in a creative setting that showcases his energy and passion.

Liany Mateo (bass, electric and acoustic): Liany Mateo has traveled across North America, Japan, Africa and the Middle East performing, touring and teaching music. Influenced by a mix of hard-hitting straight-ahead swing, Free Avante Garde and music with deep pocket groove, Mateo deems herself a chameleon, fitting into many different types of musical situations.

You can find her playing all over New York City at a variety of venues including Birdland Jazz Club, The Django, The Jazz Gallery and other notable performance spaces. Most recently she became a member of the Grammy Award-winning “Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra” led by the esteemed Arturo O’Farrill. Recently, Mateo is the bassist for O’Farrill’s *Legacies* album recorded on Blue Note records. Mateo was also featured on PBS, as a featured artist introduced as Christian McBride’s Protege.

She has performed with musicians such as Geoffrey Keezer, Fay Victor and Brandee Younger. She holds a Jazz degree from the esteemed Michigan State University (2020) and a Master’s degree from the Berklee Global Jazz Institute (2021). In 2023, she won the esteemed “Next Jazz Legacy” Award and grant through New Music USA, led by Terri Lyne Carrington.

Marcos Robinson (guitar): Having been raised by a God-fearing family, Marcos Robinson was surrounded by gospel music since birth. At the age of fourteen, his mom gave him a starter guitar kit and he began taking lessons right away. He continued his studies and in 2016 he graduated from the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. He has performed with artists such as Bebe Winans, Michelle Williams, Kelly Rowland, Mario and Lloyd. He has recorded with artists such as Le’Andria Johnson, Doobie Powell and Naomi Raine. He is currently the guitarist for Pianist/Organist Matthew Whitaker.

Johnny Steele (drums): Johnny Steele is a drummer, composer, producer and educator with a decade of experience performing live music of all genres. Throughout his musical life, he's had the good fortune of performing, touring and recording with many respected figures in rock/metal, jazz, RnB, Fusion and pop music. Such musicians include the likes of Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Printup, Gilbert Castellanos, Jon Faddis, Immanuel Wilkins and Dan Nimmer. He has also shared the stage with The Contortionist, Monuments and many more.

In addition to having an active playing schedule, he also writes a blog entitled BEAT SPEAK. In this blog, he discusses his journey as a young musician in today's climate as well as topics such as the music business, production, drum lessons and the occasional shoptalk for his gear-head followers.

Johnny is currently pursuing his Bachelors and accelerated Masters degrees at the Juilliard School in Manhattan, New York City.





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Art in Action

Art in Action is CAP UCLA's free, public engagement program, where artists, educators, students and audiences come together to do stuff, make stuff and share ideas. It's how CAP UCLA shares viewpoints and creative practices around the themes explored by artists in the current season.



Put your Art into Action.

Always free! Always fun!

Design for Sharing (DFS)



Each year, Design for Sharing (DFS) brings thousands of K-12 public school students from across Los Angeles to CAP UCLA venues for free performances and interactive workshops with professional artists.

DFS programs are open to any public school in greater Los Angeles, and are always free to attend.

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THU, JUNE 22 AT 8 PM

Dan Froot & Company

Arms Around America: Live Podcast Recording

Royce Hall Rehearsal Room

Arms Around America (AAA) is a collection of plays investigating America's relationships with guns. AAA is based on oral histories from American families affected by guns, collected by Dan Froot and Company.

"Dan Froot is both imaginative and unclassifiable . . . a dancer, storyteller and actor who could be puckish one moment and poignant the next." — *The New York Times*

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UCLA Nimoy Theater

CAP UCLA is building a new home for live performance in Westwood!

Located near the UCLA campus on Westwood Boulevard, The Nimoy is a reimagining of the historic Crest Theatre as a flexible, state-of-the-art performance space.

This dynamic and intimately scaled venue will immerse audiences in a profoundly engaging experience of live performance — while providing contemporary performing artists from Los Angeles and around the world expanded opportunities to develop and present new work.

Opening fall 2023



There is no room for racism, intolerance, or inequity.

Anywhere

Not on our stages, in our offices, on our loading docks, in the box office lines, or on the dance floor.

With anyone

Not with our staff, crew, artists, volunteers, ushers, audiences or fans.

We uphold and embrace principles of antiracism, equity, diversity and **AUTHENTIC** inclusion as integral to our mission.

We must **EMPOWER** the historically underrepresented.

We must **UPLIFT** excluded voices.

We must **RESIST** structural racism.

We will **COMMIT** fiercely to our responsibility to observe, absorb, consider, contemplate, endure, share and engage in this change.

We **STAND AGAINST** all forms of discrimination.

We will **STRIVE** to make our organization more equitable and inclusive.

As part of UCLA's School of Art & Architecture (SOAA), we — UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) and Theater Management Services (TMS) — are committed to connecting and creating space for the arts and for all communities.

We acknowledge our organizations' histories as being predominantly white institutions. We are facing uncomfortable truths about systemic racism as we work to make the deep changes necessary to transform the organizational dynamics in our work culture and business practices and dismantle existing oppressive structures. We know there will be shortcomings, which we will face head on. We commit to continually addressing and adapting to changes as they arise. It is only in an improved, supportive work environment that everyone can be fully present, and respected as their true authentic selves.

This statement was drafted by a committee of staff members from both the Center for the Art of Performance and Theater Management Services, from a variety of backgrounds, viewpoints and perspectives.



Together we stand with UCLA's School of Art and Architecture's EDI statement.

CAP UCLA Council Leadership

CAP UCLA Executive Producer Council

The Executive Producer Council is CAP UCLA's philanthropic leadership group, which develops and contributes resources vital to CAP UCLA's programming and mission. The Council champions the creative development and presentation of live programs and public dialogue with contemporary performing artists by providing direct support for CAP UCLA's annual programming. The Council is engaged in dialogue about the artistic and curatorial practices that inform annual programs, long-term initiatives and collaborative planning efforts which stand at the heart of CAP UCLA's mission and public purpose.

Design for Sharing (DFS) Council

The Design for Sharing Council is a group of dedicated supporters whose efforts help to resource the K-12 arts education programs of DFS.

cap.ucla.edu/councils



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Co-Interim Director/Deputy Director and Program Manager: Fred Frumberg
Co-Interim Director/Director of Education and Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman
Production Manager: Bozkurt "Bozzy" Karasu
Artist Liaison Manager: Zarina Rico
Production Associate Technical Director: Duncan Woodbury

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Marketing Coordinator: Elvis Harold
Marketing Associate: Helene Griffin

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Manager of Institutional Giving: Erika Herran
Development Assistant: Zoey Mendoza

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Director of Education & Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman
Education Program Coordinator: Theresa Willis Peters
Student Arts Coordinator: Theo Bonner-Perkins

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Finance Analyst: Jodi Klein
Finance Analyst: Ayesha Bulegoda

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Human Resources Assistant: Erah Lulu

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Royce Hall Staff

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Venue Manager: Evan "Otter" Wilkinson

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Production Manager: Jeff Wallace
Crew Coordinator: Don Kidd
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Lighting Supervisor: Antony Gutierrez
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Lighting Assistant: Evan Drane
Rigging Assistant: Joe Ceglia

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House Manager: Ernie Ybarra
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F.O.H. Staff: Pia Shekerjian

Custodial

Custodian Supervisor: Steve Jarnagin
Custodian: Ranoya Exum

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

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(please allow 48 hours for a response)

UCLA Central Ticket Office

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UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance gratefully acknowledges our donors, sponsors and members whose gifts directly support the vitality of contemporary performing arts. Thank you!

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Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity.

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Special Thanks

As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, CAP UCLA would like to acknowledge the critical support we received from a **Shuttered Venue Operators Grant**. This historic initiative — part of the American Rescue Fund Act passed by Congress in March 2021 — represents a significant commitment to the arts and a recognition of the value of the arts and culture sector to the nation's economy and recovery. We would especially like to thank members of Congress who supported the inclusion of university-based performing arts centers and helped make this vital funding possible.

Join the constantly curious

Become a member and support CAP UCLA's ability to engage, challenge, and captivate diverse audiences through the shared experience of extraordinary artistry and the exchange of ideas. As a CAP UCLA member, we invite you to deepen your relationship with artists and ideas by attending special events and participating in activities with other arts enthusiasts, support the development of bold new work and help bolster contemporary performing arts in Los Angeles. And, enjoy priority access to discounted tickets and year-round savings from our dining, retail, and museum partners

Become a member

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