



HUMBER
— 50 YEARS —



Humber
at 50 | A CELEBRATION
THROUGH MUSIC

MEET THE ARTISTS

January 17, 2018

Koerner Hall

TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning

Presented by



TD Insurance

Denny Christianson

Denny Christianson is a renowned bandleader and trumpeter who has performed with a generation of musical 'who's who' and has recorded more than 250 albums with legendary jazz and pop star greats, including Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, Smokey Robinson and Diana Ross to name a few. Spending several years on TV with Sammy Davis Jr., Denny has recorded numerous movie soundtracks, hundreds of commercials, has served as producer for 15 albums and has received eight Juno and Felix nominations as bandleader on a number of albums. Denny has also served as music director for numerous TV shows and major telethons. Denny is Director of Humber College's Music Program.



Pat LaBarbera

Pat LaBarbera, an extraordinary and internationally-acclaimed Juno-winning saxophonist has toured and recorded with the Buddy Rich Big Band from 1967 to 1974 before relocating to Canada. He has played in most major cities in the U.S., Europe and Japan. Pat has performed on television shows such as Johnny Carson, Ed Sullivan, and Mike Douglas; and with many show business personalities such as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Dizzy Gillespie, and Ella Fitzgerald. His CD, *Deep in a Dream*, won the 2000 Juno Award for Best Mainstream Jazz Album. Pat teaches in Humber College's Music Program.



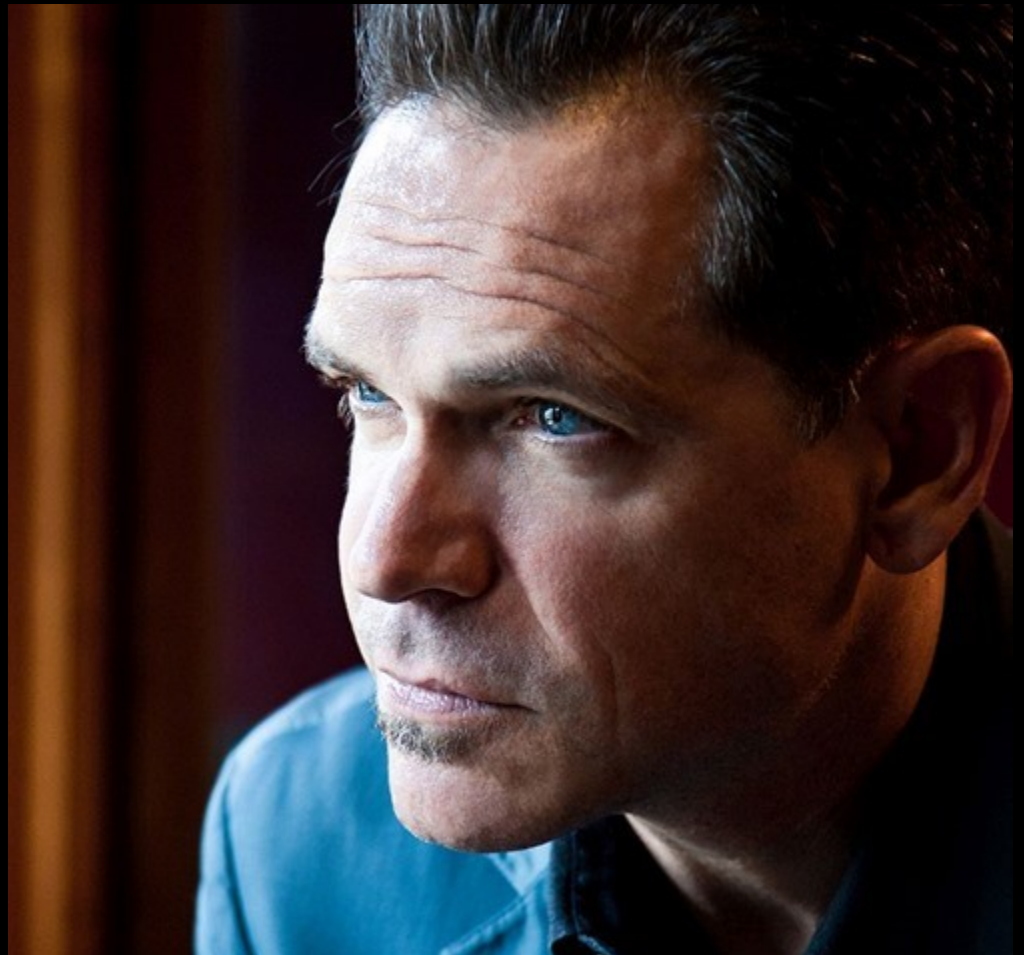


Al Kay

Alastair (Al) Kay is widely recognized as one of Canada's finest trombonists and is recognized around the world. Over the past three decades, he has performed with some of the world's best orchestras, entertainers, and jazz artists including Ella Fitzgerald, Buddy Rich, Frank Sinatra, Harry Connick Jr., Dizzy Gillespie, Tony Bennett, Diana Krall, and many others. His virtuosity and versatility have made him a first-call player for many studio, musical theatre, and jazz gigs in Toronto and he has played on more than a thousand radio and television jingles and soundtracks, CDs, records, and feature film soundtracks. He is highly respected as a classical musician, playing principal trombone with many major orchestras, including the Toronto Symphony and the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa. Al is the Head of Brass in Humber College's Music Program.

Kurt Elling

Grammy winner Kurt Elling is among the world's foremost jazz vocalists. Among many other awards, he won the DownBeat Critics Poll for fourteen consecutive years and was named Male Singer of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association on eight occasions. The New York Times declared, "Elling is the standout male vocalist of our time." The Washington Post added, "Since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling... he has come to embody the creative spirit in jazz." The Obama Administration's first state dinner featured Elling in a command performance.



Rik Emmett

Rik Emmett was a relatively unknown singer, songwriter, and guitarist on the local Toronto scene in 1975 when he joined a newly-formed rock trio called Triumph. By 1981, Triumph was firmly established as one of the premier touring rock acts in North America - with multiple gold and platinum records in Canada and the US. As one of the band's members, Rik was inducted into the Canadian Rock Hall of Fame in 1993, the Music Industry Hall of Fame in 2007, and the Juno's Hall of Fame in 2008. Since going solo in the late 80's, Rik's career has had numerous hits, gone gold, and won many industry awards. His international reputation has been bolstered by collaborations in jazz, blues, classical guitar and flamenco. Rik teaches in Humber College's Music Program.



Laila Biali

Laila Biali, an award-winning Canadian pianist and vocalist, has received world-wide recognition for her music, which she has performed at prestigious venues including the North Sea Jazz Festival, Tokyo's Cotton Club, and Carnegie Hall. She has toured with Grammy award winners Chris Botti, Paula Cole and Suzanne Vega, and recorded with, and supported international icon, Sting. Her recording, *Tracing Light*, received a Juno nomination in 2011 for Best Vocal Jazz Album of the Year and her follow-up album, *Live in Concert*, was given an enthusiastic four-star review and named one of the best albums of 2013 by DownBeat Magazine. Laila is an alumna of the Humber College Music Program and has received numerous accolades including SOCAN Composer of the Year and Keyboardist of the Year at Canada's National Jazz Awards.

rinsethealgorithm

Bassist Rich Brown formed *rinsethealgorithm* in 2004, rooted in the jazz tradition and heavily influenced by the jazz-rock and jazz-funk groups of the 70s, 80s, and 90s. The group combines older and newer traditions with elements of modern forms of dance music. The result of this amalgamation of musical ideas is a fresh new sound of sophisticated harmonic and melodic concepts with a substantial groove-oriented rhythmic base. In addition to Rich Brown on bass, *rinsethealgorithm* features Canadian greats Larnell Lewis on drums and Luis Deniz on saxophone. Larnell and Luis teach in Humber College's Music Program.





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