

## Faculty, Guest Artist, and Student Recital:

2022-11-04 – UI Nine Lives Ensemble featuring Christopher Coles,  
saxophone



Audio Playlist



Video Playlist

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# IOWA

School of Music



## ENSEMBLE AND GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

### UI Nine Lives Ensemble

featuring Christopher Coles, *saxophone*

Friday, November 4, 2022 at 7:30pm  
Voxman Music Building Recital Hall

# UI NINE LIVES ENSEMBLE

Christopher Coles, *director/saxophone*

Nine Lives Suite

I. 400 Years

II. Nine Lives

III. In Spite of You, We Rise

IV. New Birth

Christopher COLES

(b. 1986)

*Nine Lives* is a musically immersive experience with accompanying media animation that tells the story of a shooting that took place in 2015 in Charleston South Carolina. This racially motivated shooting took the lives of nine of Emanuel AME churches' black congregants. The program shines a light on racial inequities and gun violence in America.

# PROGRAM NOTE

This work was written in the wake of the tragic church shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. *Nine Lives* is designed to be a response to the misguided hatred of the shooter but also as a meditation to the listener to reflect on the issues that plague our great country and a call to action on how we can make this place better together. Each movement highlights an era of Black History and music. The music, as Leroi Jones (also known as Amiri Baraka) says is “explaining the history as the history was/is explaining the music. And both were expressions of and reflections of the people”!

## **400 Years**

The first movement uses Call and Response concepts used in early Negro Spirituals and Churchgoers in the days of slavery. There’s usually a leader (in this instance the solo trombone) leading the call and the group responds to their call. This was used on slave plantations but adopted later in prison camps to keep everyone working and moving together so that no one would be punished for being lazy, tired etc. When the groove finally comes in we hear a combination of African rhythms and the swing concept adopted here in the United States. Our swing feel was adopted by African drum music. Its influence can still be heard in the popular we hear today.

## **Nine Lives**

The second movement is written in the style of a Tone Poem. The Tone Poem concept comes from 19th century classical music and was made famous by composers like Hector Berlioz, Franz Liszt, Claude Debussy and Gustav Mahler to name a few. Jazz composers like Duke Ellington would use said concepts in Jazz to create programmatic works like “Warm Valley”, “The Flaming Sword” and “Black Brown and Beige”. This movement begins with a processional and following that, a call to worship. As the music grows we get to the portion of the service where the pastor is reaching their climax of sermon and the shooter opens fire. Chaos commences and the survivors find themselves distraught and lost. This was also written with an animation that depicts a young child having a nightmare about the tragedy (almost as if they saw it coming).

## **In Spite of You, We Rise**

I wrote this to depict the resilience of Black People all over the world. By every metric the amount of hatred thrown at Black Folks in this country normally says that there would be centuries of war but somehow even in all of that Black People have found a way to grin and bear it. I used the music of today’s youth to be the backlight for this piece. When I look at people from the south like David Banner and Killer Mike I see a great love for their people but also a love this country as well, and what they can in spite of the setbacks to make their communities better is truly the inspiration behind this movement.

## **New Birth**

*New Birth* is an combination of all of these movements but also the impact doing all this research had on me personally. This movement is meant to be the moment of reflection to find a way to take the Nine that were lost with us in our everyday life and find ways in which we could all make better decisions to honor their memory. Although I know none of the people lost in the shooting I feel that it is on me (and us) to honor them and make this great country of ours better by making better decisions for us and for those that have fallen. - *Christopher Coles*

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Christopher J. Coles** is a graduate of Cleveland South High School (2004). In his high school years, Coles studied with renown saxophonist and educator Kenneth LeeGrand. In 2009 Chris received his bachelor's degree in Saxophone Performance from Youngstown State University. It was here that he studied with world-renowned saxophonist and educator Dr. James C. Umble, jazz saxophonist Dr. Kent Englehardt, and jazz bassist and composer Dr. David Morgan. In 2012, Chris received his master's degree in Saxophone Performance from the University of Akron.

Chris has performed with many local and international jazz musicians such as, Eddie Baccus Sr., Melvin Burks, Kenny Davis, Glenn Holmes, Bill Ransom, and Cecil Rucker, Grammy Award winner Slide Hampton, Ralph Lalama, Sean Jones, Dominick Farinacci, Maria Schneider (guest conductor for The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra) and Allen Vizzutti. Coles recently was accepted to perform in Italy with the Ohio Youth Jazz Orchestra. It was here that Coles performed with Wessell Anderson, former lead alto saxophonist for the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Chris also played at the North American Saxophone Alliance Regional Festival in West Virginia with the Dana Saxophone quartet, performing at the International Saxophone Symposium in Washington D.C., and premiering a commissioned work by John Hollenbeck at the Whitney Art Museum Composers Workshop. Coles also recorded this work on John Hollenbeck's album *Rainbow Jimmies* released in 2009. Some of Chris's recent accomplishments include being a participant at The Banff Workshop for Jazz and Creative music in Alberta, Canada. It was there that Chris had the distinct honor of studying with some of the great pioneers in jazz today such as Vijay Iyer, Mark Turner, Imani Izuri, Tia Fuller, Billy Hart, Ingrid Jensen, Zakir Hussain, Somi, Yosvany Terry, and Miles Okazaki to name a few. In 2017 Chris was an awardee of the Knight Arts Challenge in Akron, Ohio and in 2018 Chris won grants from GAR Foundation as well as the Cleveland foundation for his multimedia work *Nine Lives*. This 40-minute work will be premiered in 2019. Chris is currently based out of Akron, Ohio and is on faculty at Oberlin Conservatory, and The University of Akron. Chris is a Yamaha Performing Artist.



A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, **William Menefield** took a few piano lessons when he was six years old, but was primarily a self-taught pianist early in his career. Since then, he has studied with Erwin Stuckey, Diana Belland, and Elaine Leung-Wolf.

William has recorded two albums as a solo artist. His debut album, *Big Will Leaps In* (J-Curve Records), was released in the spring of 1999 and later reached #13 on the national Gavin Jazz Charts. His second album, *Will's Revenge* (413 Records), was released in May of 2003.

William was sought out by the Cincinnati Arts Association to initiate their emerging artist concert series at the Aronoff Center for the Arts on April 10, 1999. He also was a featured soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in 2005, as well as the Cincinnati Opera Company in 2006, and again in 2013. He has performed at a variety of venues with various notable musicians including Roy Ayers, Clark Terry, David “Fathead” Newman, Gary Bartz, Steve Wilson, Javon Jackson, and others.

Additionally, William has produced music for the HBO series, “The Watchmen” and his choral/orchestral piece, *Prism*, was performed at Carnegie Hall in May 2019. His new opera, *Fierce*, commissioned by the Cincinnati Opera, premiered in July 2022. He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Iowa.

**Curtis Taylor** is an award-winning trumpeter, performer, composer, recording artist and educator. Taylor holds a B.A. in Jazz Studies from Michigan State University and a Masters from Rutgers University.

Taylor has performed & toured internationally some of the industry’s biggest names including Patrice Rushen, Charles McPherson, Billy Childs, John Clayton, Geoffrey Keezer, Terreon Gully and many more. Most notable performances and recordings include collaborations with virtuosic saxophonist James Carter, soulful Jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut and vocal powerhouse Gregory Porter. Taylor was part of the musical team (assembled by Gregory Porter’s producer Kamau Kenyatta) that won the Grammy award for Porter’s *Liquid Spirit* album released on Blue Note Records in 2013. He has released two albums of his own: *#Hashtagged* (2017) which features produced tracks with live instrumentation and vocals, and *Snapshot* (2019) which was recorded live with his quartet at the World Stage in Los Angeles, CA. As a performer, he has performed with his quartet across the US at many coveted venues & festivals. Recent significant performances include: Font Festival, Detroit Jazz Festival, LACMA, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art and the Blue Llama Jazz Club.



In the fall of 2021 Taylor joined the University of Iowa’s Jazz department where he currently teaches Jazz history, Jazz theory and directs the Jazz Repertory Ensemble.

# UI STUDENT PERSONNEL

Leah Kaminsky, *vocals*  
Alex Kelsh, *alto sax*  
Matthew White, *tenor sax*  
Lucas Wymore, *bari sax*  
Michael May, *trombone 1*  
Killian Ritland, *trombone 2*  
Askar Khaetov, *bass*  
Anabel Perez-Brennan, *drums*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most up to date listing of concerts and recitals, please visit [arts.uiowa.edu](https://arts.uiowa.edu).

All events are FREE unless otherwise indicated 

Performances that are being livestreamed are marked with 

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## NOVEMBER 2022

5	1:30pm	Trumpet Studio Recital B	Recital Hall
5	7:30pm	University Choir and Camerata 	Concert Hall
5	7:30pm	Clinton Street Quartet Recital	Recital Hall
6	1:30pm	Trumpet Studio Recital A	Recital Hall
6	1:30pm	Piano Sundays at the Old Capitol	Old Capitol Museum
6	3:00pm	Faculty Chamber Recital: Songs of Pierre-Max Dubois	Recital Hall
9	7:30pm	Guest Artist Recital: JACK Quartet 	Concert Hall

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