



Mimi Fox, Jazz Guitar

with
Steve Haines, Guitar
&
Sarah Gooch, Drums

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Van Dyke Performance Space

Jazz Programming

An element of jazz concerts is that artists sometimes improvise their programs on the spot, calling out tunes as they go. So programs can be all chosen in advance, all chosen on the fly, or some version of both.

The following is information on some of the composers that Mimi Fox will choose from for Friday's program. The rest of the music will be announced from the stage and include standards and works by Mimi herself.

This allows even more flexibility for the artists to respond to the audience and what they are feeling in the moment, and an even more unique audience experience

Wes Montgomery

(1923 - 1969)

Born John Leslie "Wes" Montgomery in Indianapolis, Montgomery rose from self-taught beginnings to become a vital figure in modern jazz. Montgomery's sound is instantly recognizable due to its warm, rounded tone instead of the twang of a traditional pick. His signature use of octaves—playing the same note in two registers simultaneously—became a hallmark of his solos and influenced generations of guitarists across jazz, rock, and soul. Even at his most virtuosic, Montgomery favored clear, melodic lines, giving his improvisations a sense of ease and emotional warmth.



[Check out Montgomery's "West Coast Blues" here.](#)

The Beatles



The Beatles transformed popular music like few other musicians before them. Formed in Liverpool in the early 1960s, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr quickly evolved the Beatles from energetic rock-and-roll into studio innovators. Their early hits captured a youthful spirit, while their later albums blended rock, folk, classical influences, and experimental techniques in ways that reshaped the sound of popular music for decades.

For me, "Here Comes the Sun" is the perfect musical response to these challenging times.

Cole Porter

(1891 - 1964)

Indiana born songwriter Cole Porter stands as one of America's most influential musicians of the Hollywood and Broadway Golden Ages. Drawing on his classical training, world travels, and sharp sense of humor, Porter brought a cosmopolitan flair to the Broadway and Hollywood musical stages. By the 1930s, he had become a leading voice of the American musical. Despite a devastating riding accident in 1937 that left him in chronic pain, Porter continued to produce some of his most enduring work, including scores for "Kiss Me, Kate", "Anything Goes", and "Can-Can".



[Check out this recording of Porter's "Anything Goes"!](#)

Matt Wilson, Program Notes

Matt Wilson, the author of the program notes that you hopefully found illuminating and inspiring, is a violinist and violist from South Carolina. He received a Bachelor's in Music Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, before teaching in the North Carolina public schools for several years. He received a Master's in Music Education from UNC Greensboro and a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. He is an active researcher, often focusing on issues of gender and sexuality in music education. Dr. Wilson is currently on the faculty at Penn-Griffin School for the Arts, where he teaches history, philosophy, music theory, and music appreciation.



Dr. Wilson has been an active member of the North Carolina and Kansas Music Educators Associations. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is currently on the ASTA's RIA committee, continuing to share in creating inclusion and diversity within music education.