

## *2020 Spotlight Jazz Instrumental Preliminary Panel*

**Ramsey Castaneda** is a doctoral candidate at the USC in jazz studies where he studies with Bob Mintzer, Jason Goldman, and Vince Mendoza. He has performed in Carnegie Hall with the Paquito D'Rivera sextet, recorded music for the Disney Channel's *Sophia the First* and *Best Friends Whenever*, and the closing credits for *Dirty Grandpa*. In 2013, Castaneda played first tenor with the Disneyland All-American College Band. He also holds degrees from the University of North Texas and CSU Long Beach. At USC Castaneda is the teaching assistant for the music industry and music technology programs and is on faculty at the L.A. College of Music where he teaches private saxophone lessons and directs Jazz Big Band II.

**Ryan Dragon** is a trombonist and a fixture on the LA jazz and studio scenes and avant-garde community. After spending years performing on the east coast where he attended the Berklee School of Music and performed with Cirque du Soleil, Dragon moved to LA. Known for his distinctive approach to improvisation, Dragon has contributed his playing live and on recordings with Herbie Hancock, Quincy Jones, The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, John Legend, Usher, Gwen Stefani, Imagine Dragons and Panic at the Disco. Film and TV credits include soundtracks for *Crazy Rich Asians*, *Family Guy*, *Will and Grace*, *Secret life of Pets 2*, *Onward*, *Ice Age 5*, *Money Monster*. His playing and soloing can be heard on multiple Grammy nominated albums with Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band and John Beasley's MONK'estra. Ryan is on faculty teaching trombone at CalArts.

**Andy Langham** studied Jazz Performance at the University of North Texas. He is a member of Poncho Sanchez's Latin Jazz Band. He tours with that group and with Big Bad VooDoo Dady, Natalie Cole, Christopher Cross, John Heard, Christian McBride, New York Voices, Ray Price, Dewey Redman, Steve Tyrell and Ernie Watts, among many others. Langham has recorded or performed extensively with many artists including Ravi Coltraine, Willie Nelson, The Platter, The Coasters and Roy McCurdy. He teaches Jazz Piano at Cal State University, Long Beach.

**Edwin Livingston**, Bassist/Composer, has a B.M. in music performance. He has performed and/or recorded with: Elvin Jones, Ellis, Delfeayo, and Jason Marsalis, The Headhunters, Los Hombres Calientes (Grammy nominated Latin Jazz album), Bill Summers, Munyungo Jackson, Donald Harrison, Jr., Alvin Batiste, Ronnie Laws, Debra Laws, Lionel Loueke, D.J. Logic, David "Fathead" Newman, John Beasley, Otmaro Ruiz, Mike Garson, Russell Ferrante, Sadao Watanabe, Justo Almario, Leni Stern, Kevin Toney of The Blackbyrds, Dave Weckl, Will Kennedy, Peter Erskine, Vince Wilburn, Jr., Jimmy Branly, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, Tootie Heath, Dave Weckl, Joe LaBarbera, Hot Buttered Rhythm, Gecko Turner, Henry Butler, James Clay, Barbara Morrison, Queen Latifah, The Benjamin Wright Orchestra, Bob Mintzer, Yellowjackets, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Jovanotti, Melody Gardot, Natalie Cole and many others. Livingston is on the faculty at the USC Thornton School of Music, teaching bass in the Jazz Studies Department.

**Tom Luer** is a D'Addario Woodwinds Performing Artist and is a member of John Beasley's Grammy nominated ensemble the MONK'estra. Luer has also performed with Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, Poncho Sanchez, Queen Latifah, and Seth McFarlane. His album "Project Popular" was released in 2011 to critical acclaim. Television credits include "The Voice", the NBC broadcast of "Sports Illustrated 50 Years of Beautiful" and the "X-Factor" on Fox, the American Music Awards, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and the Ellen Degeneres Show. Luer is currently an adjunct faculty member at Cal Poly Pomona and Los Angeles College of Music.

**Jamey Tate** has performed with Grammy nominees/winners and Billboard chart toppers including Al Jarreau, Quincy Jones, The New York Voices, The Stan Kenton Orchestra, John Daversa's Big Band, Ron King's Big Band, Chris Walden, Renee Olstead, Patrick Williams, Russell Ferrante, Mindi Abair, Melissa Manchester, and Kurt Elling. His playing has also been featured on albums by David Benoit and The Stan Kenton Band, to name a few. Tate has produced artists such as Selina Albright, The Edge Effect and Justin Ray. He is a regular clinician at the Crossroads School Summer Jazz Program, and served as an instructor at USC, Crossroads School, Don Bosco Technical Institute, and Warren High School. He is an artist/clinician with Yamaha Drums, Zildjian Cymbals, Gen-16 Acoustic/Electric Cymbals, Remo Drumheads, and Vic Firth drumsticks.

*Not all judges are present at every audition*