2021 Spotlight Jazz Semifinal Panel

Terreon Gully, drummer, is a Grammy winning, musician and is an influential artist of his generation. His innovative and distinct sound has inspired artists such as Dianne Reeves, Christian McBride, Stefon Harris as well as John Beasley’s Monk’estra to make him a member of their bands. He performs, tours and records extensively with a variety of artists including Kurt Elling, David Sanborn, Nicholas Payton, Kenny Barron, the Stones Project, Sting, Keyon Harrold, Queen Latifa, Yerba Buena, Charlie Hunter, Abbey Lincoln, Joe Locke, Marc Cary, Russell Gunn, Lizz Wright, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Maria Schneider Big Band, Jacky Terrasson, Eldar, Me’Shell NdegeOcello, Lauryn Hill, Pharoahe Monch, Mos Def, and Common. Mr. Gully is also known for his exceptional work in the studio, producing and recording for CDs, films, and commercials; including his first solo project “TANKTIFIED.” Committed to education and inspiring other musicians, he served as a Professor of Music at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada.

Andy Langham, pianist, is a longtime member of the multi-Grammy-nominated Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band. He contributed to the current 2021 Grammy-nominated release, “Trane’s Delight” as a performer, composer, and arranger. Langham also currently tours with Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist Jane Monheit. He has toured with Natalie Cole, Christopher Cross, Christian McBride, New York Voices, Dewey Redman and Steve Tyrell. Langham has recorded with, or performed in concert with Terrance Blanchard, James Carter, The Four Freshman, Gerry Gibbs, Tom Harrell, Christian Scott, Ernie Watts and Bill Watrous. Mr. Langham teaches Jazz Piano at the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University Long Beach.

Tom Luer, saxophonist, has performed with Poncho Sanchez, the Gordon Goodwin Big Phat Band, Wayne Bergeron Big Band, and the Toshiko Akiyoshi/Lew Tabackin West Coast Reunion Band, among others. He has toured with Queen Latifah and his television appearances include the American Music Awards, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and the Ellen DeGeneres show. He recently released his debut recording, and recording appearances include the Mike Barone Big Band “Flight of the Bumblebee,” Curt Berg and the Avon St. Quintet “At Stagg St. Studio”, and on Paul Tynan and Aaron Lington’s “Bicoastal Collective.” He serves on the faculty at Cal Poly Pomona where he teaches Jazz Saxophone Jazz Improvisation and Jazz History. His additional teaching experience includes faculty positions at the University of North Texas, Texas Christian University and Bethel College.

Tina Raymond, drummer, is an assistant professor of percussion/drum set and the Director of Jazz Studies at California State University Northridge. She is a mainstay on the Southern California jazz and contemporary improvised music scene. Ms. Raymond performs regularly with Bobby Bradford, Dan Rosenboom, Jeff Parker, Cathlene Pineda, Darek Oles, Vinny Golia, and more. Recent collaborations include Jon Armstrong’s Reabsorb (Orenda Records 2020), David Tranchina’s The Ogre (Joyful Noise & BIG EGO Records 2020), Bobby Bradford’s Stealin Home (NoBusiness Records tbd), Kuba Stankiewicz’ Music of Roman Statkowski (Warner Music Poland 2020), and Cathlene Pineda’s Rainbow Baby (Orenda Records 2020). As a bandleader, she released Left Right Left (Orenda Records 2017) with pianist Art Lande and bassist Putter Smith. She received a 2020 DownBeat Jazz Education Achievement Award.

Ottmaro Ruiz is a Grammy nominated Venezuelan pianist, keyboardist, composer and arranger. Regarded as one of the most sought-after keyboardists for recordings, Mr. Ruiz is still able to dedicate time to teaching, scoring of movie sound-tracks and to the production of his works as a leader with original compositional material, captured in the CDs Ottmaro Ruiz plays Ryuichi Sakamoto, Distant Friends, Nothing to Hide, Latino and Sojourn. He has performed or recorded with Alex Acuña, Justo Almario y Abraham Laboriel, Dianne Reeves, John McLaughlin, Tito Puente, Arturo Sandoval, John Patitucci, Paquito D’Rivera, Jing Chi, Nana Caymmi, Dori Caymmi, Akira Jimbo, Frank Gambale, Peter Erskine, David Weckl, Art Davis Quintet, Charlie Haden Liberation Music Orchestra, Alain Caron, Gino Vannelli, Tolu, Frank Morgan, Robben Ford, Vinnie Colaiuta and Jon Anderson. Currently, Ottmaro is a Jazz Piano Faculty at USC and Shepherd University School of Music.