

A photograph of a jazz string quintet performing in a bridge structure. The quintet consists of five members: a woman standing on the left playing a violin, a woman sitting in the center playing a cello, a man standing in the center holding a saxophone, a man sitting on the right playing a violin, and a woman standing on the far right playing a violin. They are all dressed in black. The setting is a bridge with large steel beams and concrete supports, with a river and buildings visible in the background. The text "JAZZ STRING QUINTET" is overlaid in a semi-transparent grey box with a stylized orange graphic behind it.

JAZZ STRING QUINTET



JAZZ & Classical

JAZZ STRING QUINTET

jazz string quintet

JSQ is a provocative blend of jazz and classical music; the instrumentation is soprano saxophone and classical string quartet. This group has produced some of the most beautiful, original and critically praised music to come out of Chicago in recent years. The fusion of styles create an appeal which simply transcends category. Each performance moves the heart, stirs the mind and excites with the unexpected!

press

“Many jazz musicians have written arrangements for strings, but Gailloreto's stood out, in part because of the sheer amount of musical information he packed into each piece.... a burst of energy and heat precisely when it's needed”

Howard Reich, **Chicago Tribune** *arts critic*

available for concerts and master classes

Paul Mundy, Management: Artist Continuum

Work: 773.850.2388 Mobile: 773.330.4461

Email: jazzstringquintet@gmail.com

Website: www.jazzstringquintet.com

**Hear Ellington,
Monk and Coltrane
in a style and
setting that both
Miles and Mozart
would surely dig.**

JAZZ STRING QUINTET

No shortage of top talent in spotlight this weekend

By Howard Reich
Tribune arts critic

If Paris is the City of Light and Los Angeles the City of the Angels, Chicago may be emerging as the City of Festivals.

There's one practically every week of the year, and this weekend two jazz soirees will be casting a spotlight on some of the city's most accomplished musicians.

Longtime Chicago concertgoers will remember the era, not so long ago, when the annual Jazz Fair ran a single night. No more. The expanded Winter Delights Jazz Fair (that name has got to go) now stretches from Thursday through Sunday, a burst of energy and heat precisely when it's needed -- in the dead of winter.

Thursday night's opening augured well for this year's event, with a serenely beautiful performance by Chicago singer **Kurt Elling** and saxophonist **Jim Gailloreto's Jazz String Quintet**. Though only a small ensemble held the stage of Preston Bradley Hall in the Chicago Cultural Center, the intricacy, detail and innovation of Gailloreto's writing evoked the sense of a chamber orchestra.



Many jazz musicians have written arrangements for strings, but Gailloreto's stood out, in part because of the sheer amount of musical information he packed into each piece. Where lesser composers use the strings simply to play slow-moving chords or double the melody line, Gailloreto offered clever, four-part string writing. Elling joined the fray on several numbers, his voice a warm and supple foil to the quintet's often prickly, provocative accompaniments. To hear Elling caress the phrases of Kenny Dorham's "Fair Weather" and unspool the long, sinuous lines of Fred Hersch's "The Sleepers" was to savor a less hysterical facet of the singer's work than listeners are accustomed to.

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Jazz String Quintet

Gailloreto's compositions are a blend of both jazz and classical music, combining string quartet and soprano saxophone. Within this unique aggregate, the music pays homage to America's greatest jazz legends such as Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Fats Waller, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter and many others.

JSQ has recorded & performed with various notables, such as Grammy award winning jazz vocalist-Kurt Elling, Blue Note recording artist-Patricia Barber, The William Ferris Chorale, Fulcrum Point, West African Kora musician-Foday Musa Suso, French pianist Franck Amsallem and renowned New York composer/pianist-Fred Hersch.

Music

Each performance revels in redefining the stylistic boundaries of Classical Music and of America's jazz greats. Each composition references the music and recordings of many celebrated jazz artists integrated into an elegant and provocative chamber music setting. Improvisation plays an integral role and contributes greatly to the spontaneity of each performance.

Education

From young students to college graduates, JSQ is in a unique position to open up the beautiful world of jazz and the classical string quartet. Master classes and workshops focus on the inner workings of chamber music, composition, jazz and improvisation.

Vision

The goal is simply to compose, perform and educate with music and programming dedicated to the voyage and discoveries between jazz and classical music. The cross-appeal of Jazz String Quintet communicates equally to jazz aficionado and symphony subscriber.



JAZZ STRING QUINTET

Jazz Saxophonist, Composer & Educator

A Native Chicagoan Performing
Recording and Teaching
Nationally and Abroad

Jim Gailloreto

Musician

Jim Gailloreto is an accomplished jazz saxophonist working in and in-between classical music and the jazz worlds. He frequently performs at Symphony Center of Chicago, The Ravinia Festival and has toured with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has also recorded and performed with Blue Note jazz vocalist Patricia Barber, Grammy Award winning jazz vocalist Kurt Elling and New York composer/pianist Fred Hersch.

In addition, he has performed with the Chicago Jazz Ensemble, Chicago Chamber Musicians, Fulcrum Point and recently in a Chicago Symphony Orchestra premier of Marc Anthony Turnage's "Texan Tenebrae" and "Scorched" featuring renowned jazz guitarist John Scofield. Jim has also appeared many times at the Chicago Jazz Festival.

Composer

Jim is a recipient of the New Works: Creation & Presentation Program grant from Chamber Music America. His music has been performed at the Cultural Center, Park West, Millennium Park, Pritzker Pavilion, The Jazz Institutes Jazz Fair, Columbia College, Chicago College of the Performing Arts, Alliance Française De Chicago, Bargemusic in New York and The Green Mill at Chicago.

His string quartet arrangements can be heard on Kurt Elling's Grammy Award winning CD "Dedicated To You".

Jim has four solo CD's: *The Insider* (Wide Sound), *Shadow Puppets* (Naim Label), *Jazz String Quintet* (Naim Label) and *American Complex* (Origin Classical).

Educator

Jim teaches Jazz Saxophone Studies at Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, he also lectures and gives workshops on arranging, composing and jazz improvisation.