

I/O FEST – SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023, 4:00 PM
THE CLARK: CONFORTI PAVILION
Presented by the Williams College Department of Music
Duration: approx. 60 minutes, no intermission

GEORGE

Anna Webber–tenor sax/flute
Aurora Nealand–voice/sax/keyboards
Chiquita Magic–keyboards/voice
John Hollenbeck–drums/piano/composition

This program features compositions from the group's new release, *Letters to George*.

GEORGE

From the Greek name Georgios, which was derived from the Greek word georgos meaning "farmer, earthworker," itself derived from the elements γῆ (ge) meaning "earth" and ergon meaning "work."

George Washington Carver, George Gervin, George Clooney, George Floyd, George Wein, Georgia (the state and the country), Georgia O'Keefe, Saint George, George Saunders, George Michael, George Carlin, George Clinton, George Frideric Handel, George Orwell, Boy George, Curious George, George the magazine, etc...

John Hollenbeck formed GEORGE during the Covid pandemic. He brought together three great musicians/people whom he had loved and admired for a long time! Even though most of the members had never met each other, John was confident from knowing them himself, that this group would immediately be, as one of the members calls it, "tight" (which means "very cool" in case you were wondering). Their group sound is firmly planted outside any categories or labels, so good luck with that! They remotely recorded a literal "Proof of Concept" in March 2021 and finally met in person in January 2022 in Montreal, Canada where they recorded *Letters to George*, which will be released on vinyl/cd/digitally on Out Of Your Head Records on January 27, 2023. They toured the US and Canada in the spring/summer/fall of 2022 and will continue in 2023, in other locations on Mother Earth.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Anna Webber is a flutist, saxophonist, and composer whose interests and work live in the aesthetic overlap between avant-garde jazz and new classical music. She was recently named a 2021 Berlin Prize Fellow and was voted the top "Rising Star" flutist in the 2020 Downbeat Critic's Poll.

Aurora Nealand is most recognized for her performance on saxophones, clarinet and vocals and has been at the forefront of the revival of New Orleans with her band, the Royal Roses. Nealand is also the leader/frontman of New Orleans premier rockabilly band "Rory Danger and the Danger

Dangers"and performs frequently with her solo project, "The Monocle." In 2010 and 2011 she appeared frequently as herself in the HBO TV series, "Treme."

Chiquita Magic is a latinx artist/producer hailing from Colombia and based in Canada. She uses microtonal synthesizers, her voice, and a drum machine to create a unique sound that can be described as futuristic electro pop with elements of EDM, hip hop, cumbia, funk, reggaeton, choirs & jazz.

Genre-crossing composer/percussionist John Hollenbeck, renowned in both the jazz and new-music worlds, has gained widespread recognition as the driving force behind the unclassifiable Claudia Quintet and the ambitious John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, groups with roots in jazz, world music, and contemporary composition. He has earned six GRAMMY nominations and has worked with many of the world's leading musicians in jazz including Bob Brookmeyer, Fred Hersch, Tony Malaby, and is well known in new-music circles for his long-time collaboration with Meredith Monk.

ABOUT I/O FEST

I/O Fest, the Williams College Department of Music's annual immersion in the music of today, is a multi-day exploration of adventurous music featuring new voices, fresh perspectives, and creative modes of musical expression. Performances, talks, and workshops are held in the '62 Center for Theatre & Dance, the Williams College Museum of Art, and The Clark Art Institute, with a special interest in unconventional spaces and modes of performance. Featuring renowned guest artists and performances by the I/O Ensemble, faculty, and students, I/O Fest seeks to present innovative and visceral programs that invite listeners to experience music in new ways.

2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (All events are free, no reservation required, unless otherwise noted)

FRIDAY 1/13

12:00-4:00 PM | I/O Day at WCMA

7:30 PM | '62 Center

I/O Ensemble

SATURDAY 1/14

4:30 PM | The Clark

MILFORD GRAVES FULL MANTIS: film screening

8:00 PM | '62 Center

New Music Williams presents *Penelope*, a song cycle by Sarah Kirkland Snider

Featuring Sara Stebbins '24

SUNDAY 1/15

1:00 PM | The Clark

I/Out Loud Family Concert, featuring GEORGE

4:00 PM | The Clark*

Genre-crossing jazz and new music ensemble GEORGE, featuring composer/percussionist John Hollenbeck

*Reserve your seat at Clarkart.edu

I/O FEST STAFF

Matthew Gold, Artistic Director; Sara Stebbins '24, Student Director; Jeffrey Miller, Stage and Orchestra Manager, Williams College Department of Music; Jonathan Myers, Concert and Event Coordinator, Williams College Department of Music; Arianna Suarez '25, Sound Engineer; Giulianna Bruce '25, Sound Engineer

Acknowledgements

Ed Gollin, Music Dept. Chair; Nathaniel Wiessner, '62 Center Operations Manager; John Burrow, Sound and Media Manager; Daniel O'Connell, Production Technician; Corissa L. Bryant, Patron and Visiting Artist Services Manager; Ileana Perez Velázquez, Zachary Wadsworth, Composition Faculty; Will Schmenner, Clark Art Institute; Jeff Bentley, Piano Technician; Daniel Czernecki, Recording Engineer