

**Jazz Concerts: The Great Composers**  
**Mingus Dynasty Band and**  
**John Beasley's MONK'estra Quartet**

**Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 8pm**

This is the 1,169th concert in Koerner Hall

**Mingus Dynasty Band**

**Wayne Escoffery**, tenor saxophone

**Alex Norris**, trumpet

**Conrad Herwig**, trombone

**David Kikoski**, piano

**Andy McKee**, bass

**Donald Edwards**, drums

**MONK'estra Quartet**

**John Beasley**, piano, arranger & band leader

**Devin Daniels**, saxophone

**Rueben Rogers**, bass

**Terreon Gully**, drums

**Mingus Dynasty Band**

The nimble and expert Mingus Dynasty was the first band Sue Mingus organized after Charles Mingus's death in 1979, collaborating with his own sidemen to honour the life and work of the bassist and composer. Although big bands like the Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey bands had continued to perform after their leader passed on, a similar legacy never existed for smaller ensembles. Because Mingus always said he was first and foremost a composer, and because he left behind over 300 compositions that deserved to be played, a band carrying on his music became a natural, if unanticipated, mission. The first Dynasty bands were expected to include only musicians who had actually performed with Mingus – except for the bass player, of course. Today, four decades later, the rich legacy of Mingus music ignites the bandstand while new generations of musicians add their individual voices and continue to celebrate and explore this rich and varied musical legacy.

**John Beasley**

Double Grammy Award-winning, John Beasley is a pianist, composer, arranger, and music director who began his career in his 20s, backing jazz icons Miles Davis and Freddie Hubbard. Since then, he has toured with Dianne Reeves, Chucho Valdés, and Chaka Khan, and has directed tours/projects for Steely Dan, Queen Latifah, Carly Simon, and *Slumdog Millionaire's* A.R. Rahman.

As a recording artist, Beasley has a dozen albums and has earned 11 Grammy nominations. He won a 2023 Grammy Award as Best Arranger for his latest project *Bird Lives*, a reimagination of Charlie Parker's music with big band and strings.

*MONK'estra* is Beasley's trilogy of albums featuring the music of Thelonious Monk, which earned six Grammy nominations and a win. His MONK'estra band has performed at major festivals and venues including Monterey, North Sea, Hollywood Bowl, Dizzy's at Lincoln Center, Ronnie Scotts, Blue Note Tokyo, and tonight at Koerner Hall.

Critics have described Beasley, MONK'estra and the experience listening in these words: "Beasley's band will leave you rapt. He brings Monk to life once again for modern-minded listeners." "Beasley is a very clever arranger ... razor-sharp ensemble work and rhythmic authenticity ... hip-hop merges with swing and sensuous Ellingtonia sits on a sparse contemporary pulse."

As Music Director for International Jazz Day's global gala concerts hosted by Herbie Hancock Jazz Institute, Beasley has earned an Emmy nomination for *Jazz at the White House*. Currently, Beasley is working on the music for Pixar's *Elementor* with 15 times Oscar nominated Tom Newman (1917, James Bond's *Spectre* and *Skyfall*, and *Finding Dory*).

*Mingus Dynasty Band and John Beasley's MONK'estra Quartet are making their Royal Conservatory debuts tonight.*