



Advance Program Notes

Jazzy Ash & the Leaping Lizards
Saturday, October 5, 2019, 4 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

Jazzy Ash & the Leaping Lizards

Ashli St. Armant, a.k.a. Jazzy Ash (vocals and ukulele)
Alex Sadnik, a.k.a. Slick (saxophone)
Anthony Shadduck, a.k.a. Captain Le Bon (upright bass)
Sam Webster, a.k.a. Sam the Ham (drums)
Shane Savala, a.k.a. Riff (guitar)

About Jazzy Ash

Jazzy Ash grew up with a mother from New Orleans and a father from Trinidad. Music infused Ash's home life every day, from jazz to Caribbean rhythms to the lively children's music that was playing all the time for the kids in her mother's home day care. She often spent summers in New Orleans with her aunts and grandparents, enjoying the culture and music that permeated their West Bank neighborhood.

Later on, after becoming mom to two sons, she earned a degree in early childhood development and embarked on her music education program, Leaping Lizards Music.

Ash's NOLA visits, especially during Mardi Gras, reaffirmed the importance of exploring this part of her heritage.

"Learning about this music and performing it gives me a foundation. Truly, I've found myself through this experience. Even though I was born in California, I see myself as a second-generation New Orleanean, since New Orleans is so much a part of my family's experience, going back at least seven generations."

Ash and her band, Jazzy Ash and the Leaping Lizards, have had the pleasure of performing at Lincoln Center and Symphony Space in New York, Getty Center in California, World Cafe Live in Philadelphia, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, and the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, among other prestigious venues.

Additionally, Ash continues to focus on education, regularly teaching performing arts to children and music education to educators. Most recently, Ash has hosted workshops for National HeadStart, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and MaxFunCon.

Her music has been featured by the *Los Angeles Times* and NPR, and continues to top the Children's Music Charts. Her fourth album, *Swing Set*, was released in July 2017.

Engagement Events

Saturday, October 5, 2019

WORKSHOP: YOU CAN PLAY UKE!

With the guidance of Jazzy Ash, children ages eight and up learned basic music skills that got them playing the ukulele right away.

Go Deeper

What did today's program illustrate about New Orleans' history and culture that was new to you?

In the Galleries

Surge, 2019

On view through September 2021

Grand Lobby

For our third major public art commission, artist Daniel Canogar has created a site-specific sequence of dynamic, data-fed sculptural forms. *Surge* encompasses thousands of flickering LED lights in moving, ever-changing, computer-generated abstract images that glide across four ribbon-like sculptural forms. Currently responding in to real-time information on local weather, the generative visuals of *Surge* flow continuously across the Grand Lobby walls.

DID YOU KNOW?

Surge is comprised of 188 flexible tiles that house 1,152 embedded LEDs each, making a total of 216,576 LEDs. Brilliant!

GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu.