

## **2024 Spotlight Contemporary Instrumental Preliminary Panel**

**Andy Langham** 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. Mr. Langham has performed on over 100 recordings, including 5 Grammy-nominated albums. He has toured with Natalie Cole, Christopher Cross, Christian McBride, New York Voices, Dewey Redman, Steve Tyrell, and Jane Monheit. Langham has recorded or performed in concert with Terrance Blanchard, James Carter, The Four Freshman, Gerry Gibbs, Tom Harrell, Christian Scott, Ernie Watts, and Bill Watrous. Langham teaches Jazz Piano at the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University, Long Beach and Cal Poly Pomona.

**Tom Luer\*** is a Los Angeles-based saxophonist, a member of the Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band, and a D'Addario Woodwinds Performing Artist. His 2011 album *Project Popular* was released to critical acclaim. Recording credits include: Grammy-winning album *Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra*; John Beasley's Grammy-nominated albums *MONK'estra: Volume 1, 2, and 3*; Dave Slonaker's Grammy-nominated *Intrada*; and Grammy-winning jazz vocalist Kurt Elling's *The Brill Building Project*. Mr. Luer has also recorded with Lee Ritenour, the Alan Chan Orchestra, the Mike Barone Big Band, Wayne Bergeron Big Band, Cooper Phillips, the Bicoastal Collective, and Oliver Future. TV appearances include: NBC's *The Voice* and *Sports Illustrated 50 Years of Beautiful*; Fox's *X-Factor*, *The American Music Awards*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*; and the *Ellen Degeneres Show*. Additional performance credits and tours include: Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band; Queen Latifah; Tom Wopat; Patrizio Buanne; and Engelbert Humperdinck. Currently, he is on faculty at Cal Poly Pomona and serves as the Jazz Program Director for the Shell Lake Arts Center in Shell Lake, WI.

**Dr. Rick Schmunk**, Music Technology Department Chair and founder of the highly regarded Music Production undergraduate program, teaches within the Music Production and Popular Music programs at the USC Thornton School of Music. He is an active music technology clinician, and his research interests include the integration of technology in music instruction, production, and performance. In 2022-23, he was a visiting professor at the Sibelius Institute in Helsinki, Finland, and mentored recording students at the Paris Conservatoire. Dr. Schmunk has presented at the Association for Popular Music Education (APME), Association for Technology in Music Instruction (ATMI), College Music Society (CMS), International Society for Music Education (ISME), Jazz Educators Network (JEN), and the Association of European Conservatories (AEC PJP) national and international conferences. His publications include fifteen LinkedIn Learning video courses, seen by over a million viewers, on topics ranging from music notation to analog synthesis to signal processing to Ableton Live. Recent releases include Ableton Live 11 Essentials, Introducing Ableton Live 11, and Creating with Ableton Live Plug-in and Instruments.

**Aarón Serfaty** is a drummer and percussionist from Caracas, Venezuela, where he started his professional career. In 1991, he moved to Los Angeles to attend the California Institute of the Arts. Since then, he has played, toured, and/or recorded with the LA Phil, Roberta Gambarini, Kristin Korb, Catina de Luna/Otmaro Ruiz's Lado B, Bob Mintzer All L.A. Band, Arturo Sandoval, Jon Anderson, Sergio Mendes, Dori Caymmi, Frank Gambale, and Oscar Hernandez, among many others. Movie soundtracks include *Along Came Poly*, *Coco*, and *Encanto*. He has been on faculty at the University of Southern California since 1997.

\* Preliminary 2 only