

**30TH ANNIVERSARY
SEASON! 2024-2025**



**seattle repertory
jazz orchestra**

**BRANFORD MARSALIS
RETURNS TO SRJO**

Celebrating 30 seasons!

Michael Brockman and Clarence Acox founded SRJO in 1995, using musical scores from their personal collections, and paying for it all out of their own pockets. Over the years, SRJO has become a mainstay of the Seattle arts community. The 17-piece ensemble features many of the region's finest jazz musicians, and has featured 15 members who were elected into the Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame.

During the past 29 seasons, SRJO has performed with internationally esteemed guest artists such as Christian McBride, Joshua Redman, Branford Marsalis, Tia Fuller, Clark Terry, Anat Cohen, and Maria Schneider.

As we prepare to enter our 30th season, we are investing in the growth and sustainability of the most recognizable jazz orchestra in the Northwest, ensuring our existence for the next generations of jazz lovers.

Photo of the band members shortly after the orchestra was founded.



Back row (left to right): Jay Thomas, Phil Sparks, Bill Ramsay, Floyd Standifer, David Bentley, Marc Seales, Dan Greenblatt, Michael Brockman, Clarence Acox.

Front row (left to right): Scott Brown, Mark Taylor, Thomas Marriott, David Marriott Jr., Dennis Haldane, Don Lanphere.

Photo Credit: ©Jean Alexander Greenwald



30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

NOVEMBER 9/10, 2024

Duke Ellington's "Far East Suite"

MARCH 1/2, 2025

SRJO plays RAY Charles

APRIL 12/13, 2025

SRJO Founders Concert

JUNE 21/22, 2025

Branford Marsalis with SRJO

All performances will be held in the Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall in Seattle.

SPECIAL BAND APPEARANCE

DECEMBER 28, 2024

**36th Annual Presentation of
Duke Ellington's Sacred Music Concert**

Tickets available ONLY through Earshot Jazz

**EARSHOT
JAZZ**

Cover Photo Credit: Branford Marsalis photo by ©Eric Ryan Anderson



From the Artistic Director

When Clarence Acox and I put together SRJO, our fondest dreams were that the group would become a permanent fixture in the arts culture of our region -- and thirty years is a huge milestone toward that goal. Reaching this anniversary is a credit to all the musicians who have played with the band, and a result of their commitment to quality.

Now, with more than 350 performances under our belts, we are happy to say that many of SRJO's founding members continue to perform with us. Many others continue to live and work in the region. We will celebrate all of them, and also honor those who have passed.

This season will be a celebration of all we have done, and all that is yet to come. You won't want to miss a single concert as we musically travel from Duke Ellington to Ray Charles to Charles Mingus, and as we welcome our dear friend Branford Marsalis back to the SRJO stage.

We look forward to sharing this milestone season with you. Thank you for helping to make all this possible.

-- Michael Brockman

To Order Tickets:

SCAN the QR code

VISIT srjo.org/events

CALL 206.523.6159



Please contact us for a printed form.

Duke Ellington's "Far East Suite"

2024 | Nov 9 | Saturday 7:30pm

2024 | Nov 10 | Sunday 2:00pm

Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya

To kick off its 30th Anniversary season, SRJO joins in on a momentous year of celebrations by music ensembles around the globe, commemorating the 125th anniversary of Ellington's birth by playing one of his greatest works.



Photo Credits: ©Jim Levitt

SRJO plays Ray Charles

2025 | Mar 1 | Saturday 7:30pm

2025 | Mar 2 | Sunday 2:00pm

Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya

SRJO is joined by special guests to celebrate the legacy of the great Ray Charles. Affectionately called "The Genius" and "Brother Ray," he launched his national career with his own big band, the Ray Charles Orchestra, and toured with the group around the globe.

SRJO Founders Concert

2025 | Apr 12 | Saturday 7:30pm

2025 | Apr 13 | Sunday 2:00pm

Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya

SRJO proudly salutes its founding members, many of whom still play in the band, plus past members who still live/work in the region. Music selections for this special anniversary concert will include pieces written by SRJO members during the past 30 years (including some by Artistic Director Emeritus and co-founder Clarence Acox).



Photo Credits: ©Jim Levitt



Photo Credit: ©Roger Thomas

Branford Marsalis with SRJO

2025 | Jun 21 | Saturday 7:30pm

2025 | Jun 22 | Sunday 2:00pm

Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya

National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master and three-time Grammy winner Marsalis takes SRJO on a musical tour from the notable sounds of his hometown, New Orleans, to modern interpretations of jazz classics.

Subscribe now to reserve your seats for this certain sell-out!



Photo Credit: ©Jim Levitt

2024 | Dec 28 | Saturday 7:30pm

Town Hall, Seattle | Tickets *ONLY* available through Earshot Jazz

Duke Ellington's Sacred Music Concert

"In the beginning, God!" This declaration repeats through various instruments and voices in Duke Ellington's liturgical Concert of Sacred Music first performed as part of a festival celebration at the brand-new Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, 1965.

Nearly 60 years later, Ellington's Sacred Concert has become a cherished tradition for the Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra, many of whom have played this Earshot Jazz event since the very inception of the band – in fact you could say that SRJO was "born" playing the Sacred Music Concert.

This year will be the 36th annual presentation of Ellington's sacred music in Seattle, which is the longest running annual presentation of this music in the world, and features vocal soloists, a tap-dancer and a combined gospel/concert choir. We hope you will join us to celebrate this historic event.

**EARSHOT
JAZZ**

www.Earshot.org

Thank YOU to our Season Sponsors

We could not provide the quality of jazz we do without the support of our sponsors. Because of sponsors we can present full seasons of a traditional big band orchestra, with amazing guest artists. For a sponsor packet, please email info@srjo.org.

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Jazz4kids

SRJO Jazz4Kids concerts are unique events that provide our young community with an opportunity to hear jazz music performed live, explore musical instruments up close, and interact directly with the artists who come to play. SRJO hopes to positively impact future generations with these immersive events, giving time and space for the youngest jazz fans to ask questions and be inspired.



Clarence Acox Jazz Scholars

Jazz Scholars provides essential program support to Seattle public school band programs that serve low-income communities. Many studies have proven that music education results in better outcomes for young people academically, emotionally and socially. SRJO hires excellent professional musician-coaches to serve as mentors and teachers for the students, and provides support for band directors in the schools. We hope to expand to meet music education needs in the greater Seattle area in the years to come. Jazz Scholars is provided free to schools, and is underwritten by donations from foundations, individuals and government programs.

Visit srjo.org to find out more about SRJO's education initiatives.

“Jazz is like a telescope, and a lot of other music is like a microscope.”

-- Kamasi Washington

Your support matters

SRJO plays a vital role in enriching and benefiting our communities in several ways. We engage in educational initiatives to promote music education and appreciation. By sharing knowledge and expertise, our orchestra members inspire and mentor aspiring young musicians, promoting the growth of musical talent within the community.

Big band jazz itself represents a distinct cultural expression deeply rooted in African American musical traditions. By keeping this music alive and performing it, we honor the contributions of African American musicians to the jazz genre and acknowledge their historical significance. Your support ensures that this art form continues to thrive and evolve.

Support SRJO: srjo.org/support-srjo



Photo Credit: ©Jim Levitt

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Order Tickets: SRJO.ORG | 206.523.6159

30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON!



Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra
PO Box 45592
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