

The Department of Music Presents

A Season of  
*Renewal*

**THE PROFESSORS**

Studley Theatre

Tuesday February 22  
8pm



PROGRAM

## Program Notes

*The Professors, an evening of original Jazz compositions and improvisation with Special guest Saxophonist, Dave Savitsky*

The Professors are Mark Dziuba, Vinnie Martucci, Jeff "Siege" Siegel & Rich Syracuse. Their life's work is defined by the creation and performing of great music and sharing their lifetimes of performing and teaching experiences with the upcoming legions of aspiring jazz musicians.

Having met up in the Woodstock/New Paltz area of New York's Hudson Valley in the early 90's after years of living in New York City, the group members were destined to become friends, band mates and colleagues. Coming together for the first time as a unit in 1994 on guitarist Mark Dziuba's CD release "Up Until Now", the unit officially formalized as a quartet once bassist Rich Syracuse joined the other three Professors faculty at SUNY New Paltz in 2015.

The four friends have continued their joy of performing together in side projects and gigs throughout the decades ever since, and in fact, the friendships and playing associations go back as far as the mid 80's for some of the members. The founding musicians of the The Professors, guitarist **Mark Dziuba** (Director of Jazz Studies, SUNY NP), pianist **Vinnie Martucci** (former Chair of Music, SUNY NP), drummer **Jeff "Siege" Siegel** (Adjunct Professor of Percussion, SUNY NP) and jazz bass professor at the time, **John Menegon**, officially started the group in 2010 to perform at a local venue.



Performances and clinics with the group continued in as far away places as Beijing, China in 2011 at the University of Beijing (w/ Menegon) to local gigs around the Hudson Valley area of New York. In 2018 a unique partnership between the Escuela de Musica y Audio Fernando Sor in Bogota, Colombia and SUNY New Paltz continued the The Professors overseas activities, now joined by **Rich Syracuse**, where they performed clinics and performances. Club performances and concerts have since followed.

Tonight's performance will feature original compositions by all the members of the Professors. They will be joined by Saxophone great and SUNY, New Paltz Adjunct Professor, **Dave Savitsky**. Selections will be announced throughout the evening.



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