Internationally renowned bassist and Mack Avenue recording artist, RODNEY WHITAKER is Professor of Jazz Bass and Director of Jazz Studies at Michigan State University where he has built one of the leading jazz programs and performing faculties in the USA. Building on his Detroit roots, Whitaker has earned an international reputation as one of the world’s finest jazz bass performers, touring, recording and playing with jazz legends Wynton Marsalis, Jimmy Heath, Kathleen Battle, Bob James, Benny Golson, Pat Matheny, Nicholas Payton, Chick Corea, Dizzy Gillespie, and Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

PAUL BRATCHER, a Harrisburg native, he attended Bishop McDevitt H. S. Paul then attended Messiah College, receiving a B.S. in Music Education. Paul went to Michigan State Univ. studying under world renowned bassist Rodney Whitaker, graduating with his M.M. in Jazz Studies. Paul has shared the stage with Diego Rivera, Etienne Charles, Jeff “Tain” Watts and Branford Marsalis. He has played on international tours to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Canada, and Uruguay. He is on faculty at the Levine School of Music in Washington D.C. and Messiah College.

TIM WARFIELD is a native of York PA who has built a major career in jazz. His saxophone has graced recordings Warfield’s first recording, A Cool Blue, was selected as one of the top ten recordings of the year in a 1995 New York Times critic’s poll, as was his 1998 recording Gentle Warrior - proclaiming him “possibly the most powerful tenor saxophonist of his generation” He performed with Christian McBride’s group from 94--99 was a member of Nicholas Payton’s Quintet and currently is a member of Terell Stafford’s Quintet. Tim teaches jazz at Messiah College and Temple University in Philadelphia.

KIRK REESE has been an active part of the jazz scene in Pennsylvania for over thirty years. He has performed with numerous notable jazz artists including Phil Woods, Lou Marini, Marvin Stamm, Tim Warfield, Jr. and Terrell Stafford, and has been the opening act for Béla Fleck, B.B. King and others. An active recording artist, he has appeared on countless CDs including one by the Reese Project, “Blue Etude”, which received a Grammy nomination in 2002. Reese has been on the music faculty at Messiah College for nearly 10 years and in that time has established a culture of small-group jazz that has enhanced the department, reinforced the big bands, and has been the catalyst for many students developing a lifelong appreciation for the art form. His latest recording - Impressions - was released in February 2015.

STEVE VARNER was born and raised in Tennessee, where he entered the world of music playing electric bass. In 1980, Steve moved to the Harrisburg, PA area, where he soon became a local favorite. After switching to acoustic bass in the early 1990’s, he began to work, tour and record with a wider circle of improvisational musicians. Now residing in northern New Jersey, Steve has performed with such jazz greats as: Pat Martino, Phil Woods, Dave Liebman, Billy Hart, Tim Warfield, Tim, Warfield, Eric Alexander, James Moody, Vic Juris, Ernie Watts, Bill Goodwin, Bob Dorough, Jean-Michel Pilc, Dennis DeBlasio, Tierney Sutton, and Karrin Allyson.

JEFF STABLEY teaches Jazz Studies at York College of Pennsylvania where he directs the jazz ensemble and the percussion ensemble. He is also a music teacher at Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 in York County. For more than ten years, Stabley has been the music director of the First Presbyterian Church of York’s popular jazz vespers concerts honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Locally Jeff can be heard drumming with Kirk Reese, Tim Warfield, Jr., and Jim Wood. He also plays keyboard with Kris Kostoff’s hip-hop jazz group Compound. The Jeff Stabley Trio has released a CD entitled “Music To Listen to Music To” with Steve Meashey & Andy Roberts.

CATHY CHEMI is currently on faculty at Kutztown University. She toured and recorded with the legendary trumpeter Harry James and is one of the greatest vocal interpreters of the American Songbook. Her career included time in Las Vegas sharing the stage with Red Buttons and Earl “Fatha” Hines. among many others. She recorded a CD, “You & I”, with pianist Steve Rudolph in 2000.