

Band Bio

Denielle Bassels is an exciting Toronto artist who will “Stop you in your tracks” – Juliet Dunn, Artistic Director of TD Niagara Jazz Festival. Bassels’ band merges the swingin’ carefree sounds of 1930’s Parisian jazz, with the dreamy modern folk and blues landscapes of today. Their music is fresh and exciting, and infuses a sense of whimsy and romance likened to cinema verité and film noire. The group contains the exceptional talent of some of Toronto’s finest rising stars, including: Julien Bradley Combs (guitar), Andrew Scott (drums), Rus Bosswell (upright bass), and Jacob Gorzhaltsan on Clarinet and Saxophone.

The group met at Humber College back in 2011 while studying music and have been playing together ever since. Their chemistry is clear, and their camaraderie on stage is immediately engaging and endearing.

“Bassels has a winning combination here: a strong, clear voice, great stage presence, along with a tight rhythm section, forceful gypsy-jazz-influenced guitar, and expressive clarinet and tenor sax.” Brett Delmage,
ottawajazzscene.ca

Together the band has played jazz festivals across Ontario such as the TD Toronto Jazz Festival, Beaches Jazz Festival, Kensington Jazz Festival, Harbourfront’s Hot and Spicy Jazz Festival, Merrickville Jazz Festival, Brantford Jazz Festival, Barrie Jazz Festival, and Port Credits Southside Shuffle amongst many others. They just recently headlined at the TD Niagara Jazz Festival in Niagara on the Lake. and perform regularly around Toronto at venues such as The Jazz Bistro, 120 Diner, and La Revolucion. Launching from Lula Lounge on February 8th of 2017, they released the full-length album “What About Wool Wishbags” to critical acclaim. Bassels is set to release her her Canada, Ontario and Toronto funded album in winter of 2023

PLAYER BIOS

JACOB GORZHALTSAN: Clarinet and Saxophone

Jacob Gorzhaltsan is a Juno-nominated multi-instrumentalist and composer based in Toronto, Ontario. Born in Jerusalem, Israel, to parents who are both visual artists, Jacob moved to Canada at a young age and began studying music shortly afterwards. Early on in his musical pursuits, Jacob was fortunate to attend a workshop and play with his clarinet-hero, Buddy DeFranco -- a moment that continues to inspire his passion to this day. Subsequently, Jacob joined the Toronto All-Star Big Band (TABB) at a very young age, further developing his love for performance and the jazz tradition. Jacob was fortunate to study with a plethora of local Toronto musicians, and enjoyed four years at Humber College's B.A. of Music program.

He now performs and records extensively (both as a sideman and leader) with numerous groups in Toronto, and has played in various venues across Canada and the United States. He has had the pleasure of being a part of an incredible cast and crew for several concert productions and recordings with Soulpepper Company in the past few years. He is honoured to have shared the stage with Jackie Richardson, Denzal Sinclair, Kevin Breit, Noam Lemish, Amos Hoffman, Alex Bird and the Jazz Mavericks, Pedram Khavarzamani, Kalyna Rakel, The Israeli-Iranian Music Initiative, Heavyweights Brass Band, Travis Knights, Mike Ross and many others.

Jacob can be seen regularly playing at venues all around Toronto and the surrounding-area. As well, he is an active music educator, teaching woodwinds and music theory.

JULIEN BRADLEY COMBS - ELECTRIC GUITAR

Julien Bradley-Combs is a promising Toronto-based guitarist and composer. He has recently completed his Bachelors degree in Music, with Honours, from Humber College where he was the recipient of the Yamaha Music Award and the Musiccounts Award

Julien is a regular performer around Toronto and Southern Ontario, and plays a variety of musical genres. He has performed in several local jazz festivals (Toronto Jazz fest, Niagara Jazz Fest, Kensington Market Jazz Fest, Orangeville Jazz Fest), as well as at Toronto venues such as The Rex Hotel, The Home Smith Bar, The Emmet Ray, 120 Diner, and many others. Julien has performed with many acclaimed musicians, such as Christian McBride and Emilie-Claire Barlow during their residencies at Humber College, Ted Quinlan, Vaughan Meisner and Drew Jurecka.

ANDREW SCOTT: DRUMS

Andrew Scott is a touring/recording drummer and percussionist based out of Toronto. He graduated from the University of North Texas with an undergraduate degree in Jazz Studies in 2014. During his degree he studied with world renowned drum set instructor Ed Soph. Andrew's sense of time, taste and his professional attitude affords him the opportunity to play with many great artists across a multitude of musical genres. Recently entering the world of remote recording, Andrew has played drums for artists around the world in Russia, Chile, Spain, Mexico, Australia, England, and across North America.

DREW JURECKA: VIOLIN, CLARINET, SAXOPHONE, BANDONEAN

Won Record of the Year Grammy for his string arranging, playing and engineering work for pop sensation Dua Lipa. Jurecka is an accomplished musician who plays widely in many styles and genres. Classically trained on the violin, he branched out into Jazz at an early age and now works in a variety of musical settings as a performer, arranger, composer and producer. His violin and woodwind playing can be heard on numerous albums with Canadian artists in many genres including Jill

Barber, Ron Sexsmith, Bahamas, Donovan Woods, Jann Arden, Royal Wood, Classified, Alex Pangman and Jeff Healey to name a few.

To date, he has played and arranged on six Juno-winning albums. Outside of the recording studio, his arrangements and compositions have been performed by the National Arts Orchestra, Symphony Nova Scotia, The Regina Symphony, The Strasbourg Philharmonic, the Art of Time Ensemble, the Gryphon Trio and many others. His violin, viola and clarinet playing is featured prominently on the soundtrack of the recent CBC show 'Anne', and he can be heard as a violin soloist on numerous other television and film soundtracks in Canada and worldwide.

He toured for several years with Jeff Healey. He currently tours with Jill Barber (for whom he has produced three records). He plays regularly in Toronto with his band The Hogtown Syncopators and performs often with his jazz trio as well.

RUSS BOSWELL: UPRIGHT BASS

Russ Boswell has performed with some of Canada's top artists. He has toured extensively with David Wilcox, Corey Hart, Colm Wilkinson, Kevin Breit, Seals and Crofts, Ian Thomas, Marc Jordan, Julie Crochetière, Dianne Tell, The Parachute Club, Holly Cole and many more. Recording credits include Serena Ryder, David Wilcox, Corey Hart, Charlie Major, The Rankin Family, Russell deCarle, Beverly Mahood, Julie Crochetière, Harry Manx, Stephan Moccio, Julian Austin, Colm Wilkinson, Alfie Zapacosta, John Landry...see discography for more. Other artists he has performed

with over the years include David Clayton Thomas, Michael Kaeshammer, Ian and Dave Thomas, Kellylee Evans, Mary Margaret O'hara, Carol Welsman, Harry Manx, Dk Ibomeka, Carlos Del Junco, Billy Reed and the Street People and the Men From U.N.C.L.E. He can also be heard (and seen) in the movie Tommy Boy, on the soundtrack of The Love Guru, Jett Jackson, The Harold Arlen Story, Dinner at Freds, the Fifth Estate, numerous documentaries and the majority of sports broadcasts on TSN.