

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. Her music is fresh and exciting, and infuses a sense of whimsy and romance likened to cinema verité and film noire. Her live show has been described by prominent Canadian music journalist, Lenny Stout as “Stellar!” and “She lit up the joint like a six alarm blaze!”. BASSELS group contains the exceptional talent of some of Toronto’s finest stars, including: Ewen Farncombe, piano, Julien Bradley Combs (guitar), Kyle Sullivan (drums), George Koller (upright bass), and Drew Jurecka on Clarinet and Saxophone.

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. Denielle is set to release her new album “It Goes Like This” off the heels of her Juno nominated album in 2024 “Little Bit a’Love”.



JULIEN Bradley Combs

Julien Bradley-Combs is an emerging Toronto-based guitarist and composer whose dynamic range spans jazz, folk, and contemporary styles. A graduate with honors from Humber College’s Bachelor of Music program, he has been awarded the Yamaha Music Award and the Musiccounts Award. Regularly performing across Southern Ontario, Julien has played at venues such as The Rex Hotel and festivals like Toronto Jazz Fest. He has worked with renowned artists, including Christian McBride and Emilie-Claire Barlow, and regularly collaborates with Juno-nominated artist **Denielle Bassels**.



GEORGE Koller

George Koller is a bassist, producer, composer, multi-instrumentalist and promoter of jazz, world and folk music through concerts and his home grown label ZSAN Records (the zenith of science art and nature). In a wildly diverse and expansive career, he has worked with everyone, including Peter Gabriel, Eartha Kitt, Chaka Khan, Eddie Harris, Loreena Mckennitt, David Clayton-Thomas, Jim McCarty (The Yardbirds), Ian Tyson, The Shuffle Demons, Laila Biali, John Mcdermott, Larry Coryell, Karrin Allyson, Phil Woods, Michael Mcdonald, Carvin Winans, Sonny Stitt, Valdy, Eliana Cuevas and Holly Cole and many others



EWEN Farncombe

Ewen Farncombe is a Juno-nominated pianist and composer based out of Toronto and has been a professional on the scene there for nearly a decade. Having played on various recordings and with numerous bands, he has earned his reputation as a highly skilled musician. While he was attending Humber College for a degree in music performance, he received several prestigious awards, including

the Hnatyshyn Foundation Oscar Peterson award. While jazz is Ewen's passion, he is a versatile player and is known to play many genres of music.



DREW Jurecka

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 including Jann Arden, Royal Wood, Jill Barber, Jeff Healey and Alex Pangman, to name a few.



KYLE Sullivan

Kyle is a graduate of Humber College's renowned Jazz Music Program. As a student, he studied with Don Vickery, Paul

DeLong, Mark Kelso and Steve Mancuso, just to name a few. During his time as a student, he actively participated in Toronto's music scene playing with critically acclaimed Jerry Leger.