

# ONSTAGE

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AT PENN STATE

## JULIAN LAGE GROUP

underwritten by  
Corvette America



**CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
AT PENN STATE**

presents

**JULIAN LAGE  
GROUP**

with

**Tupac Mantilla  
Jorge Roeder  
Ben Roseth  
Aristides Rivas**

The program will be announced from the stage.

**7:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 13, 2009  
Schwab Auditorium**

*The concert includes one intermission.*

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# JULIAN LAGE

## SOUNDING POINT

When Julian Lage emerged on the music scene thirteen years ago, the young musician was not only deemed a guitar-playing prodigy but was also offered record deals. Playing a unique style that melded blues, classical, folk, and jazz influences, Lage decided to wait for the right moment to document his own music.

The guitarist became a sideman with established instrumentalists such as vibraphonist Gary Burton and collaborated with contemporaries including pianist Taylor Eigsti. Along the way, Lage received recognition from musical luminaries, including keyboardist Herbie Hancock and banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck, and patiently waited until he was ready to go into a studio with a band of like-minded players to realize his own musical vision.

The Boston-based Lage released his debut album, *Sounding Point*, in March 2009 on EmArcy Records, an imprint of Universal Records. The CD is remarkably the most striking—and sophisticated—premiere of a young instrumental artist and composer in years. The music ranges from through-composed works and impromptu improvisations in duo and trio settings to solo excursions and a finale capped by a masterful rendering of Miles Davis's "All Blues." Lage also delivers impressively original covers of Elliott Smith's "Alameda" and Neil Hefti's "Lil' Darlin'."

"I've been in a position where I could have recorded an album when I was younger but was never in a rush because I wanted to allow these compositions to grow and evolve in their own time," Lage says. "And within the past four years, I have felt

the music really take shape in the way I had always imagined. I feel grateful that there were no pressures on me to make a record until I felt it was time."

*Sounding Point* finds Lage leading his own band—saxophonist Ben Roseth, cellist Aristides Rivas, bassist Jorge Roeder, and drummer/percussionist Tupac Mantilla—as well as special guests Eigsti, Fleck, and renowned mandolinist Chris Thile of Nickel Creek and Punch Brothers fame.

The album opens with Lage's song "Clarity," which first appeared on Gary Burton's 2005 album *Next Generation*, for which Lage contributed three compositions. Lage says he took his original version of "Clarity," which was more like a jazz waltz, and re-envisioned it.

"I had experienced it so many times playing live with Gary that I wanted to try something new with it," he says. "So I broke it down, studied the building blocks of the composition, and came up with a more expansive and cohesive version. It's a rebirth."

The full band appears on "Clarity," with a fine cello performance by Rivas, who is also spotlighted on "All Purpose Beginning," a Lage number that is another 2.0 version of a composition he wrote three months before the recording session.

"I cut out and added new parts," Lage says. "I was looking to use sounds that had a palpable quality to them, sounds you could really feel and visualize, like a pencil writing on paper. The song is about someone writing a letter."

"Familiar Posture" is the first of two solo guitar pieces that each features themes from another song in the collection. "It's a solo improvisation inspired by a melodic idea from 'Long Day, Short Night' and is influenced by an Alfred Hitchcock feeling of suspense," Lage says. The second solo, "Constructive Rest," reflects another theme from "Long Day, Short Night."

"I really wanted to approach recording my first album from a holistic point of view," Lage says. "And everything came together. It was a great group effort."



HEAR OUR INTERVIEW  
WITH JULIAN LAGE.

[www.cpa.psu.edu/events/lage.html](http://www.cpa.psu.edu/events/lage.html)



## JULIAN LAGE GROUP MUSICIANS

**TUPAC MANTILLA (drummer and percussionist)** graduated with honors from Boston's New England Conservatory of Music. The native of Colombia also studied Indian music with Harvard Sangeet. Mantilla has given rhythm, world percussion, body percussion, stomp-based, and rhythmic skills clinics and workshops worldwide. His work includes concerts, tours, productions, and recordings with Danilo Perez, Bob Moses, Deepak Ram, Hankus Netsky, Michael Cain, TEKEYE, Juan Sebastian Monsalve, 1280 Almas, and others.

**JORGE ROEDER (bass)** was born in Lima, Peru, and plays with the trio of pianist Kenny Werner. Roeder is also a member of the Dan Tepfer Trio; the Sofia Koutsovitis Group, a South American jazz-folk band; the Jarrett Cherner Trio; Sol y Canto, a Boston-based Central and South American music group; and Avantrio, which is dedicated to performing Peruvian music.

**BEN ROSETH (alto and soprano saxophones)** was born and raised in Seattle. He pursued parallel degrees at two Boston institutions—jazz performance at the New England Conservatory of Music and international relations at Tufts University. He has a unique concept of fusion between jazz and folk music from around the world.

**ARISTIDES RIVAS (cello)**, from Venezuela, earned a bachelor of music degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and a master's degree in music at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He performs and gives master classes in Venezuela and is on the faculty at the Presjovem International Music Festival in Córdoba and Lucena, Spain.

## JULIAN LAGE DISCOGRAPHY

Julian Lage Group  
*Sounding Point*

Gary Burton  
*Generations*

Gary Burton  
*Next Generation*

Nnenna Freelon  
*Blueprint of a Lady:  
Sketches of Billie Holiday*  
(Grammy nomination)

Taylor Eigsti  
*Lucky to be Me*  
(Grammy nomination)

Taylor Eigsti  
*Let it Come to You*

David Grisman  
*Dawg Duos*