

**HAMMER THEATRE CENTER  
BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER WITH  
COOL YULE  
PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN LIVE STREAM  
FEATURING SJSU JAZZ ORCHESTRA  
7:30pm Wednesday, December 9**

SAN JOSE, CA (24 November 2020) – Students of the **San Jose State University Jazz Orchestra** will celebrate the start of the season with **Cool Yule**, a live streamed concert from the Hammer Theatre Center featuring the festive sounds of classic holiday songs, with a jazzy twist. This concert of contemporary jazz will feature two ensembles performing under the direction of Grammy Award-winning baritone saxophonist and composer **Aaron Lington**, streaming directly from the Hammer via its newly installed high-definition, studio-quality cameras. San Jose will be extra chill this holiday season with this diverse group of SJSU music majors’ unique spin on holiday classics, sure to put audiences in a mellow holiday mood. **Cool Yule** will be live streamed **7:30pm, Wednesday, December 9**. For more information or tickets (pay-what-you-can), the public may visit [www.hammertheatre.com](http://www.hammertheatre.com).

Directed by Dr. Aaron Lington, the **San Jose State University Jazz Orchestra** provides students with an opportunity to perform traditional and contemporary repertoire from an array of composers spanning over 50 years of Jazz history. *Activate* hails, “SJSU Jazz Orchestra knows a few numbers of their own. This diverse group of music majors are well versed in diverse styles- from classical to Afro-Latin jazz.” Students are selected for this ensemble by audition only.

**Aaron Lington** is a Grammy Award-winning artist and educator. In 2011, he was named the “Jazz Educator of the Year” by the California Music Educators Association. *Cadance Magazine* declares, “Lington and compatriots come up with a wonderful and totally

American jazz sound, [resulting in] a solid mainstream set based on some sweet melodic improvisation.”

Owned by the City of San Jose and operated by San Jose State University, the **Hammer Theatre Center** is a state-of-the-art performance venue located in the heart of downtown San Jose at 101 Paseo De San Antonio, between 2nd and 3rd Streets. The Hammer’s latest tech innovations, crowdfunded by the community and installed over the summer, will allow the venue to continue offering its community vibrant productions through streaming now, while large public gatherings are prohibited, as well as in the near future, when only smaller groups may be allowed in the audience. It also offers an alternative for the distant future, when public gatherings may once again be prohibited, and/or to provide accessibility to those unable to attend a live event in person. The 528-seat theatre has presented an array of offerings including outstanding professional productions, community-based works, SJSU shows, and concerts, as well as dance, music, talks, film screenings—even live aerial performances with dancers suspended outside, scaling the sides of the iconic blue building. In its 2018-19 season, the Hammer presented nearly 200 events, drawing more than 57,000 audience members. From jazz performances to mariachi extravaganzas, the popular *National Geographic Live!* speaker series to the acclaimed *National Theatre Live* film screenings, Cinequest film festival presentations, ballet and modern dance shows, kid-friendly performances, live art and more, the Hammer’s mission is to serve the community through artistic and educational programming that express the unique characteristics and diverse cultures of Silicon Valley.

### **For Calendar Editors**

**WHAT:** Students of the **San Jose State University Jazz Orchestra** will celebrate the start of the season with **Cool Yule**, a live streamed concert from the Hammer Theatre Center featuring the festive sounds of classic holiday songs, with a jazzy twist. This concert of contemporary jazz will feature two ensembles performing under the direction of Grammy Award-winning baritone saxophonist and composer **Aaron Lington**, streaming directly from the Hammer via its newly installed high-definition, studio-quality cameras. San Jose will be extra chill this holiday season with this diverse

group of SJSU music majors' unique spin on holiday classics, sure to put audiences in a mellow holiday mood.

**WHERE:** View from home – ticket holders are sent a link for viewing.

**WHEN:** 7:30pm, Wednesday, December 9

**INFO:** For tickets (pay-what-you-can), the public may visit [www.hammertheatre.com](http://www.hammertheatre.com).

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**PHOTOS:** Media may download high-res photos at:  
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/hammerholidays>