Jazz Trombone Day Final Concert featuring
U-Tubes and guest artist Michael Dease

The Plot Thickens (2022) .................................................. Jack Fetting (b. 1999)

Places (2022) .............................................................. Jason Schilling (b. 2000)

All Heath (2022) ............................................................. Michael Dease (b. 1982)
arr. DJ Rice (b. 1993)

Rainbow People (2007) .................................................. Steve Turre (b. 1948)
arr. Michael Dease/Nick Finzer (b. 1988)

Brooklyn (2016) ............................................................. Michael Dease
arr. Cam Henderson (b. 1998)

Grove’s Groove (2005) .................................................. Steve Davis (b. 1967)
arr. Chris Glassman (b. 1995)

Lament (1955) ............................................................... J.J. Johnson (1924–2001)
arr. Michael Dease

Good & Terrible (2017) ................................................... Michael Dease
arr. Josh Busby (b. 2001)

Wee Dot (1956) ............................................................... J.J. Johnson
arr. Michael Dease

U-Tubes • Cameron Henderson, director
Trombones: Jason Schilling, Isaac (Xi) Gong, Joshua Busby, Sean DeCoursey, Alex Parker, Drew Bryant, Paul Covert, Connor Fallon
Rhythm: Ariel Glassman (guitar), Alexandre Lesieutre (piano), Claudia Easterwood (bass), Joshua Ferrell (drumset)

Three hundred sixty-fourth program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited
about our guest artist

Michael Dease is one of the world’s eminent trombonists, lending his versatile sound and signature improvisations to over 200 recordings and groups as diverse as Grammy winning artists David Sanborn, Christian McBride, Michel Camilo, and Alicia Keys. Born in Augusta, Georgia, he played the saxophone and trumpet before choosing the trombone at age 17. In 2001, Dease moved to New York City to become part of the historic first class of jazz students at the Juilliard School, earning both bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and quickly established a reputation as a brilliant soloist, sideman, and bandleader. Best Next Thing (Posi-Tone, 2022), Dease’s newest release, his ninth on Posi-Tone, gathers together an assemblage of exceptional musicians to help him interactively explore the essence of the blues and reframe the abstract truths of jazz as the “Best Next Thing” for today’s audience of listeners.

Dease, the winner of the 69th Annual DownBeat Magazine Poll for Trombonist of the Year and multi-Grammy award winner, is also a sought-after lead, section and bass trombonist with today’s leading jazz orchestras. His experiences include bands led by Christian McBride, Roy Hargrove, Nicholas Payton, Charles Tolliver, Rufus Reid, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band. However, it is on the frontline of quintets and sextets led by master musicians like The Heath Brothers, Winard Harper, Renee Rosnes, Bill Charlap, Claudio Roditi, and Lewis Nash, where Dease has revitalized the trombone’s image. Not content to simply improvise, Dease arranges and composes for many different bands, constantly adjusting his tone and timbre to add just the right flavor to the music.

Dease’s unique blend of curiosity, hard work and optimism have helped him earn worldwide recognition, including awards from ASCAP, The International Trombone Association, Yamaha, Eastern Trombone Workshop, New York Youth Symphony, Hot House Magazine, Michigan State University, among others. Dease was profiled in Cicily Janus’ book, The New Face of Jazz: An Intimate Look at Today’s Living Legends (Random House). His experience in the studio has led him to produce several recording sessions for emerging artists, often composing and writing liner notes for the releases.

Dease’s singular talent has made him an effective and prolific teacher, resulting in invitations, masterclasses and residencies at University of North Texas, Scranton University, University of Iowa, Florida State College, Broward College, and many institutions abroad. He serves as Professor of Jazz Trombone at the renowned Michigan State University jazz program and has also been on faculty at Queens College-CUNY, The New School and Northeastern University. Always an informed, but forward-thinking musician, Dease learned the craft from trombone legends Wycliffe Gordon and Joseph Alessi. His associations have run the entire spectrum of musical experience: Alicia Keys, Paul Simon, Paul Schaffer and the CBS Orchestra, Elton John, Neal Diamond, Illinois Jacquet, Slide Hampton & The World of Trombones, Fred Wesley, Maceo Parker, WDR Big Band, George Gruntz, Billy Harper, and numerous others. Dease enjoys spending every possible minute with his extraordinary wife Gwendolyn (Professor of Percussion at MSU) and their daughters Brooklyn and Charley. Michael Dease is a Yamaha Performing Artist and uses Pickett Brass and Vandoren mouthpieces exclusively.