

12-6-2013

Concert: Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum

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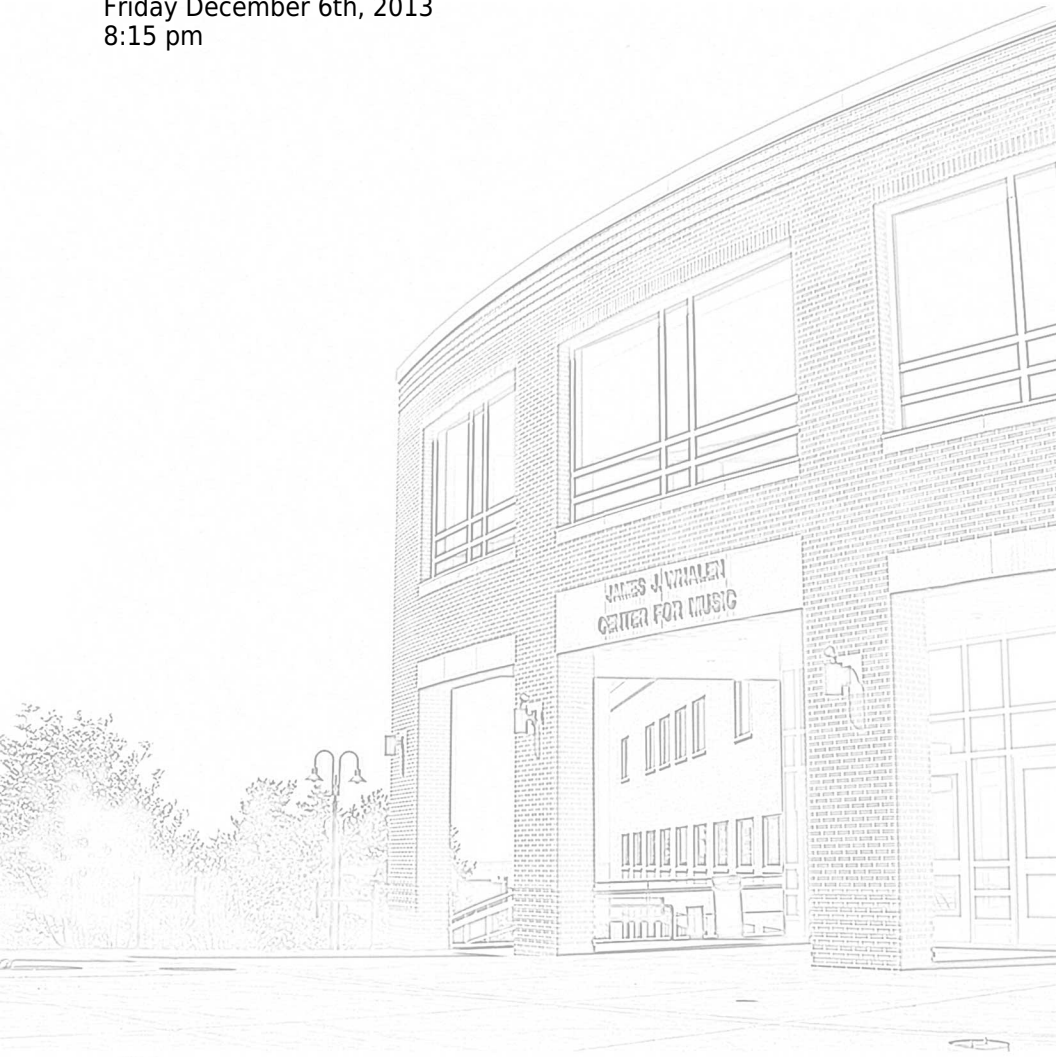
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Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum, director

"KINDA MONKISH"

Ford Hall
Friday December 6th, 2013
8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Let's Cool One

*Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor sax
Alec Miller, baritone sax
Matt Sidilau, trombone
Alex Toth, bass*

Thelonious Monk

Lulu's Back In Town

*Dan Felix, alto sax
Alec Miller, baritone sax
Joshua Condon, piano*

Music by Harry Warren
Lyrics by Al Dubin

In Walked Bud

*Dan Felix, alto sax
Matt Venora, trumpet
Jonah Prendergast, guitar
Paul Schwartz, trumpet
Joshua Condon, piano*

Thelonious Monk

Sweet and Lovely

Gus Arnheim, Charles M. Daniels,
and Harry Tobias

Matt Venora, trumpet
Jeff Chilton, trombone

Friday the 13th

Thelonious Monk

Jeff Chilton, trombone
Joshua Condon, piano
Jack Storer, trumpet

Ugly Beauty

Thelonious Monk

Jack Storer, trumpet
Jeff Chilton, trombone
Alex Toth, bass

Sassy Turkey

Thelonious Monk and Thad Jones

Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor sax
Matt Sidilau, trombone
Jack Storer, trumpet
Jeff Chilton, trombone
Joshua Condon, piano

Biographies

Mike Titlebaum

Since 2008, saxophonist/composer/arranger Mike Titlebaum has been Director of Jazz Studies at Ithaca College, where he directs large jazz ensembles, coaches small combos, teaches jazz saxophone and courses in jazz improvisation, repertoire, arranging, pedagogy and history. He is the founding member of the Ithaca Jazz Quartet and the creator of the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest.

He was born and raised in Rochester, NY, where he earned his BM in Saxophone Performance from the Eastman School of Music in 1991 and the coveted Performer's Certificate in Saxophone. He received his MM in 1992 from Eastman in Jazz and Contemporary Media. As a student, he won nine "DeeBee" awards from DownBeat magazine in multiple categories, including Jazz Performance (on both saxophone and trumpet), Classical Performance, Jazz Arranging, and Jazz Composition.

He played in many of New York's world famous musical venues, including the Blue Note, Smalls, Augies, Fez/Time Cafe and the infamous CBGB's as well as the pit orchestra of the Broadway musical "Cats." He has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra, and with dozens of internationally recognized artists and groups such as Jason Robert Brown, Red Rodney, Randy Brecker, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, Cab Calloway, Jeff Tyzik, Natalie Cole, Billy Taylor, Mel Torme, Manhattan Transfer, Branford Marsalis, Clark Terry, Lee Konitz, Kenny Wheeler, Billy Hart, Paquito D'Rivera, and many others.

Titlebaum has published numerous compositions and arrangements through Lorenz (Heritage Jazz Works), Advance Music, and GIA Publications.

Thelonious Monk

Jazz pianist Thelonious Monk (1917-1982) is one of the most intriguing figures in jazz history. His quirky personality was reflected in his offbeat take on jazz. He wrote approximately 70 compositions, which is relatively few as compared with other composers such as Duke Ellington, who wrote well over 1500. However, a large percentage of Monk's tunes have become all-time classic standards. His tunes are known for dissonant harmonies and angular melodic twists, yet have an appealing quality that grows upon repeated hearings.

Monk primarily performed and recorded his own compositions, however he occasionally chose songs from the Great American Songbook. Reworking and reharmonizing these standards in unique ways made them sound as if they were his own original works.

For this concert, themed "Kinda Monkish," we've chosen to honor Monk's contribution to jazz by programming a combination of his original compositions along with standards he recorded in distinctive ways.

Program Notes

The straightforward harmonies of Monk's **Let's Cool One** sound as if they were taken directly from the Great American Songbook. However, Monk uses one distinctive "wrong" note in several places within the melody (in one instance sustaining the note for two full measures), giving the tune it's Monkishness.

Lulu's Back In Town is a standard by Harry Warren and Al Dubin that Monk performed on multiple occasions. The simplicity of the song allowed Monk to change the harmonies just enough to get a quirky, almost "out of tune" quality. Our arrangement features several transcribed note-for-note choruses as performed by Monk himself.

In Walked Bud has been performed and recorded by many jazz artists, including legendary vocalist Jon Hendricks who wrote lyrics and sang them on a recording with Monk himself. The harmonies of the tune are very closely related to Irving Berlin's song **Blue Skies**.

The standard **Sweet and Lovely**, written by Gus Arnheim, Harry Tobias and Al Dubin, became a vehicle Monk recorded and performed throughout his career. In typical Monk manner, he retained the original melody of the song but changed a few harmonies to suit his own style.

Friday the 13th is a very simple tune, comprised of a single 4-bar phrase repeated several times. Because of its minimalistic quality, our arrangement deconstructs the basic elements of the tune and reassembles them in the style of minimalist composer Steve Reich.

The title of Monk's **Ugly Beauty**, which contains it's own opposite, is an example of his typical quirkiness. The melody is deeply moving, and it is the only tune Monk wrote in a 3/4 waltz meter. One of the most compelling

aspects of the tune is that it ends in a different key than it begins.

Sassy Turkey was inspired by Monk's album "Five by Monk by Five" which features cornetist Thad Jones. This recording led me to wonder if a combination of their compositions was possible. Our "mashup" solution to this self-imposed arranging challenge combines Monk's **Stuffy Turkey** (a tune he only recorded once) with Thad Jones' well-known big band composition **Don't Git Sassy**.

Personnel

Jazz Ensemble

Saxophones

Dan Felix, alto 1
Katie Herrle, alto 2
Corey Seapy, tenor 1
Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor 2
Alec Miller, baritone

Trombones

Matthew Confer
Matt Sidilau
Matthew Della Camera
Jeff Chilton, bass

Trumpets

Matt Venora
Jack Storer
Paul Schwartz
Matt Allen

Rhythm

Joshua Condon, piano
Andrew Hedge, drums
Jonah Prendergast, guitar
Alex Toth, bass

Upcoming Jazz Events

Saturday, Dec 7, 12:00 Noon in Ford Hall: Campus Band directed by Dan Isbell, and Campus Jazz Band directed by Bill Tiberio.

Monday, Dec 9, 8:15PM in Ford Hall: Jazz Lab Band directed by Bill Tiberio.

Thursday, Dec 12, 7:00PM in Hockett Recital Hall: Jazz Vocal Ensemble directed by Catherine Gale.

Thursday, January 30, 8:15PM in Nabenhauer Recital Hall: The Bennett/Evans Project: Catherine Gale, voice; Nick Weiser, piano.

Saturday, March 1, 7:00PM in Ford Hall: Regional Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Festival.

Wednesday, March 5, 9:00PM in Hockett Recital Hall: Junior recital of Emmett Scott, jazz piano.

Wednesday, April 9, 8:15PM in Hockett Recital Hall: Faculty recital of Nick Weiser, jazz piano.

Monday, April 21, 8:15PM in Ford Hall: Jazz Lab Band, directed by Bill Tiberio.

Tuesday, April 22, 8:15PM in Hockett Recital Hall: Jazz Vocal Ensemble, directed by Catherine Gale.

Monday, April 28, 8:15PM in Ford Hall: Jazz Repertory Ensemble, directed by Greg Evans.

Saturday, May 3, 12:00 Noon in Ford Hall: Campus Band directed by Dan Isbell, and Campus Jazz Band directed by Bill Tiberio.

Sunday, May 4, 4:00PM in Ford Hall: Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mike Titlebaum.