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Ensemble Concert: Arranger's Holiday

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum

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Jazz Ensemble
Mike Titlebaum, director

ARRANGER'S HOLIDAY

Ford Hall
Wednesday, May 4th, 2016
8:15 pm
Program

Wheel Within a Wheel  
Bobby Watson  
arr. Zach Forlenza-Bailey

Dan Felix, alto sax  
Dan Wenger, trombone

Come Rain or Come Shine  
Harold Arlen  
arr. Kevin Thompson

Alex Miller, trumpet  
Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor sax  
Dan Wenger, trombone  
Dan Felix, alto sax

Swahililand  
Ahmad Jamal  
arr. Andrew Hedge

Dan Felix, soprano sax  
Dan Wenger, trombone  
Chris Walsh, trumpet

Portrait  
Charles Mingus  
arr. Nathaniel Long

Dan Felix, alto sax

Limehouse Blues  
Douglas Furber and Philip Braham  
arr. Josh Oxford

Dan Felix, alto sax  
Jonah Prendergast, guitar
Brief Intermission

Reincarnation of a Lovebird

Charles Mingus
arr. Nikhil Bartolomeo

Nikhil Bartolomeo, alto
Dan Wenger, trombone
Kevin Thompson, bass

'Smatta

Kenny Wheeler
arr. James Powell

Dan Wenger, trombone
Jonah Prendergast, guitar

Runnin' Wild

A. Harrington Gibbs, Joe Grey and Leo Woods
arr. Laura Douthit

Laura Douthit, vocal
Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor sax
Dan Wenger, trombone

In a Mellow Tone

Duke Ellington
arr. Rebecca Angel

Rebecca Angel, vocal

Love Me or Leave Me

Walter Donaldson and Gus Kahn
arr. Hannah Martin

Hannah Martin, vocal
Nikhil Bartolomeo, alto sax

Chega De Saudade

Antonio Carlos Jobim
arr. Jonah Prendergast

Alex Miller, trumpet
Program Notes
Arranger's Holiday

Rayburn Wright, who served as music director at New York's famed Radio City Music Hall before teaching jazz at the Eastman School of Music, ran an annual arranging workshop every summer from 1959 until the early 90s. For three weeks, the workshop enlisted a professional studio orchestra, which included a jazz ensemble, winds, horns, and a full string section with harp. This Arranger's Orchestra was the real deal, comprised of musicians from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and top-notch professional jazz and studio players from Rochester and New York City. Every rehearsal was recorded multi-track, allowing for subsequent mix down afterwards. The results were completely professional.

The course itself met two hours a day for three weeks. Student arrangers would spend class meetings learning the craft of orchestration (how to write for each instrument and how to combine them), but the more important learning activity was what happened after class: bringing new arrangements to the ensemble for reading and recording. Students would write “charts” (what musicians call written sheet music), copy parts for the individual instruments at night, then hear them read and recorded by the pros the next day. Some reading sessions featured the entire orchestra, but others might just be for a subset, like the jazz ensemble or strings.

At the end of the three-week session, a culminating concert would feature music written by students, including an original comedy sketch revolving around a single musical theme. The concerts were massive events, featuring a world renowned guest artist and attracting thousands of fans each year (To get an idea of what they were like, Google the term “Billy Taylor - Spiritual” to see a video from the 1983 concert).

This evening's concert seeks to continue the tradition of Arranger's Holiday. The music on tonight's program was arranged entirely by Jazz Arranging II class. Students spent the first half of the term studying scores (from Rayburn Wright's arranging textbook, no less) and writing first drafts, and the remainder of the listening to rehearsals and making revisions. What you are about to hear is the culmination of these efforts, putting the students into an entirely realistic professional music-making situation.

But this concert is also something more. It demonstrates the holistic approach to music making that students will engage in for the rest of their lives. They have written the music themselves, specifically for their colleagues, and have worked collaboratively to rehearse it and perform it for you tonight. This is what being a creative musician is all about.

So, be sure to take note of their names; you'll be hearing them again in a few years when they're making beautiful music out in the "real world."

-Mike Titlebaum
Jazz Ensemble Personnel

**Saxophone**
Dan Felix, alto  
Nikhil Bartolomeo, alto  
Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor  
Dunham Hall, tenor  
Alec Miller, baritone

**Trombone**
Daniel Wenger  
Matthew Sidilau  
Benjamin Allen  
Matthew Della Camera, bass

**Trumpet**
Matthew Allen  
Christopher Walsh  
Alex Miller  
Raymond Fuller  
Max Deger

**Rhythm**
Andrew Hedge, drums  
James Lorusso, piano  
Jonah Prendergast, guitar  
Kevin Thompson, bass