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Concert: Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum

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Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Branford Marsalis, saxophone

Mike Titlebaum, director

Ford Hall

Monday, December 6, 2010

8:15 p.m.

Program

Hotter Than That

Louis Armstrong
arr. Mike Titlebaum

Damien Scalise, guitar

I'm Beginning To See The Light

Duke Ellington
arr. Sammy Nestico

Jason Juliano, alto saxophone
Charlie Fisher, trumpet

All Of Me

Gerald Marks and Seymour Simon
arr. Billy Byers

Joshua Condon, piano

World War II Pizza Man

Mike Titlebaum

Emily Pecoraro, piccolo

Pause

B's Paris Blues

Branford Marsalis
arr. Mike Titlebaum

Étude Op. 10, No. 6 in Eb Minor

Frédéric Chopin
arr. Mike Titlebaum

Skippy

Thelonious Monk
arr. Bill Dobbins

Fate

Branford Marsalis
arr. Mike Titlebaum

Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue

Duke Ellington

Biographies

Branford Marsalis

World-renowned saxophonist Branford Marsalis, born in 1960, has always been a man of numerous musical interests, from jazz, blues and funk to such classical music projects as his Fall 2008 tour with Marsalis Brasilianos. The three-time Grammy winner has continued to exercise and expand his skills as an instrumentalist, a composer, and the head of Marsalis Music, the label he founded in 2002 that has allowed him to produce both his own projects and those of the jazz world's most promising new and established artists.

The New Orleans native was born into one of the city's most distinguished musical families, which includes patriarch/pianist/educator Ellis and Branford's siblings Wynton, Delfeayo and Jason. Branford gained initial acclaim through his work with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and his brother Wynton's quintet in the early 1980s before forming his own ensemble. He has also performed and recorded with a who's-who of jazz giants including Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Herbie Hancock and Sonny Rollins.

Known for his innovative spirit and broad musical scope, Branford is equally at home on the stages of the world's greatest clubs and concert halls, where he has performed jazz with his Quartet and his own unique musical approach to contemporary popular music with his band Buckshot LeFonque. In recent years, Branford also has become increasingly active as a featured soloist with such acclaimed orchestras as the Chicago, Detroit, Düsseldorf and North Carolina Symphonies and the Boston Pops, in a growing repertoire that includes compositions by Copland, Debussy, Glazunov, Ibert, Mahler, Mihaud, Rorem and Vaughan Williams.

As Marsalis continues to establish his presence in the classical realm, his propensity for innovative and forward thinking compels him to seek new and challenging works by modern classical composers. One such composer, Sally Beamish, after hearing Branford perform her composition "The Imagined Sound of Sun on Stone" at the 2006 North Sea Jazz Festival, was inspired to reconceive a piece in progress, "Under the Wing of the Rock," which he premiered as part of the Celtic Connections festival Beamish's home country of Scotland in January 2009. This performance followed on the heels of his two month classical tour with the Philharmonia Brasileira in a program featuring the music of Brazil's master composer Heitor Villa Lobos and his friend, French composer Darius Milhaud, allowing the saxophonist the opportunity to more thoroughly engage the music and make it his own.

Marsalis's nearly two dozen recordings in these various styles have received numerous accolades with *Metamorphosen*, released in March 2009. *Metamorphosen* marked the tenth anniversary of Marsalis'

quartet, which features pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and drummer Jeff “Tain” Watts, and includes original compositions by all four members in a variety of moods, as well as features for Marsalis on tenor, soprano and alto saxophones.

His previous disc, the Grammy-nominated *Braggtown*, was acknowledged as his quartet’s greatest recorded achievement to date. The Marsalis quartet’s *Eternal* also received a Grammy nomination as well as virtually universal inclusion in lists and polls for the best jazz recording of 2004. Marsalis’ playing on the DVD Coltrane’s ‘A Love Supreme’ Live in Amsterdam also received a Grammy nomination for best instrumental jazz solo, while also garnering awards for music and video excellence from the DVD Association.

Marsalis is also dedicated to changing the future of jazz in the classroom. He has shared his knowledge at such universities as Michigan State, San Francisco State, Stanford and North Carolina Central, with his full quartet participating in an innovative extended residency at the NCCU campus. Beyond these efforts, he is also bringing a new approach to jazz education to student musicians and listeners in colleges and high schools through Marsalis Jams, an interactive program designed by Marsalis in which leading jazz ensembles present concert/jam sessions in mini-residencies. Marsalis Jams has visited campuses in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Southwest, and established an ongoing Marsalis Berklee Jams series with the Berklee College of Music in 2008.

These diverse interests are also reflected in Marsalis’ other activities. He spent two years touring and recording with Sting, and was the musical director of *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno for two years in the 1990s. He has collaborated with the Grateful Dead and Bruce Hornsby, acted in films including *Throw Mama from the Train* and *School Daze*, provided music for *Mo’ Better Blues* and other films and hosted National Public Radio’s syndicated program *Jazz Set*.

Among the most socially conscious voices in the arts, Marsalis quickly immersed himself in relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. He is the honorary chair of the New Orleans Habitat for Humanity effort to rebuild the city, and together with his friend Harry Connick, Jr. conceived the Habitat Musicians’ Village currently under construction in the city’s historic Ninth Ward.

Whether on the stage, in the recording studio, in the classroom or in the community, Branford Marsalis represents a commitment to musical excellence and a determination to keep music at the forefront.

Mike Titlebaum

Saxophonist/composer/arranger Mike Titlebaum is Director of Jazz Studies at Ithaca College, where he directs large jazz ensembles, coaches small combos, teaches jazz saxophone and courses in jazz improvisation, arranging, history, repertoire and pedagogy. He is the founding member of the Ithaca Jazz Quartet and the creator of the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest and the Ithaca All-Star Jazz Invitational for aspiring high school jazz musicians.

He was born and raised in Rochester, NY, where he also earned his BM in Saxophone Performance from the Eastman School of Music in 1991, as well as 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.

In 1994, Titlebaum moved to New York City where he enjoyed a very diverse career. He played in many of New York's world famous musical venues, including the Blue Note, Smalls, Augies, Fez/Time Café and the infamous CBGB's as well as the pit orchestra of the Broadway musical "Cats." He has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and with dozens of internationally recognized artists and groups such as Jason Robert Brown, Red Rodney, Randy Brecker, Jack McDuff, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, Cab Calloway, Natalie Cole, Billy Taylor, Mel Torme, Manhattan Transfer, Branford Marsalis, Clark Terry, Lee Konitz, Kenny Wheeler, Billy Hart, Paquito D'Rivera, and many others.

Personnel

Saxophones

Jason Juliano, alto I
Eric Troiano, alto II
Emily Pecoraro, tenor (split)
David DeHority, tenor (split)
Andrew Horwitz, baritone

Trombones

Scott Constable (lead)
Alexis Carr
Riley Goodemote
Steven Cooney (bass)

Trumpets

Charlie Fisher (lead, solos)
Paul Schwartz (asst. lead)
Kevin Guest
Marie Spoelstra

Rhythm

Joshua Condon, piano
Greg Evans, drums
Jordan Morton, bass
Damien Scalise, guitar
Jacob Thurston, bass

Upcoming Concerts

December

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------|--|
| 7 | H | 7:00 pm | Piano-Instrumental Duos |
| | F | 8:15 pm | Percussion Ensemble, Conrad Alexander, <i>director</i> |
| 8 | F | 8:15 pm | Brass Choir, Andrew Benware, <i>conductor</i> |
| 9 | F | 7:00 pm | Campus Choral Ensemble, Jennifer Haywood, <i>conductor</i> |

H = Hockett Family Recital Hall

F = Ford Hall

To receive occasional emails from the School of Music about upcoming concerts, send an email with your name and address to concerts@ithaca.edu.