9-19-2015

Concert: Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum

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Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble
Mike Titlebaum, director

WHAT IS JAZZ?

Ford Hall
Saturday, September 19th, 2015
10:00 am
**Program**

**Told You So**

*Bill Holman*

(1927)

*Dunham Hall, saxophone*

*Dan Wenger, trombone*

**Half the Fun**

*Duke Ellington*

(1899-1974)

*Dan Felix, alto saxophone*

*Lex Simakas, piano*

**Ol' Man River**

*Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein*

*arr. Bill Holman*

*Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor saxophone*

*Alex Miller, trumpet*

*Andrew Hedge, drums*

**What Is Jazz?**

*Leonard Bernstein*

(1918-1990)

*arr. Mike Titlebaum*

*Catherine Gale, vocal*

**Schmeezlemop**

*Mike Titlebaum*

(b. 1968)

*Dan Felix, alto saxophone*

*Dan Wenger, trombone*

*Alex Toth, bass*

**The Way Back**

*Mike Titlebaum*

*Chris Walsh, trumpet*

*Dan Wenger, trombone*

*Dunham Hall, tenor saxophone*

*Jonah Prendergast, guitar*
Jazz music can be difficult to describe because it means different things to different people. Some may disagree about whether or not any particular performer or piece of music should be categorized as jazz, but most listeners simply know jazz when they hear it, even if they can't say why.

However, we believe that it is important to demonstrate the fundamental aspects of jazz that make it unique from any other music: its swinging rhythms and deep blues feeling. And, because we are aspiring educators, we want to teach these things in a way that is fun and engaging to children because we want to build a passionate audience for the music we love so much.

This concert was inspired primarily by two things: a wonderful album recorded in 1956 by Leonard Bernstein that is simply called "What Is Jazz?" and by the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra's performance at Ithaca High School in 2010. The audience at that concert will surely never forget it. Director Wynton Marsalis was an engaging and effective spokesman for jazz, encouraging the kids to get out of their chairs, dance, sing and shout. His ensemble played with stunning clarity and swing feel, and with a remarkable use of dynamic contrast. This performance demonstrated clearly that they are the finest jazz group currently performing.

Leonard Bernstein was perhaps a more surprising spokesperson for jazz. He clearly loved the music, and enjoyed teaching young people about it. In addition to a long career spent composing and conducting the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Bernstein regularly gave lectures and performances for young people. The videos of his children's concerts are still the model today for how to teach kids tangible things about music in a clear and engaging way.

We hope you and your kids love the music, and return often to hear more.

-Mike Titlebaum
Jazz Ensemble Personnel

**Saxophones**
- Dan Felix, alto
- Nikhil Bartolomeo, alto
- Zach Forlenza-Bailey, tenor
- Dunham Hall, tenor
- Will VanDeMark, bari

**Trombones**
- Daniel Wenger
- Matt Sidilau
- Ben Allen
- Matthew Della Camera, bass

**Trumpets**
- Andrew Hedge, drums
- Jonah Prendergast, guitar
- Alex Toth, bass
- Lex Simakas, piano

**Rhythm**
- Jonah Prendergast, guitar
- Alex Toth, bass
- Lex Simakas, piano

Upcoming Jazz Events at Ithaca College

**Monday, Oct. 5 at 7PM (Hockett):** Faculty recital of Nicholas Walker, bass.

**Thursday, Oct. 8 at 8:15PM (Ford):** IC Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mike Titlebaum.

**Monday, Oct 19 at 8:15PM (Ford):** The Manley and Doriseve Thaler Jazz Concert and Masterclass: The John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble.

**Friday, Nov. 6 at 8:15PM (Ford):** Symphonic Band and Jazz Vocal Ensemble.

**Saturday, Nov. 7 at 8:15PM (Ford):** Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble.

**Sunday, Nov 8 at 7:00PM (Nabenhauer):** Elective jazz drum/percussion recital of James Powell, jazz studies major.

**Saturday, Dec. 5, 12 Noon (Ford):** Campus Band, and Campus Jazz Band, directed by Bill Tiberio.

**Saturday, Dec. 5, 4PM (Ford):** Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mike Titlebaum.

**Monday, Dec 7 (Ford):** Jazz Repertory Ensemble, directed by Greg Evans.

**Wednesday, Dec 9 (Ford):** Jazz Lab Band, directed by Bill Tiberio.

**Thursday, Dec 10 (Hockett):** Jazz Vocal Ensemble, directed by Doug Avery.