

5-4-2016

Ensemble Concert: Arranger's Holiday

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble

Mike Titlebaum

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Recommended Citation

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble and Titlebaum, Mike, "Ensemble Concert: Arranger's Holiday" (2016). *All Concert & Recital Programs*. 1817.

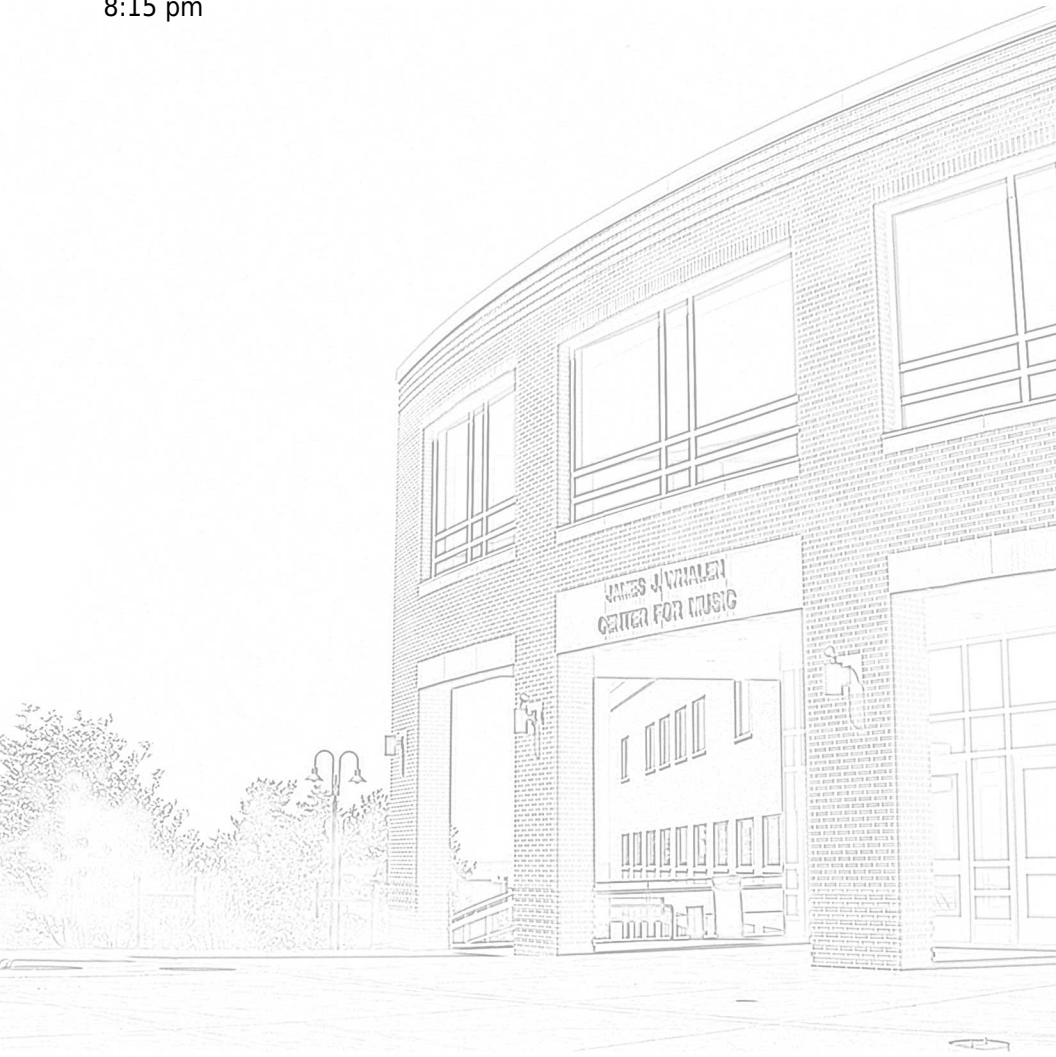
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Jazz Ensemble
Mike Titlebaum, director

ARRANGER'S HOLIDAY

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



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

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

Trumpet

Matthew Allen
Christopher Walsh
Alex Miller
Raymond Fuller
Max Deger

Trombone

Daniel Wenger
Matthew Sidilau
Benjamin Allen
Matthew Della Camera, bass

Rhythm

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