

Additional pieces by Zambezi Marimba Band

Williams Jazz Ensemble

Williams Jazz Ensemble
Andy Jaffe, *director*

Zambezi Marimba Band
Ernest Brown, *director*

Premieres of
big-band
arrangements
by students:
Ben Peskoe '10
Charlie Dougherty '09

Friday, March 7, 2008
Chapin Hall, 8:00 PM



Williams College
Department of Music

Program

Blue Train by John Coltrane (1926-1967), arr. Charlie Dougherty '09. Featuring Ben Peskoe, Guitar, Kenny Flax, Drums. The arranger writes: "...*My arrangement is an homage to the original recording. I based the melody on the original three-horn voicings, and the soli section on the tenor sax, trumpet, trombone and bass solos which I transcribed from the recording. The ending also pays tribute to Coltrane's original recording, as the melody modulates from Eb up to G and then back. This third relationship is an important tonal aspect of the entire "Blue Train" album.*"

I'm Walkin', written by Fats Domino (b. 1928), Arr. A. Jaffe, was a popular hit in 1951, one of the first crossover R & B hits. Tonight's arrangement was written for the Bill Lowe-Andy Jaffe Big Band to feature vocalist Kitty Kathryn. Tonight we feature Aspen Jordan, with a trumpet solo by Geoff Rodriguez and a piano solo by Dan Golub.

Never Will I Marry, written by Frank Loesser (1910-1969), Arr. Julian "Cannonball" Adderley (1928-1975), adapted for big band by A. Jaffe. This piece was popularized within the jazz repertoire by vocalist Nancy Wilson on her 1960 recording with the Cannonball Adderley Sextet. Tonight's arrangement features the original Cannonball Adderley alto saxophone solo, transcribed and orchestrated for big band. Our featured vocalist is Elin Hardenberg.

Evidence, by Thelonious Monk (1917-1982), Arr. Ben Peskoe. Evidence is one of Monk's most famous and idiosyncratic pieces. It is based on the chord changes to the standard "Just You, Just Me", which Monk also recorded. The arranger states: "...*Thelonious Monk's "Evidence" is marked by syncopated chordal hits that function as the melody, rather than a more traditional single-note melody line. My arrangement uses these chords, voiced in the trombone section, as a basis for the entire chart. The trumpets and saxophones then provide a counterpoint to the trombones, creating a layered effect which frames both the beginning and ending of the piece.*"

Walkin' and Swingin', by Mary Lou Williams (1910-1981), is one of many arrangements she wrote for *Andy Kirk and His Clouds of Joy*. Written in 1936, the piece is notable not just for its stereotypical riff-based Swing Era language, but as well for its oft-quoted soli section, which many musicologists regard as being the source of the melody to Thelonious Monk's famous piece "Rhythm A Ning" (Monk is said to have benefited from Williams' pianistic tutelage, so this is not surprising). Also of note is the soli's paraphrase of *El Manisero*, the first popular "Latin" jazz piece to become known in the US. Dan Golub plays the piano solo in the role of the composer, joined by Gordon Crabtree on Tenor Saxophone. Brian Bistolfo carries the lead line during the soli section.

Papiro, by Michael Phillip Mossman (b. 1959), is an Afro-Cuban jazz arrangement written strictly to clave (which accounts for its asymmetrical phrase structure). The cowbell provides our musical heartbeat throughout. Solos are by Gordon Crabtree, Ben Peskoe, and Brian Bistolfo, with some fine lead work by Alexa Lutchen,

Jazz Is, by Norman Mapp, Arr. A. Jaffe. This arrangement was originally written for the *Coltrane Big Band*, a big band enhanced with a 12-piece string section, and co-led by saxophonist Archie Shepp and the late Charles Majid Greenlee, originally featuring vocalist Semenya McCord. The piece was brought to the jazz repertoire through Betty Carter's recording. Tonight's featured vocalist is Aspen Jodan, with a solo by Brian Bistolfo.

I'm Coming Home, Arr. by Christian McBride (b.1957), Frank Newton. This piece, originally a pop vocal hit by *The Spinners* in the early '70's, was recently recorded by the bassist Christian McBride. That arrangement was then subsequently transcribed and arranged for Big Band by UMASS, Amherst, graduate student Frank Newton. Both McBride's and Newton's arrangements feature an underlying New Orleans style "street beat". Featured soloists tonight include Kenny Flax, Ben Peskoe, Gordon Crabtree, Mac Walton, and of course Charlie Dougherty.

Siemboka, composed and arranged by Alport Mhlanga is a creative interpretation of the dance music for Zambian girl's initiation ceremonies. This music comes from the all-night dance parties that accompany these celebrations.

Epistrophy (Monk), Arr. Jaffe, Brown, and Francisco Mora. Thelonious Monk's Epistrophy, a typically atypical Monk composition, built off of parallel dominant seventh chord harmony and an angular eighth-note melody (in this evening's arrangement this is played over an underlying 6/8 Son rhythm pattern), is presented this evening in a collaborative arrangement combining the Zambezi Marimba band with WJE, with soloists too numerous to mention. Thanks to Professor Brown and Artist in Residence Francisco Mora for their help in making this possible!

*No photography or recording without permission.
Please turn off or mute cell phones, audible pagers, etc.*

Williams Jazz Ensemble Personnel

Chris Ting '10, Lead Alto Saxophone
John McLeod, Alto Saxophone
Adam Jolicoeur, Alto and Soprano Saxophones
Gordon Crabtree '08, Tenor Saxophone
Dan King '09, Tenor Saxophone
Lorenzo Patrick '11, Baritone Saxophone

Mac Walton '08, Lead Trombone (and Jazz Program TA)
Andrea Currie '10, Trombone
Isaac Bernstein '10, Trombone
Casey Lyons, Bass Trombone

Geoff Rodriguez '11, Trumpet
Brian Bistolfo '09, Trumpet
Elin Hardenberg '11, Trumpet and Vocals ("Never Will I Marry")
Alexa Lutchen '11, Trumpet

Charlie Dougherty '09, Bass (and WJE librarian and straw boss)
Kenny Flax '09, Drums
Ben Peskoe '10, Guitar
Dan Golub '08, Piano

Aspen Jordan '11, Vocals

The Zambezi Marimba Band performs melodic percussion music from Africa. Recently, Zambezi has studied Zimbabwean marimba with Alport Mhlanga, Zimbabwean mbira music with Cosmas Magaya, and Ghanaian marimba with Bernard Woma. Tonight's concert is the Band's first foray into Latin jazz and grows out of workshops in Afro-Cuban music with Francisco Mora.

Personnel:

Issac Aboudunrin '11
Ernest Brown
Sara Dwyer '11
David Edwards '09
Kimberly Middleton '10
Nailah Wilds '09
Douglas Onyango '11

Upcoming Events:

3/8: Williams Concert Choir, Thompson Memorial Chapel, 8:00 p.m.
3/11: Jon Nakamatsu Bösendorfer Concert, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
3/12: MIDWEEKMUSIC, Chapin Hall, 12:15 p.m.
3/12: Jon Nakamatsu Master Class, Brooks-Rogers, 4:15 p.m.
4/1: Class of 1960's Lecture: Carl Leafstedt, Bernhard 30, 4:15 p.m.
4/4: New England Baroque Soloists, Thompson Memorial Hall, 8:00 p.m.

4/9 – 4/17: Williamstown Jazz Festival (www.williamstownjazz.com)

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