



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Will McLaughlin, saxophone

Dr. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, piano

Alfredo Ortiz, piano

Tommy Pusateri, bass

April 15th, 2021, 8:30 pm, PepsiCo Recital Hall

Sonata (1970)

Robert Muczynski (1929-2010)

I. Andante maestoso

II. Allegro energico

Concerto en Mi^b (1934)

Alexander Glazunov (1865-1936)

Assisted by Dr. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, piano

Pause

All of Me (1931)

Gerald Marks (1900-1997) and Seymour Simons (1896-1949)

St. Thomas (1956)

Sonny Rollins (1930-Present)

Four (1954)

Miles Davis (1926-1991)

Home at Last (1970)

Hank Mobley (1930-1986)

I Love You (1944)

Cole Porter (1891-1964)

Assisted by Alfredo Ortiz, piano and Tommy Pusateri, bass

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Music in Saxophone Performance. Mr. McLaughlin is a student of Professor Joe Eckert. The use of recording equipment or flash photography is prohibited.

Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

Program Notes

Sonata - Robert Muczynski

This fabulous work by Robert Muczynski explores all sides of the saxophone's capability and creates a unique listening experience for the audience member. This work was written for Trent Kynaston, Professor Emeritus of Music at Western Michigan University, where he taught for 39 years. While there, Kynaston created the Jazz Orchestra in 1974 and was also named Professor of the Year in 2008. Muczynski's **Sonata**, written in 1970, is split into two movements, starting with the "Andante maestoso," which is characterized by a wide range of dynamics and the climactic moments of the movement being made more prominent by the use of the instrument's altissimo register (throughout the entire work, only G, G#, and A are utilized in this register). Moving on to the second movement, an entire change of affect is made from one of mystery to energy and intensity – this movement being labeled "Allegro energico." This movement shows off the saxophonist's and writer's virtuosity, including many 16th note runs throughout that keep the performers on their toes. Also, like the first movement, this section includes a trip into the altissimo register. Muczynski even decides to end the work on the altissimo A in the saxophone, ending after a triplet run up to it. Lastly, this movement does not only bring intensity to the table but shows off Muczynski's lyrical writing abilities as well as the performers' lyrical playing abilities from midway through this movement.

Concerto en Mi^b - Alexander Glazunov

Alexander Glazunov's **Concerto in Mi^b** (E^b) is a work that is close to my heart and includes many beautiful musical moments throughout. The composition was written in 1934, composed for Sigurd Rascher, and was premiered in Sweden after much coercion from the performer. In addition to this, it's important to note that this work was originally written for solo saxophone and orchestral accompaniment, but today you will hear the commonly performed piano reduction in place of the orchestra. While most concertos have multiple movements (commonly 3), this one is unique in that it does not have multiple movements. Although it doesn't have multiple movements, it does have four significant sections throughout the piece that help to define the form and these four sections include the exposition, development, transition, and conclusion. These sections can then be further defined by musical moments that occur in the saxophone, piano, or both. The exposition goes from the beginning to the fast-paced chromatic run in the saxophone starting on E and ending on E two octaves apart. The development is in a

way defined by its brevity and it can also be noted that there is no real feeling of a home key in this section. The transition is also notable for its length, this time for how long it is, ending with a cadenza. Lastly, the conclusion picks up where the transition left off, starting with a fugue, and ultimately ending firmly back in the home key of concert E_b.

All of Me - Gerald Marks and Seymour Simons

The jazz standard, **All of Me**, is a popular tune written by Gerald Marks and Seymour Simons in 1931. Although this tune has been played by various artists throughout time, there are notable recordings of it including one by vocalist Billie Holiday, Lynne Sherman with the Count Basie Orchestra, and lastly Frank Sinatra.

St. Thomas - Sonny Rollins

Sonny Rollins' **St. Thomas** is a light, dance-like tune that was derived from a song from The Bahamas called **Sponger Money**. This tune rose to prominence in the jazz world after its release on Rollins' album, "Saxophone Colossus" where he collaborated with pianist, Tommy Flanagan, bassist, Doug Watkins, and drummer, Max Roach.

Four - Miles Davis

Four by Miles Davis is a very recognizable tune amongst the plethora of jazz standards that are in existence. The beginning of its melody is very simple and singe-able, and thus easy to identify. **Four** appeared on the album "Blue Haze" and included musicians Miles Davis on Trumpet, Horace Silver on Piano, Percy Heath on Bass, and Art Blakey on Drums (although this personnel changed for some of the tunes on the album).

Home at Last - Hank Mobley

Hank Mobley's **Home at Last** is part of a suite of pieces including **Thinking of Home**, **The Flight** and **Home at Last**. All that will be performed today though is the last part of that suite, **Home at Last**. Although this tune was made famous by Hank Mobley, one recording I referenced was that of the Hank Marr Quartet that includes tenor saxophonist Gene Walker and comes from Marr's 1995 album "It's Bout' Time."

I Love You - Cole Porter

The jazz standard **I Love You** was written by American composer and songwriter, Cole Porter, in 1944. Although this tune has been played as a stand-alone jazz standard countless times, it was initially written for the musical, *Mexican Hayride*. Although any individual jazz musician may point to a different recording as their own personal favorite, there are various prominent recordings including ones by John Coltrane, Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans, and Frank Sinatra.