



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Anna Rutherford, Saxophone
Cecilia Kao, Piano
Gabe Sanchez, Drums
Tommy Pusateri, Bass
Alfredo Ortiz, Piano

October 2nd, 2022

7:00 PM

Van Cliburn Concert Hall

Program

Czardas

Vittorio Monti
(1868-1922)
Arr. Ken-ichiro Muto

Improvisation II

Ryo Noda
(1948-present)

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano

I. Energetic
II. Meditative
III. Rhythmic

Paul Creston
(1906-1985)

Intermission

Lullaby of Birdland

George Shearing
(1919- 2011)

Lush Life

Billy Strayhorn
(1915- 1967)

The Shadow of Your Smile

Johnny Mandel
(1925-2020)

Nasty Women Grab Back

Roxy Coss
(1986-present)

Molly Leonard, saxophone

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Degree in Music Education. Anna Rutherford is a student of Joseph Eckert. The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited. Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

Vittorio Monti was an Italian composer, violinist, and conductor. He was born in Naples and later went on to conduct the Lamoureux Orchestra in Paris. His most famous composition is *Czardas*, written in 1904 and played worldwide on dozens of different instruments. Although it was originally composed for violin, mandolin, or piano, it has been adapted for saxophone and notably played by the famous saxophonist, Donald Sinta. *Czardas* is based on a Hungarian csárdás, a type of folk dance in which dancers start slowly and finish in a rapid whirl.

Improvisation II was written by Ryo Noda, a Japanese saxophonist and composer. He graduated from the Osaka College of Music and went on to study at Northwestern University under Fred L. Hemke and at the Bordeaux Conservatory in France under Jean-Marie Londeix. Noda has been widely hailed in the western hemisphere for his perfect control, powerful avant-garde improvisations, and innovative playing techniques. His *Improvisations I, II, and III* are based on the music played by the shakuhachi (a bamboo end-blown flute traditional in Japanese and Chinese music).

Paul Creston's *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano* was written in 1939 at the request of saxophonist Cecil Leeson, for whom Creston served as an accompanist. Originally composed for alto saxophone and orchestra, saxophonist Vincent Abato premiered the piece with the New York Philharmonic in 1944. Creston rescored the piece for symphonic band in 1963; it has also been adapted for saxophone and piano. The first movement, *Energetic*, is in sonata form and features driving rhythms interspersed with more lyrical passages. The second movement, *Meditative*, uses 5/4 time and Impressionist-inspired harmonies. This movement also includes a lengthy cadenza which expounds upon themes presented earlier in the movement. The final movement, *Rhythmic*, is in rondo form and features the astounding technical abilities of the saxophone with quick, flying passages.