



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Jessica Rowe, Trombone
Syuzanna Kazso, Piano

Friday, April 11, 2025

8:30 pm

PepsiCo Recital Hall

Program

Servant of Peace

I. The Road
II. The Cup
III. The Truth

Dorothy Gates
(b. 1966)

Haley Bruns, Drum Set

Intermission

Song of the Rose

Sonya Leonore Stahl
(b. 1981)

Dig This!!

Wycliffe Gordon
(b. 1967)

Axel Bevensee, Trombone
Haley Bruns, Drum Set
Hezan Daroona, Piano
Maya Kamal, Tenor Saxophone
Eli Miller, Bass

Jordu

Duke Jordan
(1922-2006)

Haley Bruns, Drum Set
Hezan Daroona, Piano
Maya Kamal, Tenor Saxophone
Eli Miller, Bass

A Child Is Born

Thad Jones
(1923-1986)

Haley Bruns, Drum Set
Hezan Daroona, Piano
Maya Kamal, Tenor Saxophone
Eli Miller, Bass

In The Stone

Earth, Wind & Fire
(Formed 1969)
Arr. Jessica Rowe

Axel Bevensee, Trombone
Haley Bruns, Drum Set
Hezan Daroona, Piano
Maya Kamal, Tenor Saxophone
Eli Miller, Bass

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Music Education.

Jessica Rowe is a student of Dr. David Begnoche.

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.

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

Program Notes

Servant of Peace

Dorothy Gates

Servant of Peace is genre-mixing piece, written by trombonist and composer Dorothy Gates in commission for Thomas Hultén by the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra and Wortham Foundation. The work is based on a poem written by Swedish diplomat and former Secretary-General of the UN, Dag Hammarskjöld, reading:

The road,

You shall follow it.

The fun,

You shall forget it.

The cup,

You shall empty it.

The pain,

You shall conceal it.

The truth,

You shall be told it.

The end,

You shall endure it.

The work follows Hammarskjöld's life, with the first movement "**The Road**" representing his choice of service to others through his diplomacy. The second movement "**The Cup**" represents themes of surrender, explicitly, Hammarskjöld's surrender to God and serving humanity. The third movement "**The Truth**" represents how Hammarskjöld lived his life after surrender, focusing on his positive impact on others and his fight for world peace. Dag Hammarskjöld is referenced throughout the piece continually, with each movement starting with a chord progression which spells out his name D-A-G. His name is also spelt melodically and harmonically throughout the work.

Song of the Rose

Sonya Leonore Stahl

Song of the Rose is a short yet beautiful piece, exploring the themes of love and death. The work is based on a short story written by Oscar Wilde, "The Nightingale and the Rose." Composer Sonya Leonore Stahl writes:

"In Oscar Wilde's 1888 short story "The Nightingale and the Rose" a nightingale seeks the rose a young man needs to win his sweetheart's favor. The bush, damaged by cold weather, tells her the only way: "you must build it out of music by moonlight, and stain it with your own heart's-blood. You must sing to me with your breast against a thorn. All night long you must sing to me, and the thorn must pierce your heart, and your life-blood must flow into my veins, and become mine." ... the trombone is the nightingale and the piano the rosebush. The three iterations of the melody represent the

three verses Wilde describes: sweet new love, the awakening of passion, and finally, love in death. By the third verse, just as in the text, the piano/rosebush has taken over the melody, although the trombone/nightingale concludes with “one last burst of music,” as Wilde writes, sacrificing her life for art, beauty, and love—all themes highly valued by Wilde himself.”

Dig This!!

Wycliffe Gordon

Dig This!! is the title track from Wycliffe Gordon’s 2003 album. *Dig This!!* is an electric chart featuring a laid back groove in its A section, then moves to a light latin feel before returning back to its theme. In its original recording, *Dig This!!* utilizes the unique textures and blends between organ and guitar to build this bridge between new and old music.

Wycliffe Gordon is considered one of the greatest trombone players of the 21st century. Growing up in Georgia, Gordon was influenced by music from an early age, citing the gospel music he grew up listening to being one of his biggest inspirations in music. Gordon grew a love for jazz at the age of 13 after inheriting a vast record album collection from his aunt. Early in his career, Wycliffe worked extensively with Wynton Marsalis and was an original member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Wycliffe Gordon now is a proficient composer and arranger, alongside being a phenomenal trombone player, and currently teaches at Augusta University, serving as the Director of Jazz Studies.

Further Listening:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_lml_w0KIqdXkQaaso77iGGSaD1bTxLS2M&si=U7ayCVT3EjsWMK8c

Jordu

Duke Jordan

Jordu is Duke Jordan’s most infamous composition, and holds its own as a standard in the jazz community. Written in 1953, the tune was first popularized when recorded by Clifford Brown and Max Roach on the album *Clifford Brown & Max Roach*. *Jordu* follows a simple AABA form with a minor “blues-y” sound that formulates the piece.

Duke Jordan, a pianist, was most well known throughout his career for working with others rather than individual work. In his long career, Jordan became first known in the 1940’s when playing in the original Charlie Parker quintet. Jordan continued to work with various bands and musicians, such as the Roy Eldridge big band, the Sonny Stitt/Gene Ammons quintet, and Stan Getz.

Further Listening:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_nuIoA_cEv0bJgqUBQ5aNycshtjM_eIfDc&si=iMsl_Dg50ZHwyOO4

A Child is Born

Thad Jones

A Child is Born is a ballad, written in 1969, famously performed by the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra. The waltz utilizes a simple yet beautiful melody. *A Child is Born* strays from Thad Jones' usual sounds as it emphasizes the beauty in its simplicity. *A Child is Born* comes from the acclaimed Thad Jones/Mel Lewis album *Consummation*. This album truly shows the range of Thad Jones and the Thad Jones Mel Lewis orchestra featuring a touching ballad, all the way to the energetic pulls in *Us*.

Thad Jones was a wildly successful jazz trumpeter, arranger, and composer. Jones played professionally with the likes of Sonny Stitt, Charles Mingus, and more famously, the Count Basie Orchestra from 1954-1963. Jones is best known during the Count Basie Orchestra era for playing "Pop Goes the Weasel" in *April in Paris*. Thad Jones then, alongside Mel Lewis, went to form his own orchestra in 1965.

Further Listening:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_lyMrQWyYEWuJkh4Z90D3ao4Mdl9W8Z0jk&si=b3PgFS1aJFMBJTbA

In the Stone

Earth, Wind & Fire

Earth, Wind & Fire was formed in 1969 by founder Maurice White. During the '70s, much of pop music took inspiration from and embraced African and African-American music styles; Earth, Wind & Fire proved integral to this musical evolution, bridging the gap between Black and White music genres (jazz, soul, funk, rock, gospel, blues, dance).

In the Stone is the first song on the band's 1979 studio album *I Am*. *In the Stone* is an electrifying dance song that fuses the genres of disco, funk, soul, and R&B. The lyrics provide a philosophical story of the inevitability of love, passion, and desire in the human experience. Love is something that is seen as a constant in life. The song ends with the repeated exclamation of "Never, never, my darling | Never you'll be alone | Ever, forever, my darling | True love is written in the stone" emphasizing the importance and greater encompassing support a true love for others provides us all.

Further Listening:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_lxgL-uFSdAA0q5A-ZUFtKcXdi4-UZ3QqI&si=0I8DLmk--CHiB60I