

Programme

Variations on Pick Yourself Up

Melody by Jerome Kern
Arranged by Barry Brinson

This classic melody was originally a dance number from a 1938 movie "On Your Toes" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Kern's harmonic structure is almost "baroque" and so lends itself to our "Classical Jazz" treatment - a fine opening number!!

Sweet Georgia Brown

Music by Ben Bernie and Maceo Pinkard

This swinging jazz "standard" from 1925 has become the vehicle for many styles of jazz arrangements from trad. Dixie to modern jazz. Little is known about the composer or lyricist, but it is thought the song was written about the daughter (named Georgia) of one Dr Thaddeus Brown, a long time member of the House of Representatives for Georgia. A bit of useless information perhaps - thanks to Google. Just enjoy our interpretation!!

Flamingo

Melody by Ted Grouya

The opening bars of this lovely melody are suggestive of Debussy's well loved "Clair de Lune" and this interpretation comes to us from a fine performance by Stephan Grappelli and George Shearing.

Music by George Gershwin (1898 - 1938)

I Got Plenty o' Nuthin' from "Porgy and Bess"

(arranged for piano solo by Barry Brinson)

Three Preludes - Arranged for Violin and Piano by Jascha Heifetz

- I Allegro ben ritmico e deciso
- II Andante con moto e poco rubato
- III Allegro con brio

Heifetz and Gershwin were contemporaries and friends who often collaborated in concerts together. These brilliant transcriptions for Violin and Piano are part of a collection which includes a Suite from "Porgy and Bess" and "An American in Paris" in collaboration with his brother Ira. George Gershwin wrote music for many fine "Tin Pan Alley" songs, and his emergence as a composer of "serious" works such as the "Rhapsody in Blue", and the score of the folk opera "Porgy and Bess" place him as one of the most significant composers of 20th century American music. If only he had lived beyond his 39th year.....

My Funny Valentine

Melody by Richard Rodgers
Arranged BB

This is a show tune from a 1937 Rodgers and Hart Broadway musical production "Babes In Arms". The show has long since passed into obscurity, but this lovely melody endures as a jazz "standard" and such is the genius of Rodgers melodic and harmonic skills that it fits very well into the Classical Jazz concept.

Czardas

Vittorio Monti (1868 - 1922)

This brilliant, popular "showpiece" is performed by virtuoso concert violinists the world over. I don't think Monti ever intended to add double bass and drums to the performance, but - well, that's jazz!! You could say that this is the Full Monty.

It Don't Mean A Thing

Music by Duke Ellington

Many attempts have been made to define "what is jazz?" over the past 100+ years during which the art form has evolved and become perhaps the most significant American musical gift to the world. Without getting into academic discussion, the lyricist for the Duke Ellington band, Irving Mills, got it right, in 1932 with the succinct statement "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing". How true, how true!!!

INTERVAL

Blue Rondo "A La Turk"

Dave Brubeck (1920 - 2012)

Brubeck had studied harmony and composition with Darius Milhaud and Arnold Schoenberg before forming his jazz quartet in the 1950's with saxophonist Paul Desmond - among their first hits being the ever popular "Take Five". Brubeck experimented with unusual time signatures, and the 1961 album "Time Out" included this Rondo A La Turk, with its 9/8 time signature, based on a Turkish rhythm of 2+2+2+3, and 3+3+3 as a departure from the usual steady 4/4 rhythm. The central "blues" improvisations are in traditional 4-beat rhythm.

In his latter years, Brubeck wrote much religious music, including a Mass setting, and an Oratorio. He died on December 5th 2012, just one day short of his 92nd birthday.

Variations from Caprice No.24 in A minor Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840)

This famous Theme and 11 Variations for solo violin has been the inspiration for many later compositions and arrangements, by Brahms, Rachmaninov, and Julian Lloyd Webber, to name a few. We present five of the original variations, leading to piano interpretations based on the 1977 Lloyd Webber "rock" version, with an "up-tempo" jazz finale.

Too Marvellous For Words

Johnny Mercer and Richard Whiting

Originally composed in 1937 for a Warner Bros film "Ready Willing and Able" the song has become a much loved standard for many vocalists and jazz groups. The inspiration for our version comes, once again, from a fine performance by Stephan Grappelli and George Shearing.

The Tango Music of Astor Piazzolla - (1921 - 1992)

Of Argentinian birth, Astor's family left Argentina for New York in 1925, a fact which was to influence his later musical career. In his music he created a synthesis between the traditional Argentinian tango dance forms and influences from classical music and jazz. He was able to reach a new audience by introducing the so-called Tango Nueva to the concert stage, receiving recognition from such influential musicians as Daniel Barenboim and Yo-Yo Ma. Astor Piazzolla died in Buenos Aires in 1992.

(a) Milonga en re

Milonga is a slow, sensuous (sexy?) dance with an insistent, mesmeric almost hypnotic rhythm (perhaps reminiscent of Ravel's "Bolero"?)

(b) Libertango

A more traditional "ballroom" Tango (but far removed from the "Dancing with the Stars" variety!!) From a sensuous solo violin introduction, the rhythm is picked up by the piano and other instruments and builds to a climactic finale.

For this performance we are pleased to introduce our guest artist,
Carolyn Irons, on Clarinet

Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano Trio

Claude Bolling (1930 -)

Claude Bolling is a renowned French jazz pianist, composer and arranger. Born in Cannes, he studied at the Nice Conservatoire, then in Paris. By the age of 14 he was playing piano professionally, and was a major part of the French jazz revival of the 1960's, collaborating with many famous musicians including Oscar Peterson, Llorrel Hampton, Stephan Grappelli, Jean-Pierre Rampal, violinist Pinchas Zukerman, trumpeter Maurice Andre, and cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

The Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano Trio, composed for Pinchas Zukerman, is in eight movements, of which we play the last three this evening:

Ragtime: A typical 1920's style Ragtime - emulating the style of Scott Joplin

Valse Lente: A gently moving jazz waltz

Hora: A fast-moving brilliant showpiece - in the style of a "moto perpetuo"

Isla's Blues from "Jazz Bites"

Philip Norman (b.1953 -)

Prolific Christchurch composer, Philip Norman has written music for orchestras, choirs, stage and screen (e.g. "Footrot Flats" and "Love Off The Shelf") and schools music festivals. The suite of three pieces from which Isla's Blues is taken, was written for the 2010 New Zealand Secondary Schools Chamber Music competition, and first performed in the Maurice Tii Concert Room of the Christchurch Music Centre, - now sadly demolished.

Classical Jazz

at the Nut Point Centre



THE CLASSICAL JAZZ QUARTET

Cathy Irons - Violin
Barry Brinson - Piano
Mike Kime - Double Bass
Ted Meager - Percussion
and special Guest
Carolyn Irons - Clarinet



Saturday November 30, 2013 at 7.30 pm