

PCD2015/10/22

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY.

JMU School of Music
presents

***Billy Strayhorn: A
Centennial Celebration***

featuring the

JMU Jazz Band

Dr. David Stringham, *Director*

JMU Jazz Ensemble

Dr. Charles Dotas, *Director*

JMU Jazz Studies Faculty

Thursday, October 22, 2015

8 pm

Concert Hall



15-minute intermission

Program

1 Feet on the Beat

Billy Strayhorn
edited Walter van de Leur

Evan Kopca, *clarinet*

X Caravan

Juan Tizol, Duke Ellington, & Irving Mills
arranged Billy Strayhorn

Chloe Youtsey, *voice*
Evan Kopca, *clarinet*

2 Cashmere Cutie

Billy Strayhorn
edited J. Lindberg

Will Seamon, *piano*

3 Not in Program! "Chelsea Bridge"

4 Oink

Billy Strayhorn
transcribed Bob Hallahan

JMU Jazz Studies Faculty

5 Isfahan

Billy Strayhorn

Brett Kirby, *alto saxophone*
Jon Stapleton, *conductor*

6 Bluebird of Delhi

Billy Strayhorn

Evan Kopca, *clarinet*

7 Agra

Billy Strayhorn

Joseph McNure, *baritone saxophone*

8 Jo

Billy Strayhorn
edited Walter van de Leur

John Dixon, *trumpet*
Joseph Nichols, *bass*
Matt Rapiejko, *drums*

The George West Jazz Studies Scholarship Fund

George "Doc" West (1931-2013) founded the JMU Jazz Ensemble in 1971 and directed the jazz studies program at JMU for 25 years. James Madison University has established a scholarship fund in Doc's name; all proceeds support scholarships awarded to students active in the JMU Jazz Studies program.

To contribute to the West Jazz Studies Scholarship Fund,
Phone 855-JMU-GIVE or 855-568-4483 or email vucicbm@jmu.edu

Program Continued

- 9 Swing Dance
Billy Strayhorn
edited Walter van de Leur
Austin Stahle, *guitar*
- 10 U.M.M.G.
Billy Strayhorn
Charlie Frise, *trumpet*
Courtney Wright, *bari sax*
- X Passion Flower
Billy Strayhorn
Will Armstrong, *piano*
Peter Burkholder, *alto sax*
- 12 Bagatelle
Billy Strayhorn
edited Walter van de Leur
Will Ford, *trombone*
Kevin Ichord, *tenor sax*
Peter Burkholder, *alto sax*
- 14 Medley: A Flower is a Lovesome Thing/
Lotus Blossom/Lush Life
Billy Strayhorn
arr. Bob Hallahan
Chloe Youtsey, *voice*
Bob Hallahan, *piano*
- 13 Moon River
Henry Mancini
arr. Billy Strayhorn
Dylan Rye, *trumpet*
Thomas Graham, *trumpet*
- 15 Raincheck
Billy Strayhorn
transcribed David Berger
Kaleel Moore, *tenor sax*
- 16 Day Dream
words and music by Billy Strayhorn
edited Walter van de Leur
Chloe Youtsey, *voice*
- X Johnny Come Lately
Billy Strayhorn
transcribed David Berger
JP Riley, *trombone*
- 17 Blood Count
Billy Strayhorn
Peter Burkholder, *alto sax*
- 19 Take the "A" Train
Billy Strayhorn
transcribed David Berger
Charlie Frise, *trumpet*



Billy Strayhorn
(1915-1967)

Program Notes

William Thomas "Billy" Strayhorn (1915-1967) was one of the most accomplished composers in the history of American music, the creator of a body of work that includes many jazz standards. Yet all his adult life Strayhorn was overshadowed by his long-time employer, Duke Ellington. A musical prodigy who began his career as a pianist and composer while still a teenager in Pittsburgh, Strayhorn came to New York City at Ellington's invitation in 1939, remaining on the Ellington organization payroll for nearly three decades until Strayhorn's untimely death at age fifty-one. Strayhorn composed and arranged an astonishing amount of music for his employer: close to fifteen hundred autograph scores for the Ellington Orchestra in Strayhorn's hand survive, over five hundred of which were recorded by the Ellington Orchestra. Outside the Ellington organization, Strayhorn had an important, yet for the public eye largely hidden, musical life as a composer, arranger, and lyricist, writing for musical theater and in non-jazz genres.

In the Ellington organization, Strayhorn labored under a complex, unwritten agreement whereby Ellington thrived in the role of public artist to Strayhorn's private one, often taking the bows (and collecting the publishing royalties) for Strayhorn's work. Strayhorn was alternately relieved to be kept out of the limelight and frustrated about it. In Harlem, Paris, and New York City's downtown café society, the diminutive, soft-spoken African American composer carried himself with singular style and grace as one of the few mid-century jazzmen to be openly homosexual. His skill as a pianist and composer made him a hero to other musicians, but when he died in 1967, his life cut short by alcohol abuse and cancer, few people understood the vital role he played in the Ellington Orchestra's development into a vehicle for some of the most ambitious American music of the twentieth century.

This evening's concert would not be possible without the generous cooperation of Walter van de Leur, Professor of Jazz and Improvised Music at the University of Amsterdam, David Berger, and A. Alyce Claerbaut, President of Billy Strayhorn Songs, Inc. A wealth of information about Strayhorn's life and music can be found in two excellent texts (from which the above biographical information was excerpted): *Lush Life: A Biography of Billy Strayhorn* by David Hajdu, and *Something to Live For: The Music of Billy Strayhorn* by Walter van de Leur.

Personnel

JMU Jazz Band

Voice

Chloe Youtsey

Woodwinds

Lenny Grasso
Emma Guy
Evan Kopca
Joseph McNure
Abby Smith
Jon Stapleton

Trumpets

Tyler Bailey
John Dixon
Eli Goldstein
Matt Soderberg
Elizabeth Vaughn

Trombones

Shelby Hall
Brice Pully
Bobby Warden
Smith Waylett

Rhythm Section

Will Seamon, *piano*
Trae King, *guitar*
Joseph Nichols, *bass*
Neal Perrine, *bass*
Matt Rapiejko, *drums*
Elijah Steele, *drums*

JMU Jazz Ensemble

Voice

Chloe Youtsey

Woodwinds

Peter Burkholder, *alto sax*
Melissa Leider, *alto sax, clarinet*
Kevin Ichord, *tenor, alto saxes*
Kaleel Moore, *tenor sax*
Courtney Wright, *baritone sax*

Trumpets

Alec Moser
Charlie Frise
Michael Sullivan
Dylan Rye
Thomas Graham

Trombones

Ryan Doherty
Aiden Farley
Will Ford
JP Riley

Rhythm Section

Will Armstrong, *piano*
Austin Stahle, *guitar*
Max Barrett, *bass*
Tim Kaetzel, *drumset*
Chris Watral, *drumset*

Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones, personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

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Upcoming Events

<i>Masterpiece Season- Tenebrae</i>	Sat., Oct. 24 @ 8pm, Concert Hall*
<i>Guest Artist - Peter Wilson, violin</i>	Tues., Oct. 27 @ 8 pm, Recital Hall*
JMU Jazz Combos	Tues., Oct. 27 @ 7 – 9 pm, Artful Dodger
JMU Student Composers	Wed., Oct. 28 @ 8 pm, Recital Hall*
<i>Guest Artist - Wayne Tice, saxophone</i>	Thurs., Oct. 29 @ 8 pm, Recital Hall*
The Madison Singers & JMU Chorale	Fri., Oct. 30 @ 8 pm, Concert Hall*
JMU Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Band	Tues., Dec. 8 @ 8pm, Concert Hall*

*These concerts provide student credit for MUS 195.

For tickets and further information, visit www.jmuforbescenter.com or call the Forbes Center Box Office at (540) 568-7000. For more on the School of Music, go to www.jmu.edu/music or call (540) 568-6714.