

Lorain County Community College Jazz Band
Presents

Big Band in the Covid Era

Classic Jazz for socially distanced
small jazz ensembles

Limehouse Blues

arranged by Paul Severson

We start tonight's show with Limehouse Blues. The Blues are an American invention, born from slaves in the American South long before the Civil War. A typical blues tune is 12 measures long and follows a prescribed set of chord changes. Limehouse Blues is neither American nor typical in form. Written in the 1920's by a pair of Englishmen, Limehouse is 32 measures long and doesn't follow blues chord changes. Limehouse refers to a neighborhood in London.

Autumn Leaves

written by Joe Kosma

We feature trumpeter Noe Fernandez to Autumn Leaves, the jazz standard written in 1945. Recorded by many jazz and pop musicians, the Roger Williams piano version was the #1 song of 1955. Jazz legend Chet Baker recorded his version in 1974, along with alto sax great Paul Desmond.

I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover

arr. by Paul Severson

Here's a Dixieland style arrangement of this novelty number written in 1924. The tune has been used in movies, commercials, the famous Mummers Parade in Philadelphia and many others. This was not written as a jazz tune, but it became so popular that many artists, including jazz performers have recorded it over the years.

Body and Soul

written by Johnny Green

Body and Soul was originally written in 1930 as a vocal piece. In 1939, Jazz tenor sax great Coleman Hawkins recorded the tune in what is considered one of the greatest performances in jazz history. Body and Soul has been recorded hundreds of times by both pop and jazz musicians. Tonight we feature our own tenor saxophonist Joe Kardos.

Black Bottom Stomp

arr. by Paul Severson

Black Bottom was composed in 1923 by Jelly Roll Morton, the self-described “inventor” of jazz. It is a typical dixieland style piece, following the form established by dixieland’s predecessor, ragtime, and using a “front line” of Clarinet or Soprano Sax, Trumpet and Trombone. Black Bottom was first recorded by Jelly Roll Morton and his Red Hot Peppers in 1926.

Do Nothin Till You Hear From Me

arr. by Dave Wolpe

Written by Duke Ellington in 1940, Do Nothin was originally an instrumental entitled Concerto for Cootie featuring trumpet player Cootie Williams. Lyrics were added about four years later, and the vocal version has become by far the more popular. Tonight we feature our vocalist, Sarah Miller to an arrangement by Dave Wolpe.

The Birth of the Blues

arr. by Paul Severson

This tune was written in 1926 for a Broadway revue, and has become a jazz standard, recorded dozens of times, by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Pete Fountain, Paul Whiteman, Louis Prima, the list goes on and on. The version we’re performing tonight features the typical dixieland front line of Soprano Sax, Trumpet and Trombone.

In a Mellow Tone

arr. by Rick Stitzel

Another tune written by Duke Ellington in 1940, this instrumental was based on a vocal piece written in the 1930’s. Probably the most well known and often played version of this tune is a recording by Ellington and Louis Armstrong.

The Pink Panther

arr. by Mike Tomaro

Written in 1963 by Henry Mancini for the film series of the same name, The Pink Panther has become one of those tunes that just about everyone knows. Most people will recognize the tune from just the first four notes. Our arrangement, done by Mike Tomaro, isn’t typical, yet it is a great update to a classic piece.

Yardbird Suite

written by Charlie Parker

Tonight we celebrate the genius of sax great Charlie Parker, who was born 100 years ago. Nicknamed Yardbird, or just Bird, Parker has one of the most revered performers in all of jazz. Yardbird Suite was composed by Parker in 1946 and has become a bebop anthem. Tonight we alto saxophonist Jon Eager to this jazz classic.

Moment's Notice

arr. by Mark Taylor

John Coltrane's Moment's Notice was written in 1958 for his classic album, Blue Train. While the melody of the tune isn't difficult, the chord changes are anything but standard. As the story goes, when Coltrane brought this piece to the recording studio without sharing it with the rest of the band beforehand, trombonist Curtis Fulmer remarked, "we have to play this at a moment's notice?" Thus, the title.

Summertime

arr. by Dave Wolpe

Once again we feature vocalist Sarah Miller in George Gershwin's Summertime. Written for Gershwin's self-described "jazz opera" Porgy and Bess, Summertime has become one of his most well known and performed tunes. The list of performers who have recorded Summertime is almost endless. Our version tonight is another arrangement by Dave Wolpe.

Ginza Samba

arr. by Jeff Meyers

Ginza Samba was written by one of those people that everyone has heard, but no one has heard of. Vince Guaraldi wrote the piece. His is not a household name, but some of his other compositions have been heard by millions as the musical soundtrack to the holiday specials of Charlie Brown. The soundtrack to A Charlie Brown Christmas is one of the highest selling albums of all time. Ginza in the title of this piece refers to a high end shopping district in Tokyo, and of course a samba is a Latin American dance style. So we have a melody influenced by Japanese music, over a Latin American beat, with a little bit of swing thrown in for good measure.

Tonight's Performers

Jon Eager, alto and soprano saxes

Joe Kardos, tenor sax

Joe Szucs, tenor sax

Cassie Pennington, alto sax

Jeff Meyers, soprano and baritone saxes

Noe Fernandez, trumpet

Bob Dills, trumpet

David Troike, trumpet

Mark Wainwright, trombone

Joshua Cebull, trombone

Mark Skladan, piano

Al Szucs, bass

David Lewis, drum set

Dick Ferancy, guitar