

UNIVERSITY OF
R Redlands
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

STUDIO JAZZ BAND
David Scott, Director

Wednesday, March 28th, 2012 - 8 p.m.
CASA LOMA ROOM

Nerkmobile	Neal Finn
Medicine Man	Bob Washut
The Big Show	Bob Mintzer (b. 1953)
Skylark	Hoagy Carmichael (1899-1981) Johnny Mercer (1909-1976) Arr. Al Cobine
The Shortest Dissonance Between Two Points	Les Hooper
Play That Funky Music	Robert Parissi (b. 1950) Arr. Gordon Goodwin
Hunting Wabbits	Gordon Goodwin (b. 1954)
Cherry Juice	Thad Jones (1923-1986)

Nerkmobile

Neal Finn has been active in Jazz education and composition since 1984. He has arranged for notable Jazz artists, and his original compositions are performed nationally by collegiate and high school jazz ensembles. *Nerkmobile* is one of those original compositions in the style of a light, straight-ahead Basie swing. As the winner of a 1978 PCCJF competition sponsored by International Association of Jazz Educators, this free-swinging piece features a variety of licks and ensemble features.

Medicine Man

Receiving numerous commissions as an accomplished Jazz composer and arranger, Bob Washut was commissioned to compose *Medicine Man* for the late Dr. Ed Ceilly at the University of Northern Iowa, Jazz Band One. Notedly, Bob Washut also directed this award winning ensemble from 1980-2002, where they recorded eleven CDs, two of which earned a 5-star rating from DownBeat Magazine. *Medicine Man* features an “ECM-style” even eighth-note groove, woodwind doubling, along with essential coloring by the vibraphone and guitar.

The Big Show

As a composer, Bob Mintzer has written over 200 Big Band arrangements spanning a 34 year career. He is most notably associated with the Grammy award winning Yellowjackets. However, his Big Band recordings have also held up as Grammy potential. *The Big Show*, recorded on his Big Band CD *Departure*, lays down a reggae-swing feel. Considered as a “riff” tune, it contains lots of challenging rhythms alongside a jazz ‘2’ and ‘4’ feel, with additional ensemble interplay between sections.

Skylark

Skylark is a Big Band ballad arrangement of an American Jazz standard. It was first recorded in 1942 by Glen Miller and his Orchestra, featuring vocalist Ray Eberle. After rising to number seven on the charts, it appeared on the pop charts four times. Incidentally, Hoagy Carmichael originally wrote the music for a musical about

his deceased friend, Bix Beiderbecke. The melody is said to have been based on Beiderbecke's phrasing - a claim supported by the tunes original name "Bix Lix". However, the musical was never produced and Carmichael passed the tune on to Johnny Mercer who reworked the piece into what we now hear as *Skylark*.

The Shortest Dissonance Between Two Points

Les Hooper is a composer in a variety of styles. Having been nominated for 7 Grammys, and an Emmy, it is no surprise to see his Big Band Jazz works reach the concert halls with the same consistency. Hooper is known for his charming, yet playful, first-rate compositional style. *The Shortest Dissonance Between Two Points* highlights his use of texture as a backdrop to feature the bass in this easy-swing chart.

Play That Funky Music

As a funk song *Play That Funky Music* topped the charts in 1976. Originally written by Robert Parissi, this Gordon Goodwin arrangement was featured on the third album of Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band. The album, *The Phat Pack*, was released in June 2006 and is a play on The Rat Pack, a 1950s entertainment group that featured such notable Jazz artists as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford, and Joey Bishop.

Hunting Wabbits

Recorded in 2003 onto the Big Phat Band's second studio album entitled *XXL*, *Hunting Wabbits* is a standout. Showcasing the band in sections, the bouncy and frantic melody is chased around the Jazz ensemble setting in a playful manner that references an old cartoon-like musical style made famous by the great Carl Stalling. As each driving a cappella section eventually leads to a swing section, Gordon's writing provides a revitalization to Big Band music. In a way, it serves to convince us that Jazz is surely not a dead genre, but a lively one. From the words of Gordon himself: "Please enjoy what is probably the goofiest chart I ever wrote".

Cherry Juice

Cherry Juice, recorded by the Thad Jones/ Mel Lewis Orchestra holds an integral place in the history of Jazz. The Orchestra, which was first formed as a rehearsal band in 1965, included many big-name studio players looking for a creative outlet. Given the economic hardships of the 1960s and 1970s, no one really expected a band of such talented musicians to stay together, however, they triumphed and endured to record several outstanding albums such as *Live At The Village Vanguard*, *Consummation*, and *Potpourri* among others. Yet, the thing that really set the band apart was the beautiful combination of contemporary jazz sounds and straight forward writing styles of Thad Jones himself. Named a "virtuoso of surprise", Thad Jones writes with an unexpected individuality for each part, which creates an excitement that is reminiscent of Ellington.

Saxophones

Sean Edwards, lead alto
Janie Vail
Jeff Osarczuk, lead tenor
Michael Taylor
Kelsey Broersma, bari

Trombones

Erik Davies, lead
Alex Mummery
Lorenzo Williams
Ben Solis, bass trombone

Trumpets

Jason Nam, lead
Dan Adams
Nathan Bujanda-Cupul
Caitlin Curran
Ubaldo Batiz

Rhythm Section

Tyler Nuffer, guitar
Spencer Baldwin, bass
Barry Lawrence, drum set, vibes
David Mantle, drum set, percussion