



Camille Thurman
jazz saxophone and vocals

Friday, November 15, 2024
Harrison Auditorium

Jazz and Improvisation

Jazz and improvisation are so closely related, that much of the United States population can't think of one without thinking of the other! Jazz is a musical genre that was created by blending several styles of African American music, namely ragtime, blues, and gospel. Jazz musicians are masters at listening to their bandmates' musicality and responding in real time to create new and unique versions of their music - improvisation!

When musicians improvise, they are composing on the spot, resulting in a new work of music that is like a snapshot in time. While the melodic structure or harmonic progressions may be the same from performance to performance, embellishments in the melody or harmony help to create a unique piece of music.

That's the beauty of jazz. When you come to a jazz concert and you see the musicians on stage improvising, they're creating a work of art that is a snapshot in time. The piece will never be performed exactly as it was in that moment. We're sure that you're going to love this concert and the unique experience that it will bring.

Jazz Programming

Another element of jazz concerts is that artists can also improvise their programs on the spot, calling out tunes as they go. So programs can be all chosen in advance, all chosen on the fly, or some version of both.

The following is information on two composers that Camille will choose from for Friday's program plus one piece that she has chosen from her most recent album. The rest of the music will be announced from the stage.

This allows even more flexibility for the artists to respond to the audience and what they are feeling in the moment, and an even more unique audience experience since very possibly no two programs will look alike!

Burt Bacharach

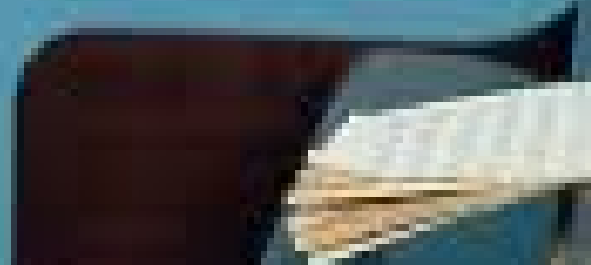
(1928-2023)

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Burt Bacharach was an American composer, songwriter, and pianist. Bacharach began his musical studies as a child playing piano, cello, and drums. Though he initially did not enjoy the piano, he eventually began to love it.

Bacharach's music was largely influenced by his jazz background, where unique time signatures (the meter of the music - think about how you've heard musicians count off "1! 2! 3! 4!") and harmonic progressions.

You're probably familiar with his music and didn't even realize it, such as "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" and "This Guy's in Love with You."

Throughout his career, Bacharach won six Grammy Awards, three Academy Awards, and one Emmy Award.



Horace Silver

(1928-2014)

Horace Silver was born in Norwalk, Connecticut. He began playing the tenor saxophone and piano when he was a child. In 1951, Silver moved to New York and quickly burst into the music scene. By 1952, he had developed a relationship with the Blue Note label and continued to record for the next several decades.



In the 1980's, Silver began to record under his own record label. His music went from the hard bop jazz (a type of bebop jazz that usually uses a simpler melody and slower tempo) to a much more introspective and philosophical lyrical spin. By the 1990's, he had returned back to the hard bop style of Jazz that he was known for.

"Freedom"

Camille Thurman
(born 1986)

Camille Thurman is an American jazz saxophonist, singer, composer, and member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Born in Queens, New York, she began playing the tenor saxophone at the age of 15. Thurman has released several albums, including "Origins" (2014), "Spirit Child" (2014), "Inside the Moment" (2017), and "Waiting for the Sunrise" (2018). Thurman was the first woman in 30 years to tour, record, and perform internationally with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra from 2018-2020. She was also a Fulbright Scholarship recipient, traveling to Paraguay and Nicaragua to perform as a bandleader.

"We wrote this song during the pandemic. We wanted to create a song that was almost like an anthem to get people to feel happy and excited about owning every bit about what it means to be free. Freedom, it's a word. It's a vibe. It's a feeling. It's inside. It's your pride. It's the reason people have a will to live and keep fighting. And I wanted to find the joy and that willpower and put it in a song context so that it would uplift people."



Matt Wilson, Program Notes

Matt Wilson, the author of the program notes that you hopefully found illuminating and inspiring, is a violinist and violist from South Carolina. He received a Bachelor's in Music Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, before teaching in the public schools for several years. He received a Master's in Music Education from UNC Greensboro and is a Doctoral Candidate in Music Education at the University of Kansas (KU) in Lawrence, KS. Rock Chalk! He is an active researcher and presenter at the state and national levels, focusing on issues of gender and sexuality in music education.

Matt has served in several leadership roles in the NC Music Educators Association - Orchestra Section. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is currently the Chair of ASTA's National Student Advisory Committee.

