

Kristofer Monson
jazz bass

Recital in partial fulfillment of the
Doctor of Musical Arts degree, 2025
Student of Donald Palma and Jason Moran

with
Nadav Brenner, guitar
George Maclaurin, piano

Monday, October 23, 2023
8:00 p.m.
Pierce Hall

PROGRAM

Jerome Kern

(1885–1945)

Oscar Hammerstein

(1895–1960)

The Song is You

Duke Ellington

(1899–1974)

Warm Valley

Oscar Pettiford

(1922–1960)

Tricotism

Thelonious Monk

(1917–1982)

Ugly Beauty

Jaco Pastorius

(1951–1987)

Three Views of a Secret

Kris Monson

Don't Measure Your Spices When You Cook

Seasons Pass

Leonard Bernstein
(1918–1990)

Some Other Time

John Coltrane
(1926–1967)

Bass Blues

Nadav Brenner, guitar
George Maclaurin, piano

*Thank you to my wife Lizzie, my parents,
and the Elfmans for their enduring support of my doctoral studies.*

*Thank you to my wonderful teachers here at NEC
for their ongoing guidance and inspiration:
Ken Schaphorst, Katarina Miljkovic, Don Palma, Jason Moran, and many others.*

*Kristofer Monson is the recipient of a scholarship made possible by the
Gertrude G. and Malcolm S. Morse Memorial Fund.*

PROGRAM NOTES

John D'earth, one of my first jazz teachers and a hugely important mentor in my life, explained to me early in my development that the repertoire for the jazz tradition generally falls into one of three categories: the blues, the Great American Songbook, and compositions by jazz musicians themselves. One could even go so far as to say that the third category is roughly a derivative of the first two. *The Song is You* is a wonderful composition that exemplifies the importance of the Great American Songbook.

Duke Ellington's *Warm Valley*, Oscar Pettiford's, *Tricotism*, and Thelonious Monk's *Ugly Beauty* are bound together in their personal and historic connections; Monk was greatly influenced by Ellington, and bassist/cellist Oscar Pettiford was in Ellington's Orchestra before later working with Monk. *Warm Valley* is a beautiful Ellington ballad that originally featured his longtime alto saxophonist, Johnny Hodges. *Tricotism* is a bebop-bass tour de force that I've been playing arco in my studies with Don Palma. *Ugly Beauty*, Monk's only composition without a 4/4 time signature, was a subject for deep harmonic analysis in Ken Schaphorst's wonderful class on Thelonious Monk.

Moving forward in history with another hugely important bassist innovator, *Three Views of a Secret* by Jaco Pastorius demonstrates his underrated compositional pen.

The next two pieces are original compositions of mine. *Don't Measure Your Spices When You Cook* was inspired by a conversation with my sister-in-law, Hannah, in which she recounted how she carefully measures the amount of salt, pepper, garlic, etc. in her cooking. This is my free-spirited, improvisatory response to her meticulous precision. *Seasons Pass* was originally an assignment for Ken Schaphorst's History of Jazz Composition course. The melody has stuck in my ear, and I love its solemn, hymn-like accompaniment texture.

Some Other Time is a beautiful song by Leonard Bernstein that I discovered earlier this semester through leading the Jazz Department Jam Sessions. Originally written for the 1944 Broadway production of *On the Town*, this rendition is particularly inspired by the interpretation of contemporary saxophonist, Mark Turner.

And finally, we conclude with John Coltrane's *Bass Blues*, as recorded in 1957 by John Coltrane, Red Garland, Art Taylor, and Paul Chambers.

Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC

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Dragon Long, piano (DMA)

Student of Bruce Brubaker and Alessio Bax

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Yu-Cih Chang, double bass (MM)

Student of Donald Palma

Friday, October 27, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Williams Hall

Honor Hickman, flute (BM)

Student of Cynthia Meyers

Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Jie Lee, soprano (MM '23)

Student of Bradley Williams

Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Yixiang Wang, violin (MM)

Student of Donald Weilerstein

Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Anisha Srinivasan, musicology (MM '23)

Student of Sean Gallagher

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall

June Chung, violin (MM)

Student of Paul Biss

Friday, November 10, 2023 at 8:30 p.m. Burnes Hall

Daihua Song, saxophone (BM '23)

Student of Kenneth Radnofsky

Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Cody York, trumpet (BM)

Student of Ben Wright and Thomas Siders

Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

Quinn McGillis, trombone (MM)

Student of Toby Oft

Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Brown Hall

Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC

—continued

Julien Rollins, *bassoon* (BM)

Student of Richard Svoboda

Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Brown Hall

Shalun Li, *collaborative piano* (GD)

Student of Cameron Stowe and Vivian Hornik Weilerstein

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Arisa Onoda, *piano* (GD)

Student of Dang Thai Son

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Rotem Eylam, *jazz guitar* (BM '23)

Student of Efstratios Minakakis

Friday, November 17, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Brown Hall

Thatcher Harrison, *guitar* (BM '23)

Student of Eliot Fisk and Jérôme Mouffe

Friday, November 17, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

Zihao Liu, *jazz guitar* (MM)

Student of Brian Levy

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall

Elizabeth McCormack, *flute* (MM)

Student of Cynthia Meyers

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Justin Park, *trumpet* (BM '23)

Student of Michael Dobrinski

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Erica Smith, *clarinet* (MM '23)

Student of Thomas Martin

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Felix Ko, *percussion* (MM)

Student of Will Hudgins

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC

—continued

Zhenbang Wu, jazz drums (MM '23)

Student of Billy Hart and Donny McCaslin

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall

Yuhang Nan, piano (BM '23)

Student of Stephen Drury

Friday, December 1, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Williams Hall

Cynthia Chih-Yu Tseng, collaborative piano (DMA '25)

Student of Pei-Shan Lee, Jonathan Feldman, and Cameron Stowe

Friday, December 1, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Brown Hall

Yun Janice Lu, piano (DMA '25)

Student of Alessio Bax and Alexander Korsantia

Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Keller Room

Mark Larrivee, percussion (BM)

Student of Will Hudgins

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Brown Hall

Li Shan Tan, harp (DMA '25)

Student of Jessica Zhou

Monday, December 4, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall

Tristan Leung, collaborative piano (DMA '25)

Student of Cameron Stowe and Jonathan Feldman

Friday, December 8, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Brown Hall

Luther Warren, viola (DMA '26)

Student of Kim Kashkashian

Friday, December 8, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Williams Hall

Sophia Tseng, viola (BM '23)

Student of Nicholas Cords

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Keller Room

Hongzhen Wang, piano (DMA)

Student of Bruce Brubaker

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.
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