

Kennesaw State University
School of Music



Senior Recital

Michael Opitz, tenor saxophone



Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 8 pm
Music Building Recital Hall

One-hundred Forty-second Concert of the 2016-17 Concert Season

program

Monk's Dream / Thelonious Monk

Chairman Meow / Michael Opitz

View from Moscow / Kurt Rosenwinkel

Chelsea Bridge / Billy Strayhorn

Airegin / Sonny Rollins

Modern Music / Michael Opitz

Two Weeks / Michael Opitz

Michael Opitz, tenor saxophone

Patrick Arthur, guitar

Brandon Boone, bass

Justin Chesarek, drums

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree

Bachelor of Music in Performance.

Mr. Opitz studies saxophone with Sam Skelton.

program notes

Monk's Dream | Thelonious Monk

Thelonious Monk holds the distinction of being the second most recorded jazz composer in history, behind composer and band leader Duke Ellington. "Monk's Dream" is the title track off of Thelonious Monk's 1963 album, and perfectly showcases Monk's distinctive compositional style, employing angular rhythms and unconventional harmonies.

Chairman Meow | Michael Opitz

This song title comes from what I believe would be a really great name for a cat. The main body of the song began with a piano riff (played by the guitar), and gradually grew to include a couple different sections. Originally I wrote this song for a Churchill Grounds show, but I'm incredibly excited to play it tonight with some of my favorite musicians.

View from Moscow | Kurt Rosenwinkel

Kurt Rosenwinkel is one of the most singular voices in jazz. He has released thirteen albums as a leader, and appeared on many more as a sideman. For me, Kurt's writing and playing style have always been a source of continuous inspiration. His melodies are very clear, very tuneful, and are coupled with intricate and colorful harmonies. "View from Moscow" is off of his *The Remedy (Live at the Village Vanguard)* album, which was released in 2008.

Chelsea Bridge | Billy Strayhorn

"Chelsea Bridge" is a very unique ballad by Billy Strayhorn. Strayhorn arranged for the Duke Ellington orchestra, contributing songs such as "Isfahan," "Satin Doll," and "Take the A Train" to the bands' repertoire. This particular composition features an expressive melody that somehow manages to combine both haunting and joyous elements.

Airegin | Sonny Rollins

This Sonny Rollins' composition first appeared on the album *Miles Davis with Sonny Rollins* in 1954. One of the most important saxophonists from the hard bop era, Sonny Rollins is perhaps most notable for pioneering the

bass/drums/saxophone trio. Rollins is still touring to this day! Tonight, we'll be playing Sonny's composition in the same format he made so famous: the chordless trio.

Modern Music | Michael Opitz

Mark Turner has always been one of my favorite contemporary saxophonists. For this song, one of his compositions, "Mesa" comes to mind. In this song he employs three or four chords throughout the entire song, but manages to make a beautiful composition. To me, this was an incredible lesson in economy of material –which lead to this composition, "Modern Music." For this song, I took the four bars first heard at the beginning, and expanded and reworked them to write the rest of the composition.

Two Weeks | Michael Opitz

"Two Weeks" takes its name from the two weeks of great weather we seem to get in Georgia every year. Unfortunately, we've already had those two weeks, so I'm sorry if this song is taking a depressing turn. This tune tries to capture the happiness you feel when you first walk outside in the morning, and the sun hits you in just the right way.