

CU★PRESENTS

2022-23 Season



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

AT THE PERFORMANCE

- Please refrain from using electronic devices during the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at any time prior to the performance, during intermission or after the performance ends.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

CU ★ PRESENTS is
the home of performing
arts at the University of
Colorado Boulder.



The mission of the
**University of Colorado
Boulder College of Music**
is to inspire artistry and
discovery, together.



The College of Music acknowledges that the university sits upon land within the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples. Further, we acknowledge that 48 contemporary tribal nations are historically tied to Colorado lands.

Thompson Concert Jazz Ensemble

Paul Romaine, conductor

7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022

Grusin Music Hall

Program

Sand Crab

Mark D Simon (b. 1957)

arr. Ben Thompson

Jonah Sutinen, tenor saxophone

Isabella Daily, guitar

Jack Bendure, trombone

Rafael Castillo-Holverson, trumpet

Nathan Burak, drums

Rock Me To Sleep

Benny Carter (1907-2003)

Alex Loran, vocals

Jonah Sutinen, tenor saxophone

The Far East Suite

Duke Ellington (1899-1974) and Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967)

- I. Tourist Point of View
Carter DeSouza, tenor saxophone
Isabella Daily, guitar
- II. Bluebird of Delhi (Mynah)
Jonah Sutinen, clarinet
- III. Isfahan
Gregory Barth, alto saxophone
- IV. Depk
Caleb Kovar, piano
- V. Mount Harissa
Caleb Kovar, piano
Jonah Sutinen, tenor saxophone
- VI. Blue Pepper
Cian Krueger, alto saxophone
Gregory Barth, alto saxophone
Screaming Trumpet Collective
- VII. Agra
Will Foster, baritone saxophone
- VIII. Amad
Austin Skeffington, piano
Nate Bitter, trombone
- IX. Ad Lib On Nippon
Austin Skeffington, piano
Jonah Sutinen, clarinet

Program notes

The Far East Suite is one of the more interesting and unique creations in the Ellington/Strayhorn oeuvre. It's a reflective, evocative, virtuosic and impressionistic aural tour through the East (mostly the Middle and Near east, as many have pointed out over the years) as seen through the eyes and ears of two men who were musical visionaries and who had musicians behind them who were capable of vividly enunciating their visions.

The Ellington Band went on a State Department-sponsored tour In 1963 which took them to Syria, Jordan, India, Sri Lanka (then known as Ceylon), Pakistan, Iran (then Persia), Lebanon and Turkey. These travels—along with a 1964 tour of Japan—served as the primary inspiration for a musical suite. This concept piece had a long and complex development. The first iteration, then known as *Impressions of the Far East*, was initially performed in early 1964 in England and consisted of four movements: Ellington's *Amad* and *Depk*, and *Agra* and *Bluebird of Delhi* by Strayhorn.

By the time *The Far East Suite* was recorded in December 1966 it had grown to its final length of nine pieces. These pieces had various origins and sources of inspiration; some were even previously written, at least in part. The overall cohesiveness and maturity of this work can partly be attributed to its long gestation period, as pieces were refined and re-worked over a lengthy period of time. They came together to form what is generally considered to be one of Ellington and Strayhorn's masterpieces; it can also rightfully be seen as the swan song of their historic collaboration, as Strayhorn was very ill when it was recorded and passed away just over five months later.

When completed, *The Far East Suite* was meant to convey the excitement and awe felt by the band when traveling to lands that were truly foreign—exotic and totally different from what most of them had experienced before. It's all there in the music themes, motifs, form, harmonic progressions and ideas that convey exhilaration, joy, sadness and various musical incantations of the mystery of life in the East.

Personnel

Text that is bold and underlined is a hyperlink and can be clicked or tapped for more information.

Paul Romaine, conductor

Concert Jazz Ensemble

Saxophone

Gregory Barth, alto

Cian Krueger, alto + clarinet

Jonah Sutinen, tenor + clarinet

Carter DeSouza, tenor

Will Foster, baritone

Trumpet

Rafael Castillo-Holverson

Amruta Divekar

Madison Sinan

Thomas Nance

Gareth Rader

Trombone

Nate Bitter

Jack Bendure

Kyle Nakaji

Carl Enger

Rhythm section

Austin Skeffington, piano

Caleb Kovar, piano

Isabella Daily, guitar

Eddie Ness, bass

Nathan Burak, drums

Will Weber, drums

CU ★ PRESENTS



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Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up to date. Click or tap each button to explore upcoming events.

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College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

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Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

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