

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

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## 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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College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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