

Shane Isom Senior Recital Program Notes

Oleo is a jazz standard by Sonny Rollins (b. 1930) that borrows a popular chord progression, known colloquially as rhythm changes, meaning that it is a contrafact of the George Gershwin (1898-1937) tune *I Got Rhythm*. *I Got Rhythm* was written in 1930, but *Oleo* was written by Rollins in 1954 and recorded with Miles Davis on the album *Miles Davis With Sonny Rollins*. Two years later it was recorded again with John Coltrane in place of Rollins on a record called *Relaxin'*. It was named after oleomargarine, which was a kind of butter substitute back then. It is a favorite of many, and other important recordings have been done by Michael Brecker, Eric Dolphy, Bill Evans, and Jim Hall, who recorded it more than once.

Waltz New is a tune written in 1978 by Jim Hall (1930-2013) and Red Mitchell (1927-92) and released on the album *Jim Hall/Red Mitchell*. It is mostly a contrafact of the tune *Someday My Prince Will Come*, but with some chord substitutions. Jim Hall is widely renowned as one of the greatest jazz guitarists of all time, and was one of the first modern guitarists, and influenced contemporary guitarists like Pat Metheny. He was known for intervallic playing, leaving lots of space, and his solos were very tasteful and were like compositions. He used more modern harmonies and language, and in 2006 was knighted by the French Minister of Culture and Communication for expanding the musical universe. He said he had a spiritual awakening when he was thirteen years old after listening to Charlie Christian play, and four of his biggest childhood influences were tenor saxophonists Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Paul Gonsalves, and Lucky Thompson.

Alone Together was written in 1932 by Arthur Schwartz (1900-84), with the lyrics written by Howard Dietz (1896-1983). It was a hit song from the musical *Flying Colors*, and became a jazz standard after Artie Shaw recorded it in 1939. The song is about being able to weather the tribulations of life as long as you have someone to share it with. Notable recordings were done by Chet Baker, Ray Charles, Miles Davis, Paul Desmond, Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Rollins, and Bill Evans.

Recorda Me is a latin jazz standard written by Joe Henderson (1937-2001). He wrote it when he was fifteen, and then put it on his debut album called *Page One*. Another notable track on the list was *Blue Bossa*, which was written by trumpeter Kenny Dorham (1924-72) but featured as track number one on *Page One*. *Recorda Me* is Portuguese and translates to Remember Me. It was recorded again live on *Joe Henderson Quintet at the Lighthouse* and in the movie/recording *One Night with Blue Note* which notably had Freddie Hubbard and Herbie Hancock. It's popular in jazz education and has been covered by people such as McCoy Tyner and Chick Corea.

Tickle-Toe is a chart that usually features tenor sax and was released in 1940, written by tenor saxophonist Lester Young (1909-59) and performed with Count Basie (1904-84) and His Orchestra. It's written in a minor key, giving it a haunting tonality, with typical Basie style flowing sax lines and punchy brass hits. Lester Young came to distinction as a member of Count Basie's orchestra, and became one of the earliest and most influential players on his instrument.

The Cooker is a blues tune written in 1967 by guitarist George Benson (b. 1943). He's well-versed in many genres and styles, including jazz, blues, pop, R&B singing, and scat singing. His 1976 album *Breezin'* was certified triple-platinum, and he's won ten grammy awards and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. *The Cooker* is the first tune featured on his album *The George Benson Cookbook*, which is his third studio album.