Black History Month
Concert Series

Jazz: Focus on the Blues

February 3, 2016
Harold B. Lee Library Auditorium
Program Notes

Billy Strayhorn (November 29, 1915–May 31, 1967)
“Billy Strayhorn was my right arm, my left arm, all the eyes in the back of my head, my brain waves in his head, and his in mine.”
—Duke Ellington

Jelly Roll Morton (October 20, 1890–July 10, 1941)
“When my grandmother found out that I was playing jazz ... she told me that devil music would surely bring about my downfall, but I just couldn’t put it behind me.”

W. C. Handy (November 16, 1873–March 28, 1958)
He cites “whippoorwills, bats and hoot owls and their outlandish noises,” and “the music of every songbird and all the symphonies of their unpremeditated art” as among influences on his music.

Duke Ellington (April 29, 1899–May 24, 1974)
“My men and my race are the inspiration of my work. I try to catch the character and mood and feeling of my people.”

Lester Young (August 27, 1909–March 15, 1959)
Young used “a free-floating style, wheeling and diving like a gull, banking with low, funky riffs that pleased dancers and listeners alike.”

Charlie Parker (August 29, 1920–March 12, 1955)
“Don’t play the saxophone. Let it play you.”

Thelonious Monk (October 10, 1917–February 17, 1982)
“I say, play your own way. Don’t play what the public wants. You play what you want and let the public pick up on what you’re doing —even if it does take them fifteen, twenty years.”

Miles Davis (May 26, 1926–September 28, 1991)
“I prefer a round sound with no attitude in it, like a round voice with not too much tremolo and not too much bass. Just right in the middle. If I can’t get that sound I can’t play anything.”

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Steve Call and Friends
Steve Call, piano, trombone, euphonium
Brennan Tolman, drums
Zoë Jorgensen, string bass

Take the “A” Train.............................Billy Strayhorn

Winnin’ Boy Blues............................Jelly Roll Morton

St. Louis Blues..............................W. C. Handy

It don’t mean a thing
if it ain’t got that swing....................Duke Ellington

Jumpin’ with Symphony Sid..............Lester Young

Ornithology.................................Charlie Parker

Blue Monk.................................Thelonious Monk

All Blues.................................Miles Davis