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JAZZ GOES TO THE MOVIES

On Thursday, November 8, the Duquesne University Jazz Band presented Jazz Goes to the Movies, a tribute to the history of jazz-inspired music in Hollywood film.

According to Professor Mike Tomaro, many movie themes and pieces of background music are oriented firmly in jazz. The program focused on several movie themes, including the opening credits to *Catch Me If You Can*, the theme from *Anatomy of a Murder*, several of the James Bond themes and others. Tomaro also took the opportunity to present information on the featured composers.

Additionally, the trailers for each of the movies played on a screen behind the musicians, providing the audience with the opportunity to see the actual theatrical trailers for the films while the music was being played.

Tomaro hopes to host more of these types of concerts in the future, and to present them in an audience friendly and fun way. In doing so, he hopes to make the genre approachable and enjoyable for wider audiences.

THE MUSIC OF THE BEATLES

The Mary Pappert School of Music Jazz Ensemble will present a concert featuring the music of The Beatles on Thursday, March 14 at 8 p.m. in the Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance Innovation.

The Beatles, a group whose innovative sound and likable persona captured the hearts of fans all over the world, have forever changed the face of popular music. Their songs, which are said to be inspired by the jazz genre, have motivated many musicians to create interpretive covers of many of The Beatles’ tunes with a jazz flavor.

Concert organizer Mike Tomaro, professor of music and chair of jazz studies of the Duquesne University Jazz Ensemble, was inspired by his daughters, who are Beatles fans. Tomaro created his own arrangements of several of The Beatles’ biggest hits, while sticking close to the original intended sound.

“‘There have been a lot of Beatles albums that jazz people have done in the past,’” he said. “This concert is The Beatles with my own little spin. However, everything you will hear is very faithful to the originals. The music is already so great, there’s really no need to do anything with it. So many artists and musicians today are influenced by the music of The Beatles.”

The program will include Beatles favorites such as: *Come Together*, *Blackbird*, *The End*, *Back in the USSR*, *A Day in the Life* and others.

“This concert is The Beatles with my own little spin.”
—Mike Tomaro, professor of music and chair of jazz studies

Encore

James Witherite (B.M. Music Technology, 2007) recently produced and recorded a modern big band album, titled +17 with the Zeropoint Big Band and vocalists Carolyn Perteete (B.S. Music Education, 2002) and Michael Andrews.

Witherite credits the Mary Pappert School of Music, especially professors Mike Tomaro and Sean Jones, for his ability to remain active as a musician.

Although he enjoys performing, Witherite feels drawn towards composition and producing. “Musically, I feel like I’m moving in a more creative direction,” he said. “More composing and maybe less performing. I’ve done the cover band thing, the bar band thing, and it wasn’t my cup of tea. Composing, arranging, recording, I don’t think I’ll ever tire of because it’s always something new.”

In addition to his music, Witherite is also a professional horse racing announcer who has called races at more than 50 racing tracks throughout North America.