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GRADUATE RECITAL, SAXOPHONE

Mary Pappert School of Music

PNC Recital Hall

Duquesne University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master's in Music

By

Abby Gross

May 2012

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Abby Gross

2012

GRADUATE RECITAL, SAXOPHONE

Abby Gross

Approved April 24, 2012

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ABSTRACT

GRADUATE RECITAL, SAXOPHONE

Abby Gross

May 2012

Dissertation supervised by Mr. James Houlik

The young age of the saxophone in the existence of the music world has influenced the instrument's repertoire and programs to be versatile in genres and stylistic influences. This program features styles from several time periods and cultures including 20th and 21st century contemporary saxophone and piano duets, Brazilian choro, electronic music, and jazz. The nature of the instrument also allows pieces written for other instruments to take a different characteristic and open new meaning to a piece when played on the saxophone. For example, the element of passion in Brahms's Sonata in F minor No. 1 for clarinet takes on new form when played on the saxophone. The goal of the program is to feature both music that the saxophone is important in creating, and that is important in the existence of the saxophone as a solo and ensemble instrument.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to begin by extending my great thanks to Mr. James Houlik, my teacher and mentor through my journey as a musician, and a person. It is because of him that I am able to produce such a program in which I am not only able to perform these pieces on saxophone, but am able to connect with them, and convey their ideas to you. My passion for pursuing my highest goals with all of my energy and heart is the greatest virtue I have taken from my experience, thank you Mr. Houlik.

Thank you to Mr. Steve Pollock and Mr. Mike Tomaro for also being such a large part of my education at Duquesne and my development as a musician. In the six years I have worked with both of you, I have felt encouraged and motivated to continuously grow as a musician in an ensemble.

Ms. Suzanne Polak, my very good friend and incomparable accompanist. Thank you for the hours spent practicing with me, and coordinating our duets so that they will be performed with the greatest musicality possible. Also, thank you for being one of my very best friends!

To my Mom and Dad, I cannot begin to thank you for everything you have helped me with and provided for me not only the past six years, but my entire life. You gave me my first and second saxophones, paid for private lessons, and supported me at all of my performances and with all my endeavors. My ultimate goal is to always make you proud, and show you how much what you have done means to me and my future. I love you both very much!

Paige, thank you for coming! You always making me feel comfortable while you're in the audience, because I know you are always smiling!

To my Gema, you're love for and ability and music lives in every performance I play. Thank you for always being such a great support whether it was at my first concert in 4th grade, or my recitals at Duquesne. You mean so much to me!

Thank you Choro Ensemble for being so excited and passionate about our project, and for including me in your group! Also thank you for the preparation you all put in to performing at my recital.

To the lovely ladies of Velvet Heat, thank you for being my musical sisters! We are going places that I can't wait to be with you all. Thank you for performing with and supporting me today!

Finally, thank *You* for attending my recital today! It is your presences, ears, and support that give my fellow musicians and me purpose! Enjoy!

PROGRAM

Sonata in F minor, Op. 120, No. 1
(1833-1897) Johannes Brahms I. Allegro appassionato
II. Andante un poco adagio arr. Eugene Russo III. Allegretto grazioso
IV. Vivace
Suzanne Polak, piano

Naquele Tempo (1897-1973) Pixinguinha and Benedito Lacerda *Choro Ensemble*
(1903-1958)

Segura Ele (1897-1973) Pixinguinha and Benedito Lacerda *Choro Ensemble*
(1903-1958)

Intermission

The Garden of Love Jacob Ter Velduis
(b. 1951)

Black Coffee Sonny Burke
Velvet Heat (1914-1980)

Cry Me a River Aurthur Hamilton
Velvet Heat (b. 1926)
Agua De Beber Antonio Carlos Jobim
Velvet Heat (1927-1994)

Break My Heart Again Arianna Powell, music (b.1990)
Velvet Heat Jessica Zamiska, lyrics (b. 1986)

Take the A Train Billy Strayhorn
Velvet Heat (1915-1967)

Klonos Piet Swerts
Suzanne Polak, piano (b.1960)