Previous Stephenson Memorial Concerts

Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, England
Cantilena Piano Quartet with Brenda Boozer
Mystical Arts of Tibet: Sacred Music, Sacred Dances
Dorian Wind Quintet with Billy Childs
Jean Ritchie with George Pickow
Zivilli: Dances and Music of the Southern Slavic Nations
The Ahn Trio
The Waverly Consort
Maxwell Street Klezmer Band
Rosalie Sorrels
A Scottish Christmas featuring Bonnie Rideout
The Men of the Deeps with Rita MacNeil (Coal Miners’ Chorus, Nova Scotia)
Roscoe Lee Browne and Anthony Zerbe
Kartik Seshadri, sitar with Arup Chatterjee, tabla
Coulter-Phillips Ensemble
Nexus: global music, master percussionists
Holly Near
Khac Chi Ensemble
The Western Wind
Chatham Baroque
Dmitri Ratser
“Primadonna” with Mary Lou Fallis

Stephenson Memorial Concert Series
2002-2003

Photo credits:

Nashville Mandolin Ensemble
Kahurangi
The Campbell Brothers
The Turtle Island String Quartet
The Ying Quartet
The Kentucky Jazz Repertory Orchestra
Bobby Sanabria
Butch Thompson
The Hot Club of Cowtown
Cover photo

Dan Loftin
unknown
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Irene Young
Antonino Barbagallo
KJRO
Martin Cohen
Walter Bibikow
Señor McGuire
Alan Mills
How the West Was Swung

They called themselves The Hot Club of Cowtown, a reference to the hot jazz playing of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli in the legendary Quintet of the Hot Club of France, and to the fiddle tunes and cowboy songs which were also central to their sound. They began touring in 1997 and moved to Austin, TX in December 1997. Within a few short months the Hot Club had signed a record deal with Hightone Records and won over fans and critics in Austin and beyond. Since then the Hot Club of Cowtown has toured incessantly, taking time out only to make its critically acclaimed four CDs.

April 24, 2003, 8 o’clock
The Butch Thompson Trio came to national fame during a 12-year run with A Prairie Home Companion on public radio. The Trio has maintained a full concert schedule since its formation in 1980, winning the enthusiastic approval of audiences and reviewers across the country. Their CD, The Butch Thompson Trio Plays Favorites, has been praised by reviewers and fans alike.

In tonight’s concert, The Butch Thompson Trio explores the vitality and variety of the early jazz tradition. From the graceful ragtime of Scott Joplin, to Jelly Roll Morton’s New Orleans jazz, funky Southside Chicago blues, and the roaring virtuosity of the Harlem stride tradition of Fats Waller and others, jazz was the lifeblood of the entertainment business, the very basis of popular music in America.

April 17, 2003
8 o’clock

John Crowden, Coordinator of Convocations
Nashville Mandolin Ensemble

From Bach
to the Beatles
to Bill Monroe

Led by Butch Baldassari of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University, the Nashville Mandolin Ensemble features some of the finest string players in Nashville. The program selections encompass three stylistic eras of music: Bach, Beatles and Bill Monroe. The group has been featured on CBS This Morning, the Riders in the Sky Radio Theater and Sewanee Music Festival. Their CD, All the Rage, received the 1999 Indie Award for Best Accoustic Instrumental Recording and Best Classical Recording - Nashville Music Awards. One typical comment heard after their concerts: “I didn’t realize the mandolin could play such a wide variety of music.”

September 27, 2002, 8 o’clock

Bobby Sanabria
and Ascensión Masters of Afro-Cuban Jazz

Jazz has been called a great American art form, but one of the most vital styles in the genre — Latin jazz — has musical roots that stretch from West Africa to the former Spanish colonies of the “New” World, specifically Cuba, and onward to the United States.

In 1993 Bobby Sanabria and Ascensión released their CD, ¡NYC Aché!, on Flying Fish Records. The album traces the rhythms from their African roots to the sounds of New York City and contains many tunes composed and/or arranged by Bobby Sanabria. The CD received worldwide acclaim and garnered four and one-half stars in Downbeat magazine, and received a nomination for best record of the year by the National Association of Independent Record Distributors.

“This music is a fusion of many histories, united by the instrument that God gave humans so we could communicate with Him - the drum.” Bobby Sanabria

April 10, 2003, 8 o’clock
The Kentucky Jazz Repertory Orchestra

The Kentucky Jazz Repertory Orchestra is a specially-assembled group well-suited to recreating Ellington’s music. Comprised of music faculty from a number of central Kentucky colleges and universities, as well as freelance professional musicians, this seventeen-piece band brings the house down as it shows firsthand the color, power, texture, energy, soul, and outright human communicative quality that Ellington’s music so forcefully generates. The musicians in this group, who have performed with such greats as Clark Terry, Doc Severinsen, Henry Mancini, The Temptations, Rosemary Clooney, and the Manhattan Transfer, and whose performances, compositions, and arrangements appear on a number of CD’s, are highly skilled at bringing the Duke’s music to life. Among the noted musicians in this group are University of Kentucky Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies Miles Osland, and several other UK faculty. For the past half-dozen years, co-leader and pianist Dick Domek has worked as a musical transcriber for the Smithsonian Institution. His special expertise has produced playable musical score of a number of Ellington pieces heretofore available only on early recordings.

**APRIL 3, 2003, 8 O’CLOCK**

Kahurangi brings to life the heritage of the Māori and their Polynesian relatives through its vivid repertoire of tribal music, dance and hand-crafted traditional costumes. Kahurangi provides a program of educational enrichment designed to encourage greater understanding and appreciation for the rich and diverse culture of an indigenous people.

Kahurangi, which means “cloak from heaven,” is a product of the Takitimu School of Performing Arts and the only Māori professional dance company in New Zealand. It revitalizes the “ihi” or life force of the Māori people. There are thirty members in the troupe, seven to ten of whom are on tour in North America.

Journey to a peaceful, nearly untouched paradise in the South Pacific known to its native people as Aotearoa - The Land of the Long White Cloud.

**November 14, 2002**
In the House of God Keith Dominion churches, the electric steel guitar has been the musical driving force for spirit-filled services for over 60 years. Chuck and Derick Campbell are an anointed duo of accomplished steel guitarists raised up in the “sacred steel” style, a rare music tradition rooted in the African-American Holiness-Pentecostal church, commonly known as the House of God, Keith Dominion. Rounding out the band is a high-energy rhythm section featuring brother Phil on electric guitar and his son Carlton on drums. Katie Jackson’s classic, gutsy gospel vocals “bring the ensemble to a level of energy and expression that defies description.” Returning by popular request, the group’s program includes music of the season.

**DECEMBER 6, 2002, 8 O’CLOCK**

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The collaborative concert of the Ying and Turtle Island String Quartets, includes an octet written for both Quartets by David Balakrishnan of the TISQ. Natives of China, the Ying Quartet has established an international reputation for excellence in performances. The Quartet is now in Residence at Harvard University, Boston, MA. The Turtle Island String Quartet fuses the classical quartet esthetic with 20th century American popular styles. In this unique concert tour, they explore jazz, improvisation and the classical string quartet tradition.

**MARCH 6, 2003, 8 O’CLOCK**