



University of North Texas
College of Music

Junior Recital | Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 8:00 p.m. | Lab West

Ashton Weigel, jazz drumset

Red River Revel (1998)	Brian Blade (b. 1970)
Audience Américain (2023)	Chris Morrissey (b. 1980)
Flor de Lis (1976)	Djavan (b. 1949) arr. Gretchen Parlato
BP (2017)	Rich Hinman (b. 1978) arr. Mark Guilliana
Where Are We Now? (2013)	David Bowie (1947–2016) arr. Mark Guilliana
Alternate Roots (2019)	Oscar Hernández (b. 1954)

*Program four hundred sixty-one of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited*

Program Notes

Red River Revel

My private lessons teacher back home, Amy Crosley, introduced me to Brian Blade's music back in high school, but at the time I wasn't ready for it. She put it well when she said that Brian Blade plays the drums like he is painting. Since then I've come to understand and appreciate the beauty of Brian's playing. I'm incredibly grateful to Amy for exposing me to his music and for her guidance in my musical development. Over this past summer, I started getting into Brian's playing and became obsessed. He is a musician's drummer—he's tasteful, treats the music with the utmost respect and can swing his butt off. "Red River Revel" is from his first Fellowship record. I fell in love with this tune right away because of the bass line and the musical journey that Brian's compositions always embark on.

Audience Américain

I first discovered Mark Guilliana during my junior year of high school. After watching his VFJams video on YouTube, I was hooked. I started to dive deeper and discovered his jazz quartet. Right away, I was blown away by their chemistry and their ability to create such a strong vibe with each tune. "Audience Américain" is a quintessential example of what drew me into Mark's playing. His ability to create density and tension with subtlety and sensitivity, all while remaining present in the moment is one of my favorite aspects of his playing and something I aspire to achieve in my own playing.

Flor De Lis

I came across this piece during my semester studying Brazilian music with Professor Aponte. Despite not knowing what the lyrics meant, the sentiment of the melody spoke to me. I was curious as to what the lyrics were about and whether or not they matched how the song made me feel, and I discovered some beautiful lyrics that tell a story of love, loss and heartbreak. With "Flor De Lis" I wanted to apply some of the knowledge I have learned so far from studying Brazilian music under the guidance of Professor Aponte.

BP

"BP" is a song from Mark Guilliana's album *Jersey* which was on repeat for me throughout the pandemic. The arrangement is rather minimalist, yet it says so much. The melody is haunting, the harmony has a strong emotional character, and the groove is so driving—when they all converge, it creates such a cool vibe. This was my first glimpse at Mark's approach to playing straight eighths in a modern jazz context. Every time I return to this piece it never fails to excite and inspire me.

Where Are We Now?

When I was little, one of my favorite movies to watch was the Labyrinth. This was my introduction to David Bowie, and while today I am not the biggest David Bowie fan, I find that his music feels nostalgic for me. It all came full circle for me when I learned that one of my favorite drummers, Mark Guiliana, played on David Bowie's final record. This arrangement, by Mark Guiliana, is a reimagining of David Bowie's pop ballad, "Where Are We Now?", in a very open jazz style ballad. It is a beautiful tune about reminiscence and nostalgia; I hope you enjoy it!

Alternate Roots

"Alternate Roots" is a tune I discovered over this past winter break. Immediately I was hooked by the elusive piano/bass ostinato and how Jimmy Branly grooves so smoothly and seemingly effortlessly over top of it. I really love Oscar Hernández's writing style and I felt it was only right to include it on my recital. I would like to dedicate this one to Professor Aponte and express my gratitude for all of his help and guidance thus far in my journey at UNT. Thank you Profe.

Personnel

Ava Ramsey, voice

Margaret Nicholson, voice

Sasha Garcia, voice

Kori Park, alto saxophone

Jonathan Arcangel, tenor saxophone

Johnny Orellana, trumpet

Jacob Landrum, guitar

Brenin Coin, piano

Spencer Paulsen, bass

Jeffery Chaidez, congas