



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Senior Recital | Thursday, November 3, 2022 | 8:00 pm | Lab West

Abigail Litjens, voice • James Merritt, drumset

Hey, Good Lookin' (1951) Hank Williams (1923–1953)
arr. Carol Welsman

Tito Charneco, tenor saxophone • Abigail Litjens, piano
Steven Sellers, guitar • Paul Briggs, bass

Say You'll Be Mine (2007) Alison Wedding (b. 1972)
Ben Barker, piano • Paul Briggs, bass

Quizás, Quizás, Quizás (1947) Osvaldo Farrés (1903–1985)
Soloists: Alex Billingsley, trumpet • Nick Mailes, trombone
Dani Toralla and Dakota Andersen, vocals
Rhythm Section • Latin Percussion

Vou Deitar e Rolar
(Quaquaraquá) (1970) Baden Powell/Paulo C. Pinheiro
(1937–2000)/(b. 1949)
Tito Charneco, tenor saxophone

Always and Forever (1992) Pat Metheny (b. 1954)
Rhythm Section (James Merritt, vibraphone)

I'll Fly Away (1929) Albert E. Brumley (1905–1977)

You'd Rather Have the Blues (1985) Dave Frishberg (1933–2021)
arr. Tedd Firth
Rhythm Section • Big Band

Rhythm Section: Ben Barker, piano • Steven Sellers, guitar
Paul Briggs, bass; Latin Percussion: Aramis Fernández, congas;
Isaac LaVigne, timbales • Jeffery Chaidez, güiro, cowbell;
Big Band • Agustín Alonso, conductor: Trumpets: Joshua Zeitlin,
Jonathan Orellana, Alex Billingsley; Trombones: Joey Lopez, Nick Mailes,
Jack Timmins, Connor Fallon; Saxophones: Chase Scelsi, Eric Crenshaw,
Tito Charneco, Anthony Singer, Aiden Sears

Hey, Good Lookin'—This is a song that has transcended its time, being sung by pop artists and jazz artists even to this day. This arrangement is based off of Carol Welsman's arrangement from her album *Whatcha Got Cookin'?* During my time at UNT, I've grown a lot in my piano skills with the help of Professor Rosana Eckert and Tobi Crawford. I've transcribed Ms. Welsman's piano playing on this tune, but I wrote a piano and voice soli of my own.--AL

Say You'll Be Mine—This wonderfully crafted song was written by UNT vocal jazz alumna Alison Wedding, who visited school last spring, offering great insight into life after graduation. I'm excited to sing one of her tunes today.--AL

Quizás, Quizás, Quizás—The English version of this tune is known as "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps" and is incredibly popular across jazz and Cuban settings. The lyrics are indicative of the bolero style: Farrés describes the desperation and angst when waiting for an answer from a love interest. "The days pass like this, and I'm desperate, and you keep answering, perhaps, perhaps, perhaps."--AL

Vou Deitar e Rolar—This song was one of my first introductions into true, authentic Brazilian music; the first time I heard Elis Regina's recording of this song, I was hooked! The groove, energy and joy you can feel from Regina was so infectious and I couldn't get enough of it. My understanding of Brazilian music and Cuban music grew deeper as I took private lessons with Professor José Aponte. Because of those lessons, I found so much more music from different cultures around the world that I still love to listen to.--JM

Always and Forever—This tune has been one of my all-time favorite jazz standards since I was in high school, and the addition of Deborah Brown's wonderful lyrics only enhances the beauty of this wonderful composition. Since coming to UNT, I've come to love this song and all of Pat Metheny's music so much more. There has always been something about his music in particular that takes me away to a completely different place, and I forget about all of the worries and the troubles of this life. I would listen to his music walking home after a long day at school, and it was always the perfect way to decompress and just forget about everything, even if it was just for a few minutes. I hope you enjoy "Always and Forever," and appreciate it the way I do.--JM

I'll Fly Away—I've known this Southern Gospel standard for as long as I can remember. In the church that I attended growing up, we mostly played Southern Gospel so it's really the first style of music I've ever known. Because I heard and played this type of music from such a young age, I still love it and hold all those old songs dear to my heart. They not only remind me of home and being a kid without a care in the world, but they also remind me of all the great people that I have gone to church with in the past and all the amazing people I go to church with now. And last, but certainly not least, it reminds me of who my God is and how merciful, loving, and faithful he has been to me.--JM

You'd Rather Have the Blues—When planning for this recital, I knew that it was missing something. If you know me, you know that I'm always interested in jokes and gags. These things can be especially interesting when they have a deeper meaning. Dave Frishberg is the incredible musician responsible for writing "I'm Just a Bill" from *School House Rock*, "My Attorney Bernie," and "Peel Me a Grape" to name a few. It's a treat to sing one of his tunes tonight.--AL

Two hundred tenth program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited