



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Senior Recital | Monday, February 26, 2024 | 8:00 pm | Lab West

Christiana Schiller, jazz voice
Ben Barker, piano

- Blue Skies (1926) Irving Berlin (1888–1989)
- Never the Muse (2024) Christiana Schiller (b.2002)
- Tell Me A Bedtime Story (1969) Herbie Hancock (b. 1940)
- Affirmation (2024) Ben Barker (b. 2002)
- My Day Will Come (2018) James Francies/Yebba
(b. 1995)/(b. 1995)
- But Not For Me (1930) George Gershwin/Ira Gershwin
(1916–1937)/(1896–1983)

Personnel

Kori Park, alto saxophone • Heath DeGuzman, tenor saxophone
Gabriel Garcia, guitar • Aidan Gould, bass • Diego Salazar, drumset

Five hundred twenty-fifth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Blue Skies— *Blue Skies* was one of the first tunes I learned when I started at UNT and it's stayed one of my favorite standards since. I was heavily inspired by the Ella Fitzgerald recording, but knew I wanted to take it somewhere completely different. I've had the idea to arrange this tune with drum and voice only to start and I'm glad I finally get the chance to execute it! -Christiana

Never the Muse—During my time at UNT, I got into and fell in love with songwriting. It's now one of my biggest passions and I knew I wanted to perform an original for my recital. I pour my heart into every song I write and this one is no exception. *Never the Muse* is about never receiving the same love and care you give, and not giving up on love despite that. -Christiana

Tell Me A Bedtime Story—*Tell Me A Bedtime Story* is a song written by Herbie Hancock and released on the 1969 album *Fat Albert Rotunda*. The song has been recorded by many other artists, including Quincy Jones, Christian McBride, Robert Glasper, and many others. Herbie Hancock's music has had a very big impact on my life since I first discovered him when I was a freshman in high school. At the age of 83, his music career is unparalleled - from touring and recording with the legendary Miles Davis Quintet, recording and releasing 41 studio albums and 12 live albums, he is a legend not only in the world of jazz but in the world of music. I am honored to share his music with you today. -Ben

Affirmation—This tune came together quickly and very recently - I started writing it about a month ago for this recital. I have always loved music that incorporates elements from multiple genres like jazz, funk, R&B, electronic, etc. The fusion of these styles produces such a cool sound that I've always loved. When I was writing, I took inspiration from some of my favorite artists of the last several decades like Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, George Duke, Allan Holdsworth, as well as some of my favorite contemporary artists such as Pedro Martins, Daryl Johns, and Thundercat, and many more. I am also very inspired by church music, where the message in the songs is just as meaningful as the music itself. I wanted to write something that feels familiar, friendly, good, and hopeful. So I hope that you can feel that when you listen to it. The song is dedicated to my 2 sisters and best friends, Grace and Sarah. -Ben

My Day Will Come—I discovered this recording a year and a half ago and instantly fell in love with it. With it being just piano and voice, I knew it would be perfect as our duo tune. Yebba has become one of my biggest vocal inspirations. Her extensive use of her range and seamless riffs are unparalleled. James Francies and Yebba interact with adeptness and both of their skills are highlighted well in this record. -Christiana

But Not For Me—*But Not for Me* is a famous standard written in 1930 for the musical *Girl Crazy*. It has since been covered by countless artists for nearly a hundred years. Currently, my favorite versions are: Chet Baker's version on *Chet Baker Sings* (1954), Red Garland's version on *Red Garland's Piano* (1956), and Ahmad Jamal's version on *At the Pershing: But Not for Me* (1958). Many other artists have recorded the song, including Bing Crosby, Judy Garland, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, John Coltrane, Sam Cooke, Dexter Gordon, Frank Sinatra, Linda Ronstadt, Harry Connick Jr., Elton John, Diana Krall, and many others that I could not list here. -Ben