

Don Byron Quartet

Ensemble members:

NAME	INSTRUMENT
Don Byron	Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone
Edward Simon	Piano
Kenny Davis	Bass
Billy Hart	Drums

Title of the commissioned work: A Suite for Lester Young

Composer's Statement:

A Suite for Lester Young was inspired by my studies of the music of the tenor saxophone legend when I prepared for the recording of my 2004 CD "Ivey-Divey." Performing with this group (in trio and quartet versions) for the past four years, we have created a repertoire of both standards and original compositions, striving to bridge the "Old" with the "New" and to showcase the unique talent of each ensemble member.

The suite is comprised of three individual compositions:

Part 1, Harpie in Disguise, is a slow Ballad

Part 2, Joe Btfsplk, is my tribute to Lil' Abner, a character who walked around with a cloud over his head. It's a George Russell-esque take on "Indiana," one of Prez's favorite tunes.

Part 3, Fosbury Flop, is my tribute to the great American high jumper, the guy who invented going over the bar backwards.

The three pieces have distinct compositional angles and will showcase different aspects of my and Lester Young's personalities.

Length of the work: Approx. 40 minutes
Recording: Demo CD available upon request

Stated Technical Requirements:

A professional quality PA System with four monitor wedges and a minimum of three separate monitor mixes, and condenser microphones for piano, clarinet, and saxophone. Number of microphones for drums according to room size, with a minimum of 2 OH and snare and kick drum microphones. One vocal microphone w/boom positioned at clarinet mic for announcements.

Instruments & backline:

One (1) acoustic GRAND PIANO, (preferred brands are Steinway, Bosendorfer, Yamaha)

One (1) BASS AMPLIFIER, preferably Gallien Krueger 800 amp head with Hartke speaker cabinet (1x15")

One (1) professional, high quality DRUM SET, preferably Pearl

Detailed tech rider and stage plot available upon request

Contact Information:

Composer: Don Byron
Booking contact person: Hans Wendl Produktion
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