

Elizabeth Faust

Senior Saxophone Recital

Four Pictures From New York

IV: Broadway Night

Born in 1963, the Italian composer Roberto Molinelli studied at the Gioacchino Rossini Conservatory of Pesaro as a violist. He is a founding member of the “Marchigiana Philharmonic Orchestra” and “Ensemble Opera Petite,” which performs transcribed Italian opera excerpts. One of his most famous compositions is “Milonga Para Astor,” which is dedicated to the memory of Astor Piazzolla. The work “Four Pictures From New York” is a four movement piece based on Molinelli’s view of New York as it appears to European eyes. The first movement, “Dreamy Dawn” works through ideas of the rising sun outlining the tall structures. The second, “Tango Club,” is in the style of the Argentinian tango and is dedicated to Astor Piazzolla who was a New Yorker by adoption. “Sentimental Evening,” the third movement, is a jazz ballad used to represent the setting of the sun on a busy city. It all leads to “Broadway Night” in which the animated nightlife of the city can be heard in the spectacular motion of the music.

Man-Mou

Nigel Wood, composer of “Man-Mou,” was born in Bristol, UK, in 1960 and was one of the first students to study the saxophone at the Birmingham Conservatoire. He is a founder of the group “Saxtet,” which led to the founding of “Saxtet Publications.” He composes for solo woodwind instruments and woodwind ensembles. Nigel Wood is accredited with bringing shining a light on the soprillo saxophone and completing the range of saxophones. The work “Man-Mou” was initially written for the soprillo saxophone, but Wood provided transcriptions to make the piece attainable for all saxophones. This is a piece inspired by two different types of Cantonese Opera plays. The theme of “Man” is the gentle style while the theme of “Mou” brings an emphasis to war, conflict, and strife. This description paints the piece in a programmatic light, however, it is truly meant to be an evocation of the myriad of musical styles and instruments within Cantonese music.

Histoire du Tango

The Argentine tango composer Astor Piazzolla revolutionized the traditional tango into what is now called nuevo tango. He was a prodigal bandoneon player and studied composition with Alberto Ginastera. In his “Histoire du Tango” Piazzolla travels through the history of the tango from the 1900’s to current day. The work was initially written for guitar and flute, but has been transposed for many different arrangements such as soprano saxophone and piano. Bordello 1900, the first movement, depicts good natured chatter of the French, Italian, and Spanish women in bordellos of the time. The next age of the tango, “Cafe 1930,” is about when the tango became for listening instead of dancing. This was a more melancholic and romantic type of tango music. From there, it moves to “Nightclub 1960” in which a Bossa Nova feel takes root and represents the revolutionary turn of tango music. All leads to the present day with “Concert d’Aujourd’hui.” This intertwines tango with aspects of classical composers such as Bartok or Stravinsky, and it was meant to represent the tango of today and the tango of the future.