Department of Music
College of Fine Arts

presents a

Tribute to Rob McConnell

PROGRAM

Las Vegas Academy Jazz Ensemble III

SELECTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM STAGE

INTERMISSION

UNLV Jazz Ensemble I

Nacio Herb Brown  
(1896-1964)
You Stepped Out of A Dream  
arr. Julian Tanaka

Rob McConnell  
(1935-2010)
Winter in Winnipeg

Rob McConnell  
(1935-2010)
The Waltz I Blew for You

George Gershwin  
(1898-1937)
I Got Rhythm  
arr. Rob McConnell

J. Russell Robinson  
(1892-1963)
Portrait of Jenny  
arr. Rob McConnell

Rob McConnell  
(1935-2010)
The #4,679,385th Blues in Bb

John Klenner  
(1899-1955)
Just Friends  
arr. Rob McConnell

Wednesday, September 22, 2010  7:30 p.m.  Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall  
Performing Arts Center  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
**UNLV PERSONNEL:**

Saxes  
Julian Tanaka  
Ronald Homes  
Nick Tulli  
Keaton Martin  
Gizmo Hall  

Trumpets  
Joel Gibson  
Kevin Early  
Jessie Garcia  
David Shepard  
Matt Koerner  

Trombones  
James Nelson  
Nate Kimball  
Nick Veslany  
Paul Munger  

Guitar  
Josh Williams  

Piano  
Otto Ehling  

Bass  
Scott Teeple  
Ryan Bell  

Drums  
Paul Ringenbach  
James Abate  

**LAS VEGAS ACADEMY PERSONNEL:**

Saxes  
Blue Shaffer  
Mikez Guden  
Abby West  
Micah Elkins-Kohn  
Conor McKinley  
David Osterhuber  
Aiden Ketchum  

Trombones  
Bowen Gass  
Nima Khanbolouki  
Thomas Sokolik  
Zach Dyer  

Trumpets  
Jorge Machian  
Owens Edge  
Juanpablo Macias  
Daniel Ferenbach  
Edgar Salazar  
Celine Ayala  
Scott Jividen  

Rhythm Section  
Halsey Harkins  
John Denman  
Hayley Godla  
Summer Kodama  
Alex Preus  
Justin Tatum  
Carlos Silva  
Quinn Wright  
Spike Kittrell  
Brandon Tulli  
John Lloy
Rob McConnell (1935 – 2010)

Rob McConnell was born in London, Ontario and took up the valve trombone in high school, and began his performing career in the early 1950s, performing and studying with Don Thompson, Bobby Gimby, and later, with fellow Canadian Maynard Ferguson. He also studied music theory with Gordon Delamont. In 1968 he formed The Boss Brass, a big band that would become his primary performing and recording unit through the 1970s and 1980s.

McConnell assembled the original Boss Brass from Toronto studio musicians. The instrumentation of the band was originally 16 pieces, consisting of trumpets, trombones, french horns, and a rhythm section, but no saxophones. McConnell introduced a saxophone section in 1970, and expanded the trumpet section to include a fifth trumpet in 1976, bringing the total to 22 members.

In 1988, McConnell took a teaching position at the Dick Grove School of Music in California, but gave up his position and returned to Canada a year later. In 1997, McConnell was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, and in 1998 was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. He remained active throughout the 2000s, touring internationally both as a performer and educator, running clinics around the world and performing as both a leader and a guest artist. The Rob McConnell Tentet, a scaled down version of the Boss Brass, featuring many Boss Brass Alumni, has been quite successful, producing three major records, The Rob McConnell Tentet (2000), Thank You, Ted (2002), and Music of the Twenties (2003).

Over the years, Rob McConnell & The Boss Brass became one of Canada's most popular jazz ensembles, performing live and recording for Concord Jazz and a variety of other labels. Mel Tormé said, of his first recording session with the Boss Brass in 1987, "Making this record was one of the two or three greatest musical experiences in my long and checkered career. He died on May 1, 2010 in Toronto, Ontario, aged 75, from cancer.
About the Las Vegas Academy

The World Jazz Studies program is under the direction of Patrick Bowen and Logan Biles. We are committed to inspiring creative minds in the field of America’s true art form, Jazz. Student are exposed to world class Jazz artists and clinicians such as Peter Erskine, Steve Davis, Nat Reeves, Randy Brecker, Marlena Shaw, Chris Potter, Louie Bellson, Mike Tomaro, Ndugu Chancier and many more. We are a Clark County Public School dedicated to enhance and promote the arts. To date we have nine Grammy’s representing the musicianship of the fine arts department of the Las Vegas Academy. We were one of two high school jazz bands who participated in the 2009 Midwest clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

About the UNLV Jazz Studies Program

The UNLV Jazz Studies Program has been active for more than 20 years. Today, the Jazz Studies Program offers degrees in instrumental or vocal jazz performance and composition at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Currently, the UNLV Jazz Studies Program has three big bands and several combos including Contemporary and Latin ensembles. Since its inception, the jazz program has nothing but outstanding reviews from critics including a five-star rating from the premier jazz publication, Downbeat Magazine.

Recently, UNLV Jazz Ensemble I was a finalist at the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival and won “outstanding performance” in the graduate division of the Student Music Awards from Downbeat Magazine. UNLV Jazz Studies students were also recognized as outstanding soloists at the Reno and Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festivals this past spring.

With over 15 recordings to its credit, the UNLV Jazz Ensemble has performed across the United States and abroad at such venues as the Hawaii International Jazz Festival, Telluride Jazz Festival, the Kennedy Center, and the Village Vanguard.

Acknowledgements

Neal Smatresk, UNLV President; Jeff Koep, Dean of the College of Fine Arts; Dean Gronemeier, Assistant Dean of the College of Fine Arts; Jonathan Good, Department Of Music Chair; The UNLV Music Faculty, The UNLV Jazz Studies Faculty, The UNLV Foundation, The Liberace Foundation, The Patterson Foundation, The Joe Williams Every Day Foundation, The Jake Gareheime Jazz Scholarship Fund, The Isabelle Emerson Jazz Scholarship Fund, The Jay Morrison Jazz Scholarship Fund, The William and Carol McLeod Scholarship Fund, The UNLV Jazz Studies Advisory Board, The UNLV Recording Studio, Ken Hanlon, Virko Baley and TNC Recordings.