



**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 Chanler 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

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