

Chamber America

Ensemble: Michael Blake and World Time Zone

Bandleader: Michael Blake

Ensemble members:

NAME	INSTRUMENT
Michael Blake	Tenor saxophone
Frank Kimbrough	Piano
Ben Allison	Acoustic bass
Rudy Royston	Drum set

Title of Work: *Contrasts in Individualism: Reinterpreting the Innovations of Coleman Hawkins and Lester Young*
Composer: Michael Blake
Date completed: 2014
Work Length: 60 minutes

Work Description:

I composed a piece that explores the fascinating polarity originated by two giants of the tenor saxophone: Coleman Hawkins and Lester Young. Their ground-breaking work comprised elements that paved the way for almost every saxophonist to follow. The source of the music drew from the resources of both saxophonists, the individualism of their improvisations and the legacy that they left on generations of musicians. The final work was composed of 8 pieces, each selection capturing an influential aspect of either Young or Hawkins. But rather than imitate or borrow directly from their musical language, I chose to refract their ideas within my own personal voice, capturing an accurate historical perspective of each player through distinctive compositional structures.

Recording:

Released on CD entitled *Tiddy Boom*, October 28, 2014 on Sunnyside Records

Technical Requirements/Specs:

Acoustic grand piano, bass amp, drum set, small PA

General Information:

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