ONE O’CLOCK LAB BAND® "LAB 2019"

The 53rd edition of the University of North Texas’ multiple GRAMMY-nominated traditon.

Artist: ONE O’CLOCK LAB BAND®
Title: LAB 2019
Label: NORTH TEXAS JAZZ (LA1901-AB)
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Release Date: NOVEMBER 22, 2019
UPC Code: 648040190123

Suggested Airplay Tracks 1.2.6.9
Airplay Starts 10.07.19
1. Al-Go-Rhythm (a 21st-century take on a Gershwin Tune) Rich DeRosa 8:16
2. Leverage DJ Rice 6:34
3. Third Time’s the Charm Kyle Myers 7:12
4. Frauenfeld John Sturino 9:05
5. The Things We Did Last Summer J. Styne & S. Cahn, arr. J. Sturino 3:30
6. Red Herring Kyle Myers 6:37
7. Confluence Alan Baylock 8:52
8. I Can’t Get Started Vernon Duke & Ira Gershwin, arr. Nathan Davis 8:05
9. Aggro DJ Rice 8:01
10. I’ll Miss You Kyle Myers 5:47
Produced By: Alan Baylock, Craig Marshall, Phil Bulla


T he University of North Texas’s renowned One O’Clock Lab Band maintains its uncanny aptitude for both timeliness and timelessness with the November 22 release of Lab 2019 (North Texas Jazz). The latest installment in an annual series that has continued since 1967, the album features six original student compositions, five of them by members of the 20-piece student ensemble, as well as two standards with new student-penned arrangements. In addition, it offers new work by two of UNT’s jazz faculty members and prolific Lab Band contributors: Grammy-nominated composer Rich DeRosa, the school’s Director of Jazz Composition and Arranging, and Alan Baylock, the acclaimed big band veteran (Airmen of Note, Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra) and director of the One O’Clock Lab Band.

This 53rd recorded iteration of the Lab Band (named for its long-entrenched rehearsal time) finds the institution in danger of losing neither inspiration, nor its long-held place in the elite of collegiate jazz ensembles, “We want everyone to know that the great UNT tradition going back many years is still alive and well,” says Baylock in marking his third year of directorship.

Baylock is also an alumnus of UNT, earning his master’s in jazz studies in 1995. Though he was not an official member of the One O’Clock Lab Band during his time at the university, he wrote 15 charts that were featured in the band’s performances and on its recordings. He adds to that legacy with “Confluence,” a startling and highly experimental piece that features solos by tenor saxophonist Addison Jordan and trumpeter Chris Van Leeuwen as well as musique concrete work by guitarist Ethan Ditthardt.

DeRosa is a legendary figure among jazz composers and has written a new piece for the One O’Clock Lab Band each year since his arrival at UNT in 2010. “Al-Go-Rhythm” ranks among his most thrillingly ingenious: subtitled “A 21st-Century Take on a Gershwin Tune,” it’s an abstraction of “I Got Rhythm,” recognizable by its chord changes’ increasingly sneaky use of melodic motifs from the original. Jazz lovers will also identify it with the relentless swing that for DeRosa is as essential an ingredient as Gershwin’s notes.

Ultimately, however, the One O’Clock Lab Band is an endeavor by, of, and for its student members, and their work on Lab 2019 rivals that of their elders for excitement and accomplishment. The complexity of trombonist DJ Rice’s “Aggro” (which interlaces the harmonies of “Cherokee” and “Giant Steps”) is exceeded only by the fun of listening to it; Rice also takes a solo of majesty and pathos on his sectionmate Nathan Davis’s luxurious arrangement of the standard “I Can’t Get Started.” Student composer-arranger John Sturino, a former band member, shines with his sweetly hopeful tune “Frauenfeld” and bolisterous setting of Styne & Cahn’s standard “The Things We Did Last Summer” that features vocalist Marion Powers. Meanwhile, lead saxophonist Kyle Myers contributes three originals, creating with the breezy, bluesy, meter-shifting swinger “Third Time’s the Charm.”

The One O’Clock Lab Band, under the direction of Alan Baylock, is the seven-time Grammy Award-nominated premier performing ensemble of the world’s first jazz studies program, founded and housed at the University of North Texas College of Music. Established in 1946, Jazz Studies at UNT is renown as the most storied jazz studies tradition in the world. With nine lab bands, 25 small groups, and 17 full-time jazz faculty, Jazz Studies at UNT is second to none. Alumni of the North Texas Jazz program are virtually everywhere in the professional music industry as performing artists and jazz educators.