



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

100 YEARS
1918-2018

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT?®

***It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing):
The Music of Duke Ellington***

Rob Kapilow

Wilma and Clifford Smith Visitor in Music

with the University of Toronto Jazz Orchestra

Gordon Foote, *director*

Thursday, February 7, 2019

7:30 pm

Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates.

For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat,
the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across
Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT?®
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PROGRAM

All music composed by Duke Ellington (1899-1974)

“It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)” (1931/32)

“Harlem Air-Shaft” (1940)

“The Single Petal of a Rose” from *The Queen's Suite* (1958/59)

“Peanut Brittle Brigade” from *The Nutcracker Suite* (1960)

“Chinoiserie” from *The Afro-Eurasian Eclipse* (1971)

*This evening's program will be performed without intermission
and followed by a question-and-answer session.*

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Saxophones

Zach Griffin
Griffin Vona
Geoffrey Claridge
Jacob Chung
Alex Manoukas

Trombones

Nick Adema
Vonne Aguda
Charlotte McAfee-Brunner
Kyle Orlando

Trumpets

Evan Dalling
Kaelin Murphy
Christian Antonacci
Ben Frost

Rhythm Section

Piano: Anthony D'Alessandro
Guitar: Julien Bradley-Combs
Bass: Evan Gratham
Drums: Jacob Slous

The Faculty of Music is very pleased to welcome Rob Kapilow of What Makes It Great® fame to the University of Toronto as our Wilma and Clifford Smith Visitor in Music during our 100th anniversary season. Rob presented the first of three public events with the Gryphon Trio and Friends last fall. Tonight's performance with the UTJO on The Music of Duke Ellington will be followed by his final presentation March 4 with the U of T Strings (on Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*).

Rob's superb combination of in-depth musical knowledge and gifted communication skills matches U of T Music's mission of sophisticated musical creation, performance, and research coupled with our mandate for educational outreach in the university, the city, and the world.

We are delighted to have him with us for our 100th anniversary season.

Don McLean, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Music

BIOGRAPHIES



Photo © Peter Schaaf

For over 20 years, **Rob Kapilow** has brought the joy and wonder of classical music – and unravelled some of its mysteries – to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Characterized by his unique ability to create an “aha” moment for his audiences and collaborators, whatever their level of musical sophistication or naiveté, Kapilow’s work brings music into people’s lives: opening new ears to musical experiences and helping people to listen actively rather than just hear.

Rob Kapilow’s range of activities is astonishingly broad, including his What Makes It Great?® presentations (now for over 20 seasons in New York and Boston), his family compositions and Family Musik® events, his “Citypieces,” corporate programs, and residencies with institutions as diverse as the National Gallery of Canada and Stanford University.

Kapilow has appeared on NBC’s *Today Show* with Katie Couric and

presented a special What Makes It Great?® for broadcast on PBS’s *Live From Lincoln Center*. He has written two books: *All You Have To Do Is Listen*, which won the PSP Prose Award for Best Book in Music and the Performing Arts, and *What Makes It Great* (2011), the first book of its kind designed for the iPad with embedded musical examples. He is currently finishing a new book on the American Songbook.

Rob Kapilow also writes and composes new music. He was the first composer to be granted the rights to set Dr. Seuss’s words to music, and his *Green Eggs and Ham* has been called “the most successful piece written for families this half century.” He is currently working on a new piece for the 25th anniversary of Ottawa Chamberfest based on Louise Bourgeois’ spider sculpture “Maman.” He was featured on Chicago Public Radio’s *Composers In America* series, and is a recipient of an Exxon Meet-the-Composer grant and numerous ASCAP awards.

Rob Kapilow has conducted many of North America’s orchestras, as well as new works of musical theatre, from the Tony Award-winning *Nine* on Broadway to the premiere of *Frida* for the opening of the Brooklyn Academy of Music’s Next Wave Festival, and premieres of works for the American Repertory Theater.



United States, Canada, France, Switzerland, England, Ireland and Mexico. Gordon Foote is a Conn-Selmer artist and clinician.

The **University of Toronto Jazz Orchestra (UTJO)** is now in the seventh year under the leadership of Gordon Foote. The band is quickly becoming one of Canada's finest university jazz orchestras, and is the flagship group of the Jazz Studies Program at the University of Toronto.

Gordon Foote is currently associate dean, performance and public events, and professor of jazz at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music. Before moving to Toronto in 2012, Foote spent 26 years as a professor in the Jazz Studies Program at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, in Montreal, Quebec. He served as dean (interim), associate dean (academic and student affairs), chair of the Department of Performance, director of graduate studies and chair of the Jazz Area. Previous to that he was a professor for six years at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia.

Foote is one of the pioneers of jazz education in Canada, developing the first undergraduate and graduate jazz degree programs in Canada. Known to have directed some of the finest university jazz ensembles anywhere, his groups have been featured throughout the

The 17-member ensemble is part of the U of T Jazz Program, which offers Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees in Jazz. The UTJO works hard to produce performances that are musical and exciting, with precision and energy.

The UTJO has released two CDs in the past four years: *Sweet Ruby Suite: the Music of Kenny Wheeler*, featuring Norma Winstone, voice, and Dave Liebman, soprano saxophone, and *Reflections*, featuring the music of faculty member Mike Murley, who was also guest saxophonist on the disc. Jack Bowers of *All About Jazz* wrote: "The University of Toronto clearly is a music school to be reckoned with."



Photo: George Kash

Please support chamber music at the Faculty of Music

The Chamber Music Program is thriving with exciting work happening on stage and in the classroom. For the stage, we have appearances on the Chamber Music Series by both Ensembles in Residence and Visiting Artists. In the classroom, in addition to their regularly scheduled lessons and coachings, our students have the opportunity to work with our visitors in master classes and private coaching sessions.

We need your help – it is our hope that we can continue to present a variety of chamber ensembles and subsequently provide the opportunity for our students to work with these acclaimed musicians.

Opportunities exist for individuals to sponsor a visiting ensemble, an ensemble in residence, a master class, a concert or a series of concerts. Your tax receiptable gift will help to build and enhance the Chamber Music program.

To learn more about supporting Chamber Music at U of T please contact Bruce Blandford at bruce.blandford@utoronto.ca or 416-946-3145.

Thank you for your support!

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