

Douglas Ragon, Senior Composition Recital

May 8, 2022

3pm

All Faiths Chapel, Kansas State University

Tony Rodriguez - bass clarinet, alto sax, contra-alto clarinet, flute

Blake Crawford - tenor sax

Darryl Matsune - guitar

Douglas Ragon - piano

Michael T. Brown - bass

Robert Rodriguez - drums

PROGRAM

False Reflection, composed by Douglas Ragon

"False Reflection" deals with the idea of reflecting back on oneself, and how your perception of yourself can be tainted by outside factors. The tune begins clearly centered in a natural minor tonality, but hints of dorian mode are introduced sporadically. By the end of the tune, the harmonic content has fully centered in dorian mode, symbolizing new perspective gained over yourself.

Square One, composed by Douglas Ragon

"Square One" is a medium-slow swing tune with a noir-esque aesthetic. It focuses on the idea of beginning a new phase of your life, and having to start over from "square one." In the bridge, the main melody from "False Reflection" can be heard in a new context, symbolizing how pieces of your life from which you have moved on can still interfere as you work to move forward.

Hymn for October, composed by Douglas Ragon

"Hymn for October" is a slow ballad, taking inspiration from Norwegian jazz pianist/composer Tord Gustavsen. The chord changes in this tune tend to move in stepwise motion, often utilizing different bass notes ("slash chords") to keep this linear motion. This symbolizes how it can be best to take things one step or one day at a time after life changing events.

Boiling Point, composed by Douglas Ragon

"Boiling Point" deals with pent up anger, and how it can simmer to a point of explosion over time. The tune begins in a 6/8, Afro-Cuban-like groove with a low energy level, and the energy continues to build over the course of the tune until reaching the "boiling point": the feel changes to heavy metal, and we hear the bassline from "False Reflection" in a new context. After this "boiling point" which symbolizes the release of anger, we return to the original groove, only for the cycle to repeat itself.

Reconstruction, composed by Douglas Ragon

"Reconstruction" is the companion to "False Reflection," and prominently features similar themes and motives. While "False Reflection" presents these ideas in a more somber tone, "Reconstruction" presents them in a more hopeful context. This tune focuses on the idea of rebuilding yourself after traumatic events, and coming to a point where you can look to the future with hope.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,
Theatre, and Dance