

PRESENTATION

« Midriff, a Musical Palindrome »

Loren Schoenberg

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Abstract

One of the most cleverly titled early Strayhorn compositions, Midriff was designed as a sort of a musical palindrome. Orchestrated in the same Fletcher Henderson-ish mode as Take The A Train, Midriff is at once simple and complex. Various versions will be compared, thematic relationships explored, with an emphasis on how Sonny Greer/Louie Bellson/Sam Woodyard approached the explosive drum break at the end.

Loren Schoenberg



Conductor/saxophonist/educator Loren Schoenberg has conducted and recorded Ellingtonia for many decades. Early in his career, he played with Russell Procope, Sonny Greer, Clark Terry, Britt Woodman, Norris Turney, Harold Ashby, Francis Williams, Buster Cooper, Louis Bellson, and many other Ellingtonians. In 1993, he was Musical Director for the 1993 Ellington Conference in New York. Mr. Schoenberg has also recorded with Benny Goodman, Benny Carter, Christian McBride, Bobby Short, Jimmy Heath and many others, as well as his own big band. He has also conducted the jazz orchestras at Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian and The Juilliard School. The Founding Director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, Mr. Schoenberg is currently teaches at The Juilliard School, and is the author of the NPR Curious Listener's Guide To Jazz, and has won two Grammy Awards for his writing. He was instrumental in the acquisition by the Jazz Museum of the Bill Savoury collection of broadcast recordings. His presentations and interviews under the banner of the National Jazz Museum of Harlem and available on YouTube are very enjoyable and informative.