

# Andrew Homzy - Professional Activity CV

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Citizenship : Canadian/USA

## PROFILE

Composer, scholar, author, educator and director, Andrew Homzy is known internationally through his publications, concertizing, recordings, and conference presentations in the fields of classical and jazz music. He is considered a foremost musician, composer, scholar and author.

His research on jazz composers - Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus, Francy Boland, and Mary Lou Williams is widely published. His classical research encompasses Canadian violinist Kathleen Parlow, composer, Maurice Ravel, and the history of violinists and their music.

## EXPERIENCE & CREATIVE WORK

### **Professor Emeritus - Concordia University, Montréal**

Professor Homzy taught Jazz Studies for 40 years at Concordia. Developed curriculum for Jazz Harmony, Arranging, Composition, History and Ensembles (based on students' individual abilities & instrumentation) He founded the Andrew Homzy Jazz Orchestra in 1984, playing many concerts, broadcasts and jazz festival events.

1984 - Discovered Mingus' epic suite *Epitaph*, produced / published a book of 55 Mingus compositions, wrote notes for various recordings of Mingus' music.

1996 - Conducted the Swedish premiere of *Epitaph* for the Swedish Broadcasting System (Sveriges Radio) and in 2003, with an Italian all-star orchestra, at the historic Teatro Metastasio in Prato, Italy.

1999 - Commissioned by Radio-Canada, to form a group of musicians from 15 different countries and direct concerts in Montréal & Ville de Québec celebrating Ellington's 100th birthday. He transcribed and reconstructed familiar and rare Ellington compositions, and wrote an original 4-movement suite, *Cent-Ellington* for the occasion.

Homzy has worked as a consultant for the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the University of Toronto, Jazz at Lincoln Center and other institutions. His classical piece for chamber orchestra, narrator & vocal soloists *The Queen, the Bear, and the Bumblebee* was recorded in 2001 and presented in 2014 at the Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff AB.

2015 - Founded the Nanaimo International Jazz Festival Association and produced over 150 events.

2017 - Produced a concert celebrating the 100th birthday of jazz and Canada's first jazz composer, Shelton Brooks.

2019 - Commissioned to write two original works for the Saskatoon Jazz Festival.

## **EDUCATION**

McGill University -Master of Musical Arts - Musicology: 1971 -

Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio - Bachelor of Music - Major in Music Theory: 1967 -

## **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY - PRESIDENT OF VARIOUS NON-PROFIT SOCIETIES:**

Nanaimo Conservatory of Music, Protection Island Neighbourhood Association, Wisteria Community Association, Nanaimo International Jazz Festival Association. Member of Stone Soup (providing meals for the homeless), Drug Overdose Awareness, Community First & Next Door Community (Neighbourhood clean-up organizations)

## **Education/Degrees**

Master of Musical Arts - Musicology: 1971 - McGill University

Thesis Topic: *Jazz - Style and Theory: From Its Origin In Ragtime And Blues To The Beginning Of The Big Band Era (1932)*

Bachelor of Music - Major in Music Theory: 1967 - Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio

Québec Teachers Certificate - Secondary Schools: 1973 - McGill University

Jazz Seminar: Summer 1969 - New England Conservatory of Music - Institute at Tanglewood. Studies with Jamey Aebersold, David Baker and Jerry Coker

Brass Seminar: Summer 1965 - Cornell University Studies with the New York Brass Quintet and tuba studies with Harvey Phillips.

## **Selected Web Citations:**

<http://www.nanaimodailynews.com/>

[news/professor-says-students-could-rejuvenate-nanaimo-city-core-1.1869875](http://www.nanaimodailynews.com/news/professor-says-students-could-rejuvenate-nanaimo-city-core-1.1869875)

<http://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/entertainment/276386631.html>

<http://www.montrealjazzfest.com/program/concert.aspx?id=7209>

<http://www.allmusic.com/artist/andrew-homzy-mn0001230123/biography>

<http://www.harbourliving.ca/event/andrew-homzys-nola-nighthawks/2014-11-29/?pid=58bc80e2c3cd2a700dc4d83bd289ab5f>

<http://www.nanaimo-info-blog.com/2014/12/nanaimo-arts-culture-3-by-dan-appell.html>

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/>

[en/article/andrew-homzy-emc/](#)

<http://www.jazz.com/encyclopedia/homzy-andrew>

<http://chly.dailysplice.com/rhythmanning/12198/>

<http://www.homzy.ca> <http://theyee.ca/News/2009/10/08/BudgetCutBlues/>

<http://vancouverjazz.com/forums/showthread.php?t=3438>

## **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY IN NANAIMO SINCE 2009**

### **DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER OF CONCERTS:**

#### **2022 -**

- \* Disney Digs Jazz - Director, Nanaimo Jazz Orchestra: Port Theatre 18 September (22 musicians)
- \* Andrew Homzy's NOLA Nighthawks - Fulford Hall, SaltSpring Island: The Beatles Go To New Orleans, Parts 1 & 2 - 4 & 5 June
- \* Jazz Jubilee concert Port Theatre, 25 October

#### **2021 2020 - COVID ShutDown**

#### **2019**

- \* Andrew Homzy's NOLA Nighthawks Shaw Auditorium, Nanaimo Have You Heard? Series 2019

#### **2018**

Formation of: Andrew Homzy's SAX NO END -

\*Music in The Gardens series - Anderton Therapeutic Gardens Society. Co-Production with the Georgia Straight Jazz Society,

\*Shaw Auditorium, Nanaimo Have You Heard? 2018

\*Producer of classical concert at the Port Theatre - during Festival Nanaimo - by Trio Dinicu - from Los Angeles

## **2014**

Director and Producer of concerts:

\*Creation of a new group: Andrew Homzy's NOLA Nighthawks - Concerts in Courtenay,

\*Subsequent concerts 2014-2017 include: Victoria (3 events), Nanaimo, Mill Bay, Langford, Crofton (3 events) Chemainus (4 events)

\*Guest Director / Composer for the Victoria Jazz Orchestra

Production of my composition at the Banff Centre: The Queen, the Bear, and the Bumblebee, May 17, 2014 - 3:00 pm, Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff AB.

## **2013**

\*Arrangements written for vocalist Karen Young and the l'Orchestre National d'Jazz de Montréal - performed at the Montréal International Jazz Festival.

\*Arrangements written for the Victoria Jazz Orchestra.

Research and essay on Duke Ellington's 1945 U.S. Treasury broadcast published as a booklet issued with a 2-CD set by Storyville Recordings, Sweden

Research article published in the journal: Current Research In Jazz. "Django Reinhardt's 'Nuages': Within The Jazz Repertoire Or Lost In The Clouds?"

In progress:

Research project: King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band: A Publication of the Scores

transcribed from the Seminal 1922 Recordings. Edited and Transcribed by Andrew Homzy.

\*Producer of three concerts in June by Trio Dinicu - from Los Angeles

\*Producer, arranger, composer and pianist for a 3-night residency at Nanaimo's Vault - featuring Aline Homzy, Jazz Violin and Monik Nordine, Saxophones - See more at: <http://www.harbourliving.ca/event/aline-homzy-jazz-violin-and-monik-nordine-saxophones/2013-07-27/#sthash.EbStBmF0.dpuf>

## **2012**

\*October 25-26 -Producer, arranger, composer and pianist for a 5-night residency at Nanaimo's Vault - featuring Aline Homzy, jazz violinist accompanied by Hans Verhoeven, drums - Andrew Cullen, bass - Julius Clegg, guitar.

\*Two compositions and six arrangements for four trombones and tuba - written for John Capon's "Lowsome Five" -

\*Louis Armstrong's "Cornet Chop Suey" arranged for six trumpets.

## **2011**

\*The Queen, the Bear & the Bumblebee -Production/Performance 10-APR-11

"The compositions and orchestrations of Professor Andrew Homzy were presented by the Calgary Pro Musica Society in a musical stage adaptation of Dini Petty's beloved children's book, *The Queen, The Bear and The Bumblebee*. The music was composed in 2001 by Andrew Homzy and Mark D. Goldman and issued as a book/CD package. The recording features a rich collection of classical orchestration and delightful songs to bring the magic of this enchanting story to life for the entire family. Andrew Homzy did all of the orchestrations. Following a "launch" performance in Toronto, the first fully staged performance was narrated by Samantha Whelan with four principal actor-dancers, eight child dancers a 10-member children's chorus, four vocal soloists and the 13-member Bumblebee

Symphony Orchestra, Conducted by Claude Lapalme. Both shows were "sold out".

<http://vrossphotography.blogspot.com/2011/04/performance-day.html>

\*Essentially Ellington - Competition for High School Jazz Orchestras Professional Service 21-FEB-11

"Four adjudicators were invited by Jazz At Lincoln Center, to participate in the screening of over 100 bands entering the Essentially Ellington 2011 Competition for High School Jazz Orchestras. After 3 weeks of evaluating presentation CDs - hearing about 850 musicians - Professor Homzy flew to NYC and met with his 3 colleagues. They identified the top groups and re-listened to 45 bands to decide which 15 should be invited to the NYC finals. There were many close calls. One band might have edged out another because they had a better trumpet soloist or a tighter trombone section or a bassist who was more swinging or a more in-tune sax section. Prof. Homzy's comments addressed classical music competitions, where one can hear teenagers play the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto without a single mistake - or where one can hear a 10 year old pianist play a Beethoven sonata as well as what you might hear on a recording.

Why should jazz students play anything less than the best music? Ellington's music provided that challenge - and, he thinks, a life-changing effect for those who addressed those challenges. Among the finalists was River East Collegiate Secondary School in North Kildonan" MB.

\*Compositions and arrangements:

Fantasy on "Here Comes The Sun" (George Harrison)- arranged for violin and piano

Jurgen's Joys - composed for mixed trio (soprano sax, French horn & tuba)

**2010**

\*Founder, producer of Concert: The Nob Hill Brass Quintet -

\*Composition: "Nob Hill Hob Nob" - Duet for French Horn and Tuba

\*Arrangements for Brass Quintet: "Scenes from Lakmé" (Léo Delibes), "Menuet

sur le nom Hayden" (Maurice Ravel), "Slavonic Dance Opus 46 No. 7" (Anton Dvorak), "Musikalisch-türkischer Eulenspiegel" (1688)" (Daniel Speer).

\*Concerts with the Nanaimo Concert Band (est. 1872) -

April 11th, 2010 - 138th Annual Spring Concert - The Port Theatre, Nanaimo

June 12-13, 2010 - The 6th Annual Ladner Bandfest held in Memorial Park,

Ladner, BC. July 19th, 2010 - The Nanaimo Concert Band and the Pacific Gael Pipes & Drums - Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo.

**2009**

### **Major Research Projects**

\*September 25, 2009

Research Consultant for Jazz At Lincoln Center - artistic director Wynton Marsalis: Project - Identifying, obtaining and assembling all music used in Ellington & Strayhorn's 1941 run of Jump For Joy. Locations of the works include The Library of Congress & Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and in the Billy Strayhorn Estate in Pittsburgh, PA. (N.B. The Strayhorn materials were moved to Phoenix, Arizona) Three (3) copies of bound assembled score due by December 15, 2009

October 9 - 12 - Research at The Library of Congress & Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

January 8-11 - Research in the Billy Strayhorn Collection: Phoenix, Arizona

### **Other Performance and Creative Work -**

\*Concerts with the Nanaimo Concert Band -

November 7th, 2009 - ANNUAL FALL CONCERT - The Port Theatre, Nanaimo, BC. December 13, 2009 - Christmas Concert - Beban Park Auditorium, Nanaimo.

\*Performance (tuba) at the Solstice Festival - Nanaimo - June 20, 2009

Performance (piano) with the Georgia Strait Big Band - Courtney - June 21, 2009

Guest Lecture - Capilano University - Duke Ellington: Six Decades of Musical Development - Vancouver - October 6, 2009

\*Presentation - To the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services protesting the cuts to funding for the Arts - Victoria - October 7, 2009

\*May 16, 2010 - Recital by Nanaimo's Nob Hill Brass Quintet - St. Paul's Anglican Church, Nanaimo.

"Nanaimo's Nob Hill Brass Quintet is a new group formed by tubaist Andrew Homzy, and includes Paul Rathke & Garry McKeivitt (trumpets), Greg Roberts (trombone) and Norman Abbey (French Horn). The quintet played music from the 17th to the 20th centuries, including Victor Ewald's 1912 masterpiece. "What if Tchaikovsky had written a piece for brass quintet?" asks Homzy. "Would it have sounded like Ewald's pre-revolutionary masterpiece?". (Op. 5 in B flat minor published by Edition Belaïeff in 1912)"

\*Shaw TV, Channel 4, produced a 20 minute documentary on the Nob Hill Brass Quintet. Interviews and performances were recorded by Video Journalist Melissa Hall.

\*19 June, 2010 - Summer Solstice Celebration at the Beacon House - Protection Island, BC. At this event, I performed, on piano, with violinist Trish Clair-Peck and presented one movement from my "Nanaimo Suite for Tuba and French Horn".

\*Performance at Nanaimo's Port Theatre (piano & tuba) with the Greg Bush Quartet - October 15, 2009

\*Research consultant for Jazz at Lincoln Center - Research at the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress to find and edit scores by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn for a new production of the 1941 musical theatre piece, "Jump For Joy" - Washington - November 9-12, 2009

\*Composition - "Le prix d'eau" (The water prize or the price of water?) For the the Matheson/ Roper/Mollerup Trio - presented by Vancouver Pro Musica at the

Vancouver Community College Auditorium as part of the Further East / Further West concert series. This eclectic concert features new works by six BC composers - Vancouver - November 13,

## **PRE-2009 - WHILE LIVING IN MONTRÉAL**

\*Arrangement - "Slippers" by Charles Mingus - arranged for jazz orchestra and published by Hal Leonard in their Simply Mingus Series - Forthcoming

\*Composition - "Great Changes" - for Brass Quintet - written for the Installation of Judith Woodsworth as President and Vice-Chancellor of Concordia University - Place des Arts in Montréal - November 17, 2008.

\*Musical Director for three major Concordia Theatre Department musical productions –

\***Celery Stalks at Midnight**,. Five short comedies, of different shades of white and black, directed by Gerry Gross. 2001

\***Into The Woods** by Stephen Sondheim, directed by Corey Castle.

Performances : April 18 – May 4, 1996 \***Threepenny Opera** by Kurt Weill, directed by Joseph Cazelet. 1980

\***Consultant for the Charles Mingus Archives: Library of Congress**. I was responsible for the initial cataloging and description of the music manuscripts in the Mingus Collection which began in 1984 when I first contacted Mingus' wife Sue Mingus. My association with the project lead me to discover Mingus' epic suite *Epitaph* to produce/ publish a book of 55 Mingus compositions, to write notes for various recordings of Mingus' music, to lecture about Mingus' music and on March 28, 1996 to conduct the Swedish premiere of *Epitaph* for the

Swedish Broadcasting System (Sveriges Radio) and at the historic Teatro Metastasio in Prato, Italy.

On Tuesday, June 1, 1993, Sue Graham Mingus and jazz scholar Andrew Homzy will speak at a press conference at the Library of Congress announcing the acquisition of the Charles Mingus Collection by the Library's Music Division. The press conference will be held at noon in Dining Room A, 6th floor, James Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue, S.E.

**Consultant for the Duke Ellington Archives: Smithsonian Institution.** Since 1989, I have been invited by the Smithsonian Institution as a consultant to identify and re-unite musical manuscripts of Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, and others.

With the aid of several outside consultants, including Mark Tucker and Andrew Homzy, and with the dedication of the archival staff -- notably Deborra Ann Richardson and Ann K. Kuebler, the music was finally cataloged, down to the level of each piece of paper. Then, after years of intensive efforts, in 1998 the staff completed cataloging the Duke Ellington Collection. The entire catalog was placed on the World Wide Web, where it can be accessed 24 hours a day. The level of detail the Smithsonian's website provides about the collection -- especially the music -- is unusual among library and archival collections, and makes the Duke Ellington Collection extraordinarily accessible.

My work led to the development of the current database now used to reference these documents. Other results of my research in Ellington's music has been many published booklets accompanying Ellington recordings, articles and reviews on Ellington's music in various journals, and being the artistic director of an Ellington festival in Cleveland, Ohio in October 1995.

On February 4, 1997, National Public Radio broadcast a concert devoted to the music of jazz composer Tadd Dameron. My responsibility was to research and write the narrative script used for the broadcast and to provide most of the music played in the concert.

Organizer, consultant, musical director and lecturer for the Pointe-Claire Cultural Society of Québec, for which I produced 16 presentations in the *Experiencing Jazz* series which combines lectures and musical performances designed to educate and entertain family audiences utilizing various aspects and idioms of jazz.

Contracted by the Northeast Ohio Jazz Society to prepare a new performance edition of *Focus* by Eddie Sauter which was originally written for and recorded by Stan Getz. The performance featured Cleveland tenor saxophonist Ernie Krivda with a string section, bass and drums. A new edition of *Focus* has been published utilizing my version - Jazz Lines Editions (2012)

Awarded many grants and awards while at Concordia - Charlie Barnet Project (1994); travel grants to make presentations at six of the International Duke Ellington Conferences and at four International Jazz Educators Conferences.

Contracted by the National Library in Ottawa to research and assess the materials held by pianist Paul Bley in order to establish an archival collection pertaining to this internationally renowned musician who was born and grew up in Montréal.

Contracted by the University of Toronto Music Library to research and assess a collection of scores by the grammy award winning Toronto jazz arranger / composer, Rob McConnell, in order to establish an archival collection of his music.

Research consultant for the Glen Gray Collection of musical manuscripts at Northeastern University: Boston, November 5-14, 1990.

Consultant for **Classical Jazz** a concert featuring Ellington's music at Lincoln Center, New York - August 10, 1988.

Member, Board of Directors -REGROUPEMENT DES ARTISTES JAZZ DU QUÉBEC (RAJQ)

Founding Member of the Jazz Association of Montréal (**JAM**). Elected Board of Directors.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL ACTIVITY**

Freelance tubaist in the Montréal area. Work included C.B.C. radio and television, Canadian National Film Board, various recording sessions for discs and commercial work, Ballets, Operas and symphonic work at Place Des Arts and other major concert halls in Québec. Tubaist, orchestrator and arranger for

the 1976 Olympics. Tubaist with *Omni-cuivre* Brass Quintet which played many concerts throughout the Montréal area.

1967

Joined the Vic Vogel Big Band and remained a member until 1982.

In 1968, I was asked by Walter Boudreau to join his group *L'infonie*. After several rehearsals, he announced they would be touring Quebec. Unfortunately, I was completing my studies and not able to join them for the tour. Interestingly, *L'infonie* represented the musical expression of the interests in Québec independence.

Active as a pianist, bassist, conductor, arranger and composer in a wide variety of roles. Leader of many musical groups including **The Peel Street Stompers**, **Sax No End**, **Thesaurus**, **The Andrew Homzy Jazz Orchestra**, and **The Andrew Homzy Selected Sextet**, **The Valentino Orchestra**.

As Director of the Valentino Orchestra. I produced three CDs and presented many concerts - including twice at the 1997 Montréal International Jazz Festival which attracted audiences of more than 50,000 people each – the Valentino Orchestra returned to the Festival in 1998 (Theatre du Nouveau Monde) and 1999 (Main Stage).

- **About The Andrew Homzy Jazz Orchestra:**

Formed in April of 1984, this 16-piece professional jazz orchestra is dedicated to what no other group in Canada has attempted — the performance of masterpieces from the jazz repertoire; particularly extended suites by the greatest composers in the jazz idiom. As well, the orchestra has premiered new compositions and features some of Montréal's best jazz soloists. In many concerts, The Andrew Homzy Jazz Orchestra has given Canadian première performances of such important works as:

Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's *Idiom '59* and *Suite Thursday, Princess Blue, Jazz Festival Jazz, The Far East Suite, The Nutcracker Suite* Francy Boland's *Concerto For Jazz Orchestra, Hommage À Hoagy Carmichael; All Blues Suite, Off Limits Suite; Faces, Sackbuts,*

*A Suite of Harold Arlen Songs*. George Russell's *All About Rosie*; Stan Tracey's *Genesis Suite*; *The Longer Shorter Suite* - A group of compositions by Wayne Shorter arranged by Ted Moses; as well, original compositions such as *For Those Who Loved Nick*, *Dinner With Fats*, *Cruel Shoes*, *M.D. Blue*, *Goodbye Blue Mondays*, *Blue Joose*, *Limbo Lu,,* *Monkeys Nest*, *Precious Cargo*, *The Duality Of The Blues* and a *Tribute To Tadd Dameron* were written especially for the orchestra by Andrew Homzy.

"Homzy composed a four-movement suite in honor of Duke Ellington's 100th birthday, **Cent-Ellington**, and a piece written for and dedicated to the ceremonies celebrating the recent Concordia University Capital Campaign called Concordia 25, Ellington 100.

At its Closing Celebration, October 1 at Concordia's Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, the Campaign team — and donors — humbled even the optimists: it was announced to the enthusiastic crowd of donors, volunteers, faculty, staff and students that the Campaign had raised an astonishing \$77,075,599.

The event's first-class entertainment, included a lively multimedia presentation, remarks by recent graduates Monica Conway, BSc 99, and Robert Laliberte, BCom 99, Rector Frederick Lowy, Petro-Canada president and CEO James Stanford, L BSc 58, Italian Chamber of Commerce executive director Marianna Simeone, BA 86, Campaign chair Ronald Corey and student (and campaign caller) Divine Agodzo, who announced the final tally. The show was wrapped up by a rousing performance of Duke Ellington numbers by the Andrew Homzy Jazz Orchestra."

## **Reviews of recordings and festival events:**

### **CD - DSM3030 ANDREW HOMZY ENSEMBLE "King Porter Stomp - Homage To Jelly Roll Morton"**

Andrew Homzy is an expert on the music of Duke Ellington and Charles Mingus as well as Jelly Roll Morton. On March 28, 1998, he led an eleven piece band through the wonderful world of Morton - included was Jelly Roll's dedication to pianist Porter King and some music Morton inspired - Mingus' "**My Jelly Roll Soul**," Homzy's dedication to Jelly Roll's mother, "**Madame Lamotte**," "**Black Bottom Stomp**," "**Jungle Blues**," "**The Pearls**," "**King Porter Stomp**," "**Wolverine Blues**," "**Buddy Bolden's Blues**" and "**Shreveport Stomp**." Andrew Homzy is one of Montreal's prized possessions, a professor at Concordia University for a dozen years, he's an expert on the music of Duke Ellington and Charles Mingus as well as

Morton. He was born in Toledo, Ohio and grew up musically in Cleveland. He came to Montreal to study musicology at McGill University in 'Expo Year', 1967, and ten years later began teaching jazz studies at Concordia, where a number of the musicians heard on this recording are also staff members.

On March 28, 1998, Andrew led an eleven piece band through the wonderful world of Morton - included was Jelly Roll's dedication to pianist Porter King and some music Morton inspired - Mingus' My Jelly Roll Soul and Homzy's dedication to Jelly Roll's mother, Madame Lamotte. The instrumentation would, I think, have been to Morton's liking, two trumpets (flugelhorn), trombone (doubling vocal), french horn, flute, clarinet, bassoon, oboe/english horn, guitar, bass (Normand Guilbeault, who has a band that spends a good deal of time playing Mingus' music) and drums. It was a wonderful evening in an intimate setting and now, again thanks to producer Daniel Vachon, we can listen to these loving renditions of Morton's music at our leisure in the comfort of our own homes - thanks to Andrew, all the musicians involved, and of course, Jelly Roll himself, with personal thanks to Bill W.

As Gunther Schuller has noted, Morton's successes were profound and unique within the context of pre-1930s jazz - Andrew Homzy's arrangements have done them justice here - ENJOY! LEN DOBBIN Friend to Jazz

### **DSM3030 ANDREW HOMZY ENSEMBLE Live - MONTRÉAL HOUR.**

By the time Jelly Roll Morton recorded his classic Red Hot Peppers in 1927, his orchestral approach, rooted in the New Orleans tradition of his youth, was almost irrelevant, soon to be superseded by the more urbane styles of Duke Ellington and Fletcher Henderson. But, oh, what material he left behind, rich with possibilities for intelligent arrangers and resourceful players. Good news: Andrew Homzy is a very intelligent arranger and the Montreal musicians he employs are adept at handling those charts. This was recorded in 1998 at Chappelle Historique du Bon Pasteur, the performance capturing the wit and verve of Morton, leavened with more modern harmonic and rhythmic notions. Mike Chamberlain

### **\*The Valentino Orchestra**

After over a year of careful preparation, including a number of crowd-pleasing try-out performances, the Valentino Orchestra has now taken its place on the entertainment scene and captured positive media and public attention. On September 20th, 1996, in conjunction with McGill University's "Homecoming the group's first CD The Valentino Orchestra: My Foolish Heart on Just A Memory Records (JAM 9125-2) is released. The Valentino Orchestra, so named to evoke an era, bases its repertoire of "sophisticated swing" on the standards of the golden age

of American popular music - tunes by composers like Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael and the hundreds of others who in the "Jazz Age" established what is often called the "Great American Songbook". But what is perhaps most attractive about the band's performances is that it has chosen to preserve the original musical settings of these great songs: the arrangements that were written for the countless dance bands and hotel orchestras of the twenties and thirties, complete with the elegance of violins and even the occasional corny flourish. Although most of the repertoire is drawn stylistically from the period between the two world wars, the band's appeal is based on fun, not nostalgia. The Orchestra can and does move beyond arbitrary boundaries when the music fits. In public performance, this group is able to demonstrate amazing flexibility according to the tastes of the audience. Their live show includes entertainment by first-rate vocalists and small group presentation by "bands within the band". The Valentino Orchestra features a number of outstanding players including Gerald Danovitch, professor of music at McGill and leader of the world-famous Gerald Danovitch Saxophone Quartet. Mike Cartile was the legendary lead trumpet player with the Vic Vogel Big Band for over a decade. Under the musical direction of Andrew Homzy, professor of music at Concordia University, the Valentino Orchestra combines light-hearted entertainment and a fresh perspective with solid musical values.

## **L'ATELIER DE L'ORCHESTRE DE CORD'EN FETE DIRIGÉ PAR ANDREW HOMZY:**

Le Festival Cord'en Fête 99 a beau avoir réuni une impressionnante brochette de violonistes, violoncellistes et de guitaristes pour le plus grand bénéfice des apprentis désireux d'avancer dans leur cheminement artistique, il tient aussi à profiter de l'apport d'autres types de musiciens pouvant avoir un impact sur les instruments à cordes et ceux qui en jouent. Nous sommes donc heureux d'accueillir le réputé chef d'orchestre Andrew Homzy dans les rangs des professeurs d'ateliers à Cord'en Fête 99.

Américain d'origine et tubiste de formation, Andrew Homzy a fait sa maîtrise à l'Université McGill, en musicologie, où il a été l'auteur de la première thèse canadienne sur le jazz.

Maintenant enseignant en la matière à l'Université Concordia, on le connaît surtout comme compositeur, chef d'orchestre et arrangeur. Il écrit également beaucoup sur la musique, en plus de donner des conférences au Canada, aux États-Unis et en Europe. En avril dernier, il se voyait confier la direction de l'Orchestre de Jazz de l'Union Européenne de Radio- Télévision lors du concert du centième anniversaire du Duke, dont il est un grand admirateur.

La contribution de M. Homzy, lors du Festival Cord'en Fête, sera de diriger l'imprévisible Orchestre Cord'en Fête, un ensemble de 20 à 25 musiciens...qui n'est même pas encore formé! L'exercice risque d'être on ne peut plus stimulant : l'ensemble sera formé par des participants aux ateliers qui auront posé leur candidature au début du Festival. Au cours des cinq répétitions intensives, l'ensemble s'appropriera un répertoire spécialement monté et arrangé par M. Homzy lui-même, et le jouera devant public au cours de l'un des concerts de Cord'en Fête 99. M. Homzy accompagnera l'Orchestre du festival au piano, et tous seront appuyés par une section rythmique invitée. Si le concept a quelque chose d'aventureux, les esprits curieux seront également comblés par l'aspect éducatif du répertoire sélectionné, puisque chaque pièce y représentera une époque différente de l'histoire du jazz! L'Orchestre Cord'en Fête : un défi pour les uns, du suspense pour les autres; une belle leçon d'histoire et une aventure musicale précieuse pour tous!

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Reviewed by Bill Bernardi

The European Broadcasting Union Jazz Orchestra, Directed by Andrew Homzy  
100 Years Of Duke Ellington

Justin Time Records JTR 8476-2 1999 Time: 74:26

**Musicians:** Andrew Homzy - Director; - Esko Heikkinen, Charles Ellison, Patrick Lehmann, Peter Asplund - Trumpets; Dave Turner, Sasa Nestorovic, Frantisek Kop, Jesper Thilo, Christian Maurer, Andre Villeger - Saxophones; Jacques Bourget, Birger Carlsen, Ferenc Schreck - Trombones; Renato Chicco - Piano; Boris Koslov - Bass; Hans Dekker - Drums

**Songs:** 1. Medley 2. Harmony In Harlem 3. Cent-Ellington (1st Movement) 4. Heaven 5. Purple Gazelle 6. Togo Brava Suite 7. Cent-Ellington (4th Movement)

So you say you haven't had enough of Duke Ellington's music this past year? Well, here's some more. The European Broadcasting Union Jazz Orchestra is the largest single professional association of national broadcasters in the world. It serves public radio and television in 79 countries, including 49 in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Director Andrew Homzy was asked to do a concert commemorating Duke's 100th birthday. This album is the highlight of two concerts held April 29 and 30, 1999 in Montreal and Quebec City.

The album kicks off with the 31 minute medley, which is basically Ellington's greatest hits. For

the most part the medley is made up of the classic songs with an occasional solo here and there. Highlights include Ferenc Schreck's bass trombone on "Sophisticated Lady", Esko Heikkinen's trumpet on "Do Nothing 'Till You Hear From Me", Jacques Bourget's trombone on "A Train", and Sasa Nestorovic's sax on "I'm Beginning To See The Light". Up next is a nice, bouncy arrangement of "Harmony In Harlem", which starts out in a nice groove, but tends to die down during the sax solos.

Homzy wrote an original piece for this concert entitled "Cent-Ellington". The 1st movement has a grooving swing to it, and features a very nice bass solo by Boris Koslov, as well as Charles Ellison's trumpet. "Heaven" is a nice ballad which is a vehicle for Dave Turner's alto sax. The 18 minute "Togo Brava Suite" is a highlight piece, done in four movements. Andre Villeger's bari sax and Patrick Lehmann's trumpet shine throughout. The final movement really swings here. the closing tune is the fourth movement of Homzy's "Cent-Ellington", a bluesy shuffle, with the plunger work by trumpeter Peter Asplund and the tickling of the ivories by pianist Renato Chicco.

While the music is performed technically well, there are times when it gets a bit stale. "Purple Gazelle" is a good example, as is "Harmony In Heaven". Most of these charts are the original arrangements, however the original personnel aren't playing them, and that makes a difference. Ellington was well known to have written arrangements that weren't always complete. He wrote for the musician instead of the instrument. Therefore, the interpretations on this recording aren't always as good as the original. This is a bit of an uneven recording, but there is plenty to enjoy nevertheless. BB -----

## Recension, Christer Björklund

100 years of Duke Ellington med The European Broadcasting Union Jazz Orchestra. Directed by Andrew Homzy. Justin Time JTR 8476-2.

Jag lyssnade för några år sedan på Andrew Homzy, från Canada, då han höll ett intressant föredrag hos svenska Ellingtonsällskapet om sina rekonstruktioner av musik, från spridda och ofullständiga notpapper, komponerad av Charles Mingus och Duke Ellington/Billy Stryhorn. Han dirigerade senare Radiojazzgruppen i Mingus Epitaph, aldrig tidigare framfört i sin helhet. Resultatet: Ett utmärkt radiosänt framförande.

Här återkommer han med den europeiska radiounionens storband på en cd. Orkestern är tillfälligt sammansatt för radiosända konserter i Canada i samband med 100-årsdagen av Ellingtons födelse i april 1999. De medverkade musikerna kommer från olika europeiska och nordamerikanska länder. Bl a medverkar fine svenske trumpetaren Peter Asplund, (som också

spelat Ellingtonmusik för det svenska Ellingtonsällskapet). Inledningen är ett 31 minuter långt potpuri på 17 av Ellingtons/Strayhorns mest äldre välkända kompositioner. Det låter intressant och bra.. Men särskilt i nyare stycken som bl a Purple Gazelle, Togo Brava Suite och Cent-Ellington, av Homzy, hörs en förstklassig och samspelt orkester som t o m nästan skapar riktig Ellingtonstämning. Inspelningen är gjord av Canadas franska radio. Ljudet låter bra även på min enkla cd-spelare. På en dyrare Pioneer naturligtvis mycket bättre. En medlyssnare sa om Purple Gazelle att det var bästa cd-ljud han hört med en stor jazzorkester. Och just detta är särskilt viktigt för lyssnarintrycket av Ellingtonmusik, där ofta den stora orkesterns många olika stämmor löper i varandra och klangfärgernas variationer är något av finesserna. Som just i Purple Gazelle där varje saxofon och klarinett både måste höras tydligt var för sig och samtidigt kunna blanda sig till en helhet med orkestern i övrigt. Sammantaget är detta en fin hyllning till Ellingtons och Strayhorns musik. Lyssna och njut!

### **European Broadcasting Union Jazz Orchestra 100 Years of Duke Ellington**

(Justin Time / Fusion III)

This marvelous salute was recorded here and in Quebec City by a band of 13 Europeans and three Canadians. The event, put together by band director Andrew Homzy, was two years in the making. What happens when you put this number of jazz musicians together for the first time and give them 20-plus paid hours of rehearsal time? The answer is here: great music, lovingly played by a group who, when it was all over, were like family. **10/10** (Len Dobbin)