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"BLUE JEAN" FOR SAXOPHONE QUARTET

Matt Cashdollar

(James Ator, Associate Professor of Music; Melanie Bookout, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music)

Department of Music

"Blue Jean" is a quartet in the jazz idiom in 5/4 meter and is scored for soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones. The architecture of the composition combines the formal symmetries of sonata form with the free improvisation that is fundamental to jazz performance. The construction of my piece is analogous to sonata form in that I have used a traditional blues form (a twelve-measure structure consisting of three four-measure units) as both the exposition (with one repetition) and recapitulation. An improvised section for soprano saxophone serves as the development section one would expect to hear in a piece written in a sonata form, and I have provided introduction, transitions, and a coda section.

"Blue Jean" is a generally homophonic piece written in a traditional tonal language with alterations and complications. For example, the piece's basic blues progression is enhanced through my introduction of dissonances, and the overall 5/4 meter and the temporary shift to 3/4 meter in the section transitional to the development are unexpected choices for a jazz composition based on the blues.

"Blue Jean" will be performed by the IPFW Saxophone Quartet, an ensemble of which I am a member, and I will be the featured soprano saxophone soloist. This piece was written in honor of my mother Jeanne, whose love for music strongly influenced my own.