

Terwilliger Plaza
Friday Night Music
November 5, 2021, 7:30 PM

Brad Mersereau, Piano and David Duthie, Bass

Good evening. We are grateful for your presence. I am Brad Mersereau and have enjoyed the best seat in the house playing piano music over the past 25 years for Duniway lunchtime diners, Promenade listeners, Auditorium events and Metcalf gigs. Wednesdays have been fun after hanging out in the pool hall and then occasionally conjuring appropriate background tunes for Aquafit exercisers. Handel's water music is not in my repertoire.

My friend David Duthie is a seasoned professional who, courtesy of Ethel, his upright bass, has been playing a variety of gigs in multi-configurations in Portland and far beyond now approaching 5 decades. He currently plays riverboat shows with Bo Ayars, the former arranger and conductor for Liberace. His duo gig with pianist Jim Blackburn for 29 years is the longest in Portland. We simply want to have some fun this evening offering music from the American Songbook, the movies, and also playing a few originals. Though frequently asked, I don't live here ... yet!

1. Love is Here To Stay C Verse 96bpm George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin 1938

George's last song (1937). Ira wrote lyrics as loving tribute to his brother. Vernon Duke & Oscar Levant heard George sing the verse which he did not document in writing. Vernon reconstructed it after George's death. Gene Kelly sang this beautiful ballad to Leslie Caron in the classic 1951 film, An American in Paris.

2. Some Day My Prince Will Come Bb 120 bpm Frank Churchill, Larry Morey 1937

Written for Disney's Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs. It's unusual harmonic structure is attractive to jazz musicians and is considered a standard.

3. And I Love Her Eb 108 bpm John Lennon, Paul McCartney 1964

John Lennon said this ballad was Paul's 1st Yesterday. High praise indeed. Billboard #12

4. Sing 120bpm C Joe Raposo 1971

Sesame Street standard and a 3rd generation family favorite. "Sing of good things, not bad Sing of happy not sad. Don't worry if it's not good enough for anyone else to hear ... jut sing, Sing a song." Good message for all.

5. It Could Happen To You 104 bpm 2F/2G Jimmy Van Heusen, Johnny Burke 1943

Jo Stafford & Billboard 1944 Bestseller Bing Crosby Billboard #10 in same year!

6. How Insensitive 120 bpm D min Antonio Carlos Jobim, Vincente De Moraes 1963

Haunting melody and lyric – Heavy borrowing from Chopin Prelude Opus 28 #7

- 7 Secret Love 112 bpm G Sammy Fain, Paul Francis Webster

Doris Day Sammy Fain sang & she almost fell apart. Bicycled to studio. Sang 1 take with orchestra. Nominated for Oscar in Calamity Jane & won in 1954 Also Billboard #1

8. Autumn Leaves 136 bpm Eb/Cm Joseph Kosma, Johnny Mercer 1945
Jazz standard covered by over 1000 musicians.

9. The Sweetheart Tree 120 bpm F Henry Mancini, Johnny Mercer 1965

Featured in The Great American Race starring Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon & Natalie Wood

10. The Days Of Wine And Roses 104 bpm 2F/2D Henry Mancini, Johnny Mercer 1962

Title from 1896 poem, Vitae Summa Brevis. Oscar Winner in 1963.

11. Uh Oh 120 bpm Cm Brad Mersereau 2016

One of Dad's favorite expressions.

12. The Gentle Rain 104 bpm Cm Luiz Bonfa, Matt Dubey 1965

Luiz was a pioneer and champion of the Bossa Nova. One of Tony Bennet's favorite songs
Sung by Astrid Gilberto Barbra Streisand, Sarah Vaughan Featured in 1966 film with same title

13. Sweet Potato Fries 120 bpm Bb Brad Mersereau 2019

Inspired by Nan Overall who was talented singer with the Mellomacs. She exclaimed during her lunch 2 years ago, "I want me some Sweet Potato Fries! 4 note blues motif wrote itself. I thanked her as she departed and this blues became her song.

Brad Mersereau is a pianist and composer who writes music for tv and movies. He honors the memory of his sister with addiction prevention and recovery resources @ www.bradmersereau.com
David Duthie is a versatile bass and tuba player with regular gigs in multiple configurations for decades. He currently plays shows with Bo Ayars, the former arranger and conductor for Liberace. His duo gig with Jim Blackburn, pianist, for 29 years is the longest in Portland.