MEANWHILE
A SPIRITED EXPLORATION OF AMERICAN IMPROVISED MUSIC BY BRYCE RABIDEAU
OCT 28-29
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BRYCE RABIDEAU
MEANWHILE
A SPIRITED EXPLORATION OF AMERICAN IMPROVISED MUSIC
OCTOBER 28 – 29 | NEW HAZLETT THEATER

ARTISTIC TEAM

BRYCE RABIDEAU......................................................COMPOSER/MANDOLIN
JASON RAFALAK..........................................................UPRIGHT BASS
JOHN BAGNATO.................................................................ACOUSTIC GUITAR
(STEEL-STRING AND NYLON-STRING)

PRODUCTION

TUCKER TOPEL...........................................................SET DESIGNER
HARBOUR EDNEY..........................................................LIGHTING DESIGNER
MALCOLM INGLIS........................................................SOUND ENGINEER
RACHAEL ELLIS..............................................................STAGE MANAGER

SPECIAL THANKS

FROM BRYCE
My biological family: Mom, Dad and Ali
My band family: Shane, Lucy, Margot, Jason, and Mac

FROM JASON
Lahia and Lila

FROM JOHN
Luana
**ABOUT MEANWHILE**

*meanwhile* is a spirited exploration of American improvised music. Accompanied by Jason Rafalak (Upright Bass) and John Bagnato (Acoustic Guitar), mandolinist Bryce Rabideau employs a suite of original songs to push the limits of the acoustic string trio and create a sound that is rich, spontaneous, and undeniably fun.

"Instrumental music is sometimes a ‘tough sell,’ but I think it’s very motivating to write something that is compelling all the way through and tells a story that words can’t tell... My goal is to showcase some of my musical inspirations in a way that’s exciting and thrilling and true to the genres that inspired them."

— BRYCE RABIDEAU

NHT 21/22
ARTIST STATEMENT

I am an instrumentalist, composer, and music teacher. My professional focus over the last few years has been on pushing the musical limits of the mandolin. In America, the mandolin has long been seen as an important component of bluegrass and old-time folk music, but there are many other styles that it is beautifully suited for.

Thus, I have spent the last five years exploring other genres on the mandolin in an effort to find the niches that it has not yet inhabited. Jazz music, in particular, is well suited for the mandolin, and much of my work in that time has been transcribing great jazz solos, improvising over jazz standards, and exploring the existing legacy of jazz mandolin.

In a broader sense, though, *Meanwhile* comes from my passion for telling musical stories. In January 2020, I began composing an instrumental piece for the mandolin, upright bass, and acoustic guitar. I was so struck by the storytelling potential of this combination, I continued writing until I had ten pieces in total. Though my experiences with jazz heavily informed my compositions, I’ve incorporated many of my favorite genres into this work: bluegrass, rock, jazz fusion, bossa nova, and more. My goal, above all else, was to serve the story of the song.

Jason Rafalak and John Bagnato’s exceptional abilities made this project what it is. They worked with me continually to make this music as strong as it could be, and their musical identities are now integral to the sound of each piece. I am so grateful for their musicianship, mentorship, and friendship.
ARTIST BIOS

BRYCE RABIDEAU
(Composer/Mandolin) is a mandolinist and composer who has studied a wide range of musical genres. He is an alumni of Duquesne University’s jazz guitar program and a member of the folk band Buffalo Rose. His recent arrangements and compositions can be found in the upcoming radio drama Ms. Palmer’s Honey and educational programming from Codejoy.

JASON RAFALAK
(Upright Bass) plays acoustic and electric bass, and has been in high demand for performance and session work in the Pittsburgh area for over a decade. His 100+ album credits include work with jazz and funk drummer Poogie Bell, Appalachian folk duo The Early Mays, contemporary folk band Buffalo Rose, and pop singer Joy Ike. He is a music therapist at Friendship Academy, where he works with students with emotional and behavioral challenges.

JOHN BAGNATO
(Acoustic Guitar) toured internationally with Donald Harrison jr. on four continents over a decade that he lived in New Orleans. He has performed with Wu Tang Clan, the Pharcyde, Busta Rhymes, India.Arie, and Doug E. Fresh. His “Sweet Crude Blues” won USA Today’s Deepwater Horizon Tragedy Song contest. He studied with Geri Allen and Don Cherry and currently teaches at the University of Pittsburgh and West Virginia University.
PRODUCTION BIOS

TUCKER TOPEL, Set Designer (he/him) is a Pittsburgh-based scenic designer and teaching artist after growing up in the southern Wisconsin area. He is an alumnus of Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA and currently the adjunct scenic design teacher at CAPA. Tucker’s most recent local design credits include: JazzTime (Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Education Dept.), Forever Plaid (Stage 62), and Milton (CSA Season 8). Other credits include Hoard (off the WALL), She Kills Monsters (Mercyhurst University), King Lear (Ozark Actors Theatre), and The Good Doctor (SUNY Oswego University).

HARBOUR EDNEY, Lighting Designer (they/he), is a lighting designer currently based out of Pittsburgh, PA. They have designed lights at The New Hazlett Theater, City Theatre Company, The Historic Pittsburgh Playhouse, The Bill Nunn Blackbox, The Space Upstairs, and various other spaces. Their most recent design credits include The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano (The New Hazlett Theater), Something in the Water (Alumni Theater Company), IN PERSON (The Pillow Projects), and Bundle of Sticks (INTAR NYC). Harbour graduated from Point Park University in 2018 with a BFA in Lighting Design and is a designer for hire.

MALCOLM INGLIS, Sound Engineer (he/him) is a musician and audio engineer who has lived in Pittsburgh for the past 8 years. During this time he became a founding member of folk band Buffalo Rose, joined the popular country band Bindley Hardware Co, and started his own recording studio, The AudioScribe. He also founded an annual community local music festival, Wilkins Block Party, and recently obtained the position of Installation Manager for HEAR Corp, a Pittsburgh based events production company. During his free time, Malcolm can be found in his studio tinkering and creating unique solutions to the many complex audio situations facing his bands and this city.

RACHAEL ELLIS, Stage Manager (she/her) is honored to be stage managing this production! She has worked in various production, managerial, and patron-based positions over the years with many companies, including Pittsburgh Public Theater, Little Lake Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh New Works Festival, City Theatre, Kelly Strayhorn Theater, USITT, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, The Walt Disney Company, and Glimmerglass Festival. Rachael thanks Bryce and the staff New Hazlett Theater staff for their hard work and collaboration.
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   862 Western Avenue

3. Lola Bistro
   1100 Galveston Avenue

4. Lillen’s Restaurant
   535 East Ohio Street

5. Siempre Algo
   414 East Ohio Street

6. Hook Fish & Chicken
   1221 Federal Street

7. Penn Brewery
   800 Vinial Street

8. Scratch Food & Beverage
   1720 Lowrie Street

9. Leo. a public house
   1207 Allegheny Avenue

10. Threadbare Cider House
    1291 Spring Garden Avenue

11. Refucilo Winery
    907 Western Avenue

12. 40 North Bar and Restaurant
    40 W. North Avenue

13. Fig & Ash
    514 E Ohio Street

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