PROFESSOR SONNY BUXTON

SPRING SESSION – 2019

MONDAYS – 1PM

"I GOT RHYTHM" ....

WEEK # 1 – APRIL 8

IRVING BERLIN – AN AMERICAN SONG
Jerome Kern said it best: Irving Berlin has no place in American music—he is American music. From “Alexander’s Ragtime Band,” to “God Bless America,” and “White Christmas” he, for more than half a century, wrote some of the most popular and enduring songs of all time. He, also, became one of the wealthiest of all composers and publishers. We’ll look at Irving Berlin from his childhood on New York’s lower East Side to his 100th birthday celebration at Carnegie Hall.

Week # 2 – April 15

IRVING BERLIN – part 2

WEEK # 3 – APRIL 22

GEORGE GERSHWIN
“I Got Rhythm” is one of the signature tunes for jazz musicians from the Gershwin songbook. The chord progressions from “I Got Rhythm” have been the foundation for hundreds of jazz compositions. Gershwin was a jazz and classical piano player. His compositions reflected the love for both ends of the spectrum. The Gershwin tunes, as well as Duke Ellington’s, are the most popular among jazz musicians. George and his brother, Ira, like Irving Berlin, built a publishing empire.
WEEK #4 – APRIL 29

GEORGE GERSHWIN – Part 2

WEEK #5 – MAY 6

The tale of Quincy Delight Jones is a fascinating musical exploration of an icon shaping four generations of American music. From his roots in Chicago to Seattle, Jones has carved a unique position in musical history, perhaps, to never be matched. Winning 27 Grammy Awards is just the beginning of the Quincy Jones story.

WEEK #6 – MAY 13

QUINCY JONES – Part 2 – “Listen Up.”

WEEK #7 – MAY 20

HAROLD ARLEN was one of the most prolific and successful songwriters of the last century. His tunes, blues inflected; “Blues in the Night,” “Stormy Weather,” “One For My Baby” to “Over the Rainbow,” are all classics. Like George Gershwin, Arlen’s music was popular with jazz musicians, particularly, singers. But, he also covered Broadway and motion pictures.

MAY 27 – HOLIDAY – Memorial Day

WEEK #8 – JUNE 3

RICHARD RODGERS career spanned over seven decades. He wrote over 900 songs for more than 70 shows. It was a body of work unmatched by any other theatrical composer in American history. His partnerships with Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II produced some of the most enduring musicals of all time. In the 21st century, Richard Rodgers music is as fresh as ever. When you say, “Great American Songbook,” the thoughts, automatically, recall the works of Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen and Richard Rodgers.