A N I T A B R O W N J A Z Z O R C H E S T R A

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New York Composer to Premiere *Hart Island Suite*
Embracing our collective grief from COVID-19

TARRYTOWN, NY - New York jazz composer, Anita Brown has composed ***Hart Island Suite*** to tell a poignant family story honoring a family member who rests on Hart Island, NYC's public cemetery. She offers its newly-scheduled premiere to simultaneously honor all souls who rest on Hart Island and all who perished as a result of COVID-19, *all of whom were denied the opportunity for funeral rituals.*

Anita Brown Jazz Orchestra will be presented by Jazz Forum Arts to premiere ***Hart Island Suite*** as part of its **2021 Sunset Jazz at Lyndhurst Concert Series:**

WHEN: Thursday, August 26, 2021; 6:30-8:00pm ~ SAVE THE DATE!
WHERE: The west lawn of the Lyndhurst Mansion, 635 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591
ADMISSION: FREE
PARKING: Per car fee on premises
RAIN CONTINGENCY: None

This performance is made possible by Jazz Forum Arts, Project Grants from NYFA and NewMusicUSA and donations through Fractured Atlas: Liberate the Artist.

Hart Island Suite was commissioned by The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, with fiscal sponsorship by The Hart Island Project.
Support for the premiere of **Honoring the Potters Field for NYC: Hart Island, Bronx, NY** provided in part by New Music USA, made possible by annual program support and/or endowment gifts from Mary Flagler Cary.

Composer's Notes:

"This suite was composed to tell a poignant family story, honoring a family member who rests on Hart Island, NYC's public cemetery. At the same time, it seemed to lend itself to honoring all one million souls who rest with her, as these souls were likely never afforded a funeral ritual.

In three movements, ***Hart Island Suite*** tells the story of my parents' grief as per their stillborn daughter, one year my senior (I. Mother's Story). The second movement (II. Terra Incognita) addresses the poor perception of Hart Island itself, seeking to change its public image to one of beauty and serenity. The final movement (III. Julie's Second Line) offers my NYC jazz musician parents and their first-born child a New Orleans style "second line" jazz funeral to lift the life-long painful burden of grief.

As the Covid19-related death rates soared in our nation, local media illustrated the role of NYC Hart Island during this heartbreaking tragic period. With this I realized that ***Hart Island Suite*** inherently embraces New York's and our nation's collective grief, as well as my family's; that the unfortunate delay of this work's planned 2020 premiere now offers a very broad embrace to include the families of all 600,000+ Americans who succumbed to the pandemic and were denied funeral rituals.

Perhaps this delay in scheduling its premiere has presented me the opportunity to offer our nation a definitively American celebration of all souls lost through this unique funeral ritual in America's own jazz idiom." *~Anita Brown*

Anita Brown is an award-winning composer who founded ***Anita Brown Jazz Orchestra*** in 2000. She has been commissioned by The Count Basie, Jon Faddis and Westchester Jazz Orchestras. Her formidable credits in production of live performances and recordings include work with Maria Schneider Orchestra, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Dave Pietro, and her own ensemble.