



RUSSELL SCARBROUGH
BIG BAND

Fun Times

01 MAX-Q

Alto Saxophones: Ethan Helm
Tenor Saxophones: **Jared Sims**
Baritone Saxophone: Dean Keller
Trumpets: Charlie Carr, Bob Miller
Trombones: Russell Scarbrough
Bass Trombone: Paul Abel
Vibraphone: Kristen Shiner McGuire
Guitars: Ariel Kasler • Piano: Chris Ziemba
Bass: Scott Worthington • Drums: Chris Teal

Featured soloists in **Bold**

02 SPIRAL SONG

Soprano & Alto Saxophones: Matt Vashlishan
Tenor Saxophones: **JC Kuhl**
Baritone Saxophone: Doug O'Connor
Flutes: Kathryn Scarbrough
Trumpets: Jeff Ostroski, Jack Smith, Derek Reiss
Shoghi Hayes, **Clay Jenkins**
Trombones: Russell Scarbrough
Piano: John Nyerges • Guitar: Bob Sneider
Bass: Dave Kluge • Drums: Devin Kelly

03 THE CULPRIT

Alto Saxophones: Ethan Helm
Tenor Saxophones: **Jared Sims**
Baritone Saxophone: Dean Keller
Trumpets: Charlie Carr, **Bob Miller**
Trombones: Russell Scarbrough
Vibraphone: Kristen Shiner McGuire
Piano: Chris Ziemba • Bass: Scott Worthington
Drums: Chris Teal

04 ABANDONED IN PLACE

Alto Saxophones: **Matt Vashlishan**
Tenor Saxophones: Brandon Kelley
Baritone Saxophone: Dave Burlone
Trumpets: Charlie Carr, Derek Reiss, Shoghi Hayes, **Clay Jenkins**
Trombones: Russell Scarbrough
Vibraphone: Kristen Shiner McGuire
Piano: Marcelo Magalhães Pinto
Bass: Dave Kluge • Drums: Devin Kelly

05 SOMETHING'S BURNING

Alto Saxophones: **Bill Tiberio**
Tenor Saxophones: Kirsten Edkins
Baritone Saxophone: Dave Burlone
Trumpets: Dan Wright
Trombones: Russell Scarbrough, **Brenden Lanighan**
Bass Trombone: Paul Abel
Guitar: **Bob Sneider** • Organ: Andy Calabrese
Bass: Scott Worthington • Drums: Rich Thompson

06 SONG OF THE NORTHERN ROAD

Soprano & Alto Saxophones: Bill Straub
Tenor Saxophones: **JC Kuhl**
Baritone Saxophone: Steve Davidson
Trumpets: Lu Bonilla, **Clay Jenkins**
Trombones: Russell Scarbrough
Vibraphone & Percussion: Kristen Shiner McGuire
Piano: Marcelo Magalhães Pinto • Guitars: Ariel Kasler
Bass: Dave Kluge • Drums: Rich Thompson

07 NEEDLEDROP

Alto Saxophones: Brandon Kelley
Tenor Saxophones: JC Kuhl
Baritone Saxophone: Dave Burlone
Trumpets: **Jeff Ostroski**, Jack Smith
Derek Reiss, Shoghi Hayes
Trombones: **Russell Scarbrough**
Bass Trombone: Paul Abel
Vibraphone: Kristen Shiner McGuire
Piano: John Nyerges • Bass: Dave Kluge
Drums: Devin Kelly

08 STARTUPS

Soprano Saxophone: JC Kuhl
Alto Saxophone: Brandon Kelley
Tenor Saxophone: **Jared Sims**
Baritone Saxophone: Josh Sinton
Trumpets: **Charlie Carr**
Trombone & Lecturer: **Russell Scarbrough**
Drums: **Chris Teal**

09 SOMETHING IN THE MOON

Alto Saxophones: Matt Vashlishan
Tenor Saxophones: JC Kuhl, Bill Straub
Baritone Saxophone: Doug O'Connor
Flute: Kathryn Scarbrough
Trumpets: Charlie Carr, Herb Smith, Bob Miller
Trombones: Russell Scarbrough, **Jim Pugh**
Bass Trombone: Chris Beaudry
Vibraphone: **James Westfall**
Guitar: Ariel Kasler • Piano: John Nyerges
Bass: Dan Loomis • Drums: Jared Schonig

10 SPLODE

Alto Saxophones: **Bill Straub**, **Bill Tiberio**
Tenor Saxophone: **JC Kuhl**
Baritone Saxophone: **Josh Sinton**
Trumpets: Charlie Carr, **Bob Miller**
Trombones: Russell Scarbrough
Bass Trombone: Paul Abel
Keyboards: Andy Calabrese • Bass: Dave Kluge
Drums: Ralph Humphrey

The years 2020-2021: FUN TIMES (?)

Global pandemic, riots, electoral madness. Thousands out of work, economy on the edge of collapse. Insurrection. Climate disaster on the horizon. "*Fun times...*" said only with the bitterest of irony.

Yet in the midst of all this, making music was the catalyst for hope. I contacted all my friends, classmates, colleagues, and teachers (and even complete strangers!), and to my surprise and delight, 44 musicians were eager to record themselves at home and email me their parts. What started as an informal project to document a few works for future publication ended up as ten charts, composed over the past ten years, recorded over a span of twenty months, totaling seventy minutes of astonishing performances. After hundreds of hours of editing, it's a project I'm immensely proud of.

I chose these pieces because they're fun to listen to and fun to play. There's the sci-fi rock of **MAX-Q**, the earthy groove of **SOMETHING'S BURNING**; the optimistic exuberance of **SONG OF THE NORTHERN ROAD** and the twitter-inspired snark of **STARTUPS**; the fading memory of **ABANDONED IN PLACE** and the enigmatic riddle of **NEELEDROP**; the swagger of **THE CULPRIT** and the grace of **SPIRAL SONG**; the wide-eyed wonder of **SOMETHING IN THE MOON**, the heart-pounding energy of **SPLODE**.

FUN TIMES follows a narrative that is best experienced in order from beginning to end. The sequence of the pieces suggest a story arc that reflects both the relentless *nuttiness* of these times, as well as a way to respond to it; to survive, to cope, even to thrive, and perhaps finally, to heal.

All songs composed by Russell Scarbrough (ASCAP). Copyright 2023 Flexible Music USA
Produced and edited by Russell Scarbrough • Mixed by Dean Albak • Mastered by John McCaig at panicStudios
Cover image by Annette Shaff

FUN TIMES was recorded at various times and places around the world during 2020-2022.

Text for **STARTUPS** by Jason O. Gilbert, used by permission. Originally published as "A poem about Silicon Valley, assembled from Quora questions about Silicon Valley".

MAX-Q and **NEELEDROP** commissioned by the Hilton High School Jazz Ensemble (Jared Streiff, director).

SONG OF THE NORTHERN ROAD commissioned by the Gates-Chili High School Jazz Ensemble (Chris Oldfield, director).

SOMETHING IN THE MOON commissioned by the Bucknell University Jazz Ensemble (Barry Long, director).

In Memoriam Hank Levy, Fred Sturm, Sam Pilafian, and Doug Bull.

Many heartfelt thanks to my teachers John Gifford, Harry Watters, Mark Kellogg, John Marcellus, Bill Dobbins, Harold Danko, and Jeff Campbell.

And my profound and everlasting gratitude to the 44 musicians who took time out of their crazy lives to put on headphones and record this music. Your efforts are nothing short of miraculous. I love you all, and I owe you big time.

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saxophones

Dave Burlone • Steve Davidson • Kirsten Edkins • Ethan Helm
Dean Keller • Brandon Kelley • JC Kuhl • Doug O'Connor • Jared Sims
Josh Sinton • Bill Straub • Bill Tiberio • Matt Vashlishan

trumpets

Lu Bonilla • Charlie Carr • Ron D'Angelo • Shoghi Hayes
Clay Jenkins • Bob Miller • Jeff Ostroski • Derek Reiss
Herb Smith • Jack Smith • Dan Wright

trombones

Paul Abel • Chris Beaudry • Brenden Lanighan
Jim Pugh • Russell Scarbrough

vibraphone & percussion

Kristen Shiner McGuire • James Westfall

flute

Kathryn Scarbrough

guitars

Ariel Kasler • Bob Sneider

piano & keyboards

Andy Calabrese • Marcelo Magalhães Pinto • John Nyerges • Chris Ziemba

bass

Dave Kluge • Dan Loomis • Scott Worthington

drums

Ralph Humphrey • Devin Kelly • Jared Schonig
Chris Teal • Rich Thompson