

# Passionist

Fred Hersch  
PLAYS Billy Strayhorn



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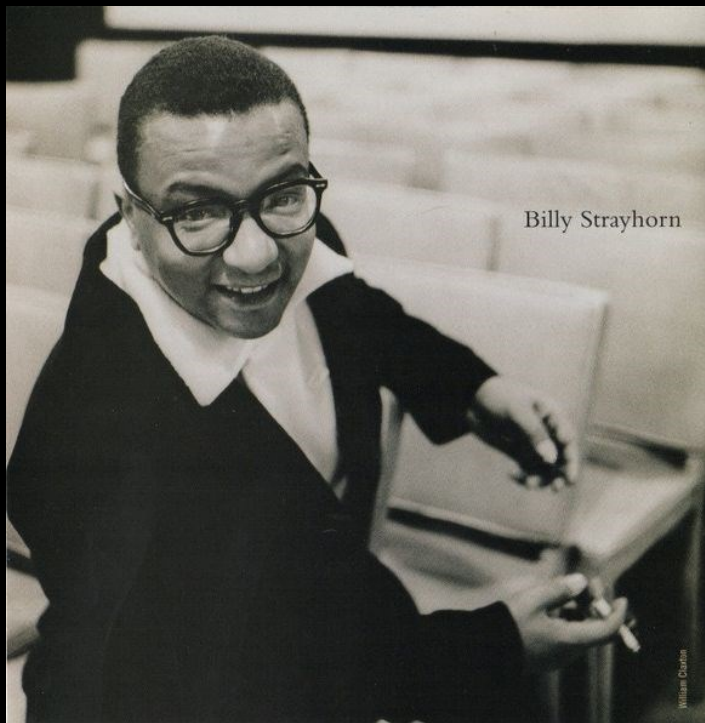
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# Passionist Flower

- 1 Lotus Blossom (2:54)  
(1946) Tempo Music Inc.  
*solo piano*
- 2 Day Dream (5:19)  
(1939) EMI Robbins Catalogue Inc.  
*trio and string orchestra*
- 3 U.M.M.G. (*Upper Manhattan Medical Group*) (7:12)  
(1956) Tempo Music Inc.  
*trio*
- 4 Pretty Girl (*The Star-Crossed Lovers*) (5:27)  
(1956) Tempo Music Inc. / Famous Music Inc.  
*solo piano*
- 5 Rain Check (4:59)  
(1942) Tempo Music Inc.  
*trio*
- 6 Something to Live For (7:54)  
(ca. 1935) EMI Mills Catalogue Inc.  
*piano-vocal:*  
*Andy Bey, vocal*
- 7 Lament for an Orchid (*Absinthe*) (5:41)  
(ca. 1945) Tempo Music Inc.  
*trio and string orchestra*
- 8 Elf (*Isfahan*) (5:08)  
(1964) Tempo Music Inc.  
*solo piano*
- 9 Ballad for Very Tired and Very Sad Lotus-Eaters (5:09)  
(1957) Tempo Music Inc.  
*trio*
- 10 Tonk (3:14)  
(1940) EMI Robbins Catalogue Inc.  
*piano duet: Nurit Tilles, piano 1*
- 11 Passion Flower (5:56)  
(1944) Tempo Music Inc.  
*trio*
- 12 Lush Life (3:29)  
(1933-36) Tempo Music Inc.  
*trio and string orchestra*  
*Lois Martin, viola*



Billy Strayhorn

William DuBois

## The name of Billy Strayhorn

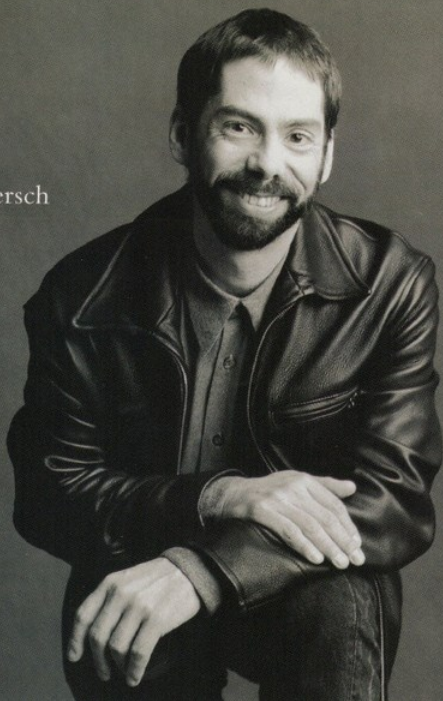
is familiar to most musicians and jazz cognoscenti as “Ellington’s alter ego” and as the composer of “Lush Life.” I first became aware of the extraordinary range of Strayhorn’s own output in the late 1970’s while performing and hanging out at Bradley’s, a jazz club in New York City’s Greenwich Village. There I met pianists Jimmy Rowles and Tommy Flanagan and I first heard (and learned to play) “Pretty Girl,” “U.M.M.G.” and “Lotus Blossom.”

In comparison to the celebrated Ellington, Strayhorn is relatively unknown, but his impact on the Duke’s songbook was incalculable, including the composition of the two tunes most associated with the Ellington Orchestra, “Take the ‘A’ Train” and “Satin Doll.” Through conversations with Strayhorn’s biographer, David Hajdu, I began to understand Strayhorn’s life and music apart from his association with Ellington; he gave me generous access to a trove of obscure Strayhorn pieces that further piqued my interest and heightened my admiration.

Though I have included some of his better-known tunes, those listeners expecting literal performances of Strayhorn here may be disappointed. This is a highly personal selection of compositions that have creatively inspired me as a pianist, interpreter and arranger. In the instances where I have taken unconventional approaches to the material, it is my hope that Strayhorn’s spirit is still present. In the manner that Billy Strayhorn dedicated many of his songs to exotic flowers, I dedicate this musical flower to him, with love.

—Fred Hersch

Fred Hersch



Timothy Greenfield Sanders

Fred Hersch, PIANO

Drew Gress, BASS

Tom Rainey, DRUMS

STRING ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY Eric Stern

Laura Seaton, *violin*  
and *concertmaster*  
Joyce Hamman, *violin*  
Sandra Park, *violin*  
Gene Orloff, *violin*  
Paul Peabody, *violin*  
Eriko Sato, *violin*

Belinda Barrett-  
Whitney, *violin*  
Mark Feldman, *violin*  
Hanne-Berit  
Hahnemann, *violin*  
Yury Vodovoz, *violin*  
Paul Woodiel, *violin*  
Marti Sweet, *violin*  
Lois Martin, *viola*

Ruth Seigler, *viola*  
Alejandra Mohave, *viola*  
Juliet Haffner, *viola*  
Erik Friedlander, *cello*  
Richard Locker, *cello*  
Jesse Levy, *cello*  
John Beal, *bass*  
Jacqui Danilow, *bass*

All compositions by Billy Strayhorn (1916-1967),  
arranged and orchestrated by Fred Hersch,  
except *Tonk* transcribed  
and arranged by Jed Distler.

Produced by Fred Hersch  
*Day Dream*, *Lament for an Orchid*, *Tonk*,  
and *Lush Life* co-produced by Karen Chester  
Recorded, mixed, edited, and mastered by  
A.T. Michael MacDonald

Recorded June and August 1995  
at The Hit Factory, New York City  
Assistant Engineers: Andy Grassi, Greg Thompson,  
Carl Glanville, Glen Marchese, Drake Ayen

Mixed at Ambient Recording Company,  
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Edited and mastered at Foothill Digital,  
New York City

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Executive Producer: Robert Hurwitz

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Byron Olson, Don Rice, Laura Seaton, Eric Stern, Allan Tucker, and Walter Van De Leur.  
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Artie Moorhead and to all the musicians for their inspired performances.

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## Flower Power Fred Hersch PLAYS THE MUSIC OF Billy Strayhorn

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