

Department of Music Upcoming Events

DEIDRE EMERSON, CELLO

Thursday, February 6th at 7:30 pm

Sponsored by the Leslie F. Threadgill Lecture and Artist Series
Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium, Poindexter Hall

MSU PHILHARMONIA

www.msuphilharmonia.org

“Listen to the Movies”

Tuesday, February 18th at 7:30 pm

Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium, Poindexter Hall

CHRIS O’REAR, BARITONE, VOICE RECITAL

Thursday, February 20th at 7:30 pm

Sponsored by the Leslie F. Threadgill Lecture and Artist Series
Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium, Poindexter Hall

CHRIS O’REAR, VOICE MASTERCLASS

Friday, February 21st, 2014 at 10:00 AM

Sponsored by the Leslie F. Threadgill Lecture and Artist Series
Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium, Poindexter Hall

FABIO PARRINI, SOLO PIANO RECITAL

Tuesday, February 25th at 7:30 pm

Sponsored by the Leslie F. Threadgill Lecture and Artist Series
Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium, Poindexter Hall

FABIO PARRINI, PIANO MASTERCLASS

Wednesday, February 26th, 2014 at 12:00 PM

Sponsored by the Leslie F. Threadgill Lecture and Artist Series
Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium, Poindexter Hall

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Mississippi University
for Women

A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

Department of Music

and

National Association of Composers USA

Present

New Classical Music Concert

Saturday, February 1st, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium

Poindexter Hall

Sammy's Suite Joe L. Alexander, BMI
 Sammy's Song
 Invention #2
 Invention #3
 Mary S. Alexander, flute; Karen Chapman, flute

Sans Titre VII..... William Price, ASCAP
 James Zingara, trumpet

To Confront an Ancient Night Richard Montalto, ASCAP
 Fixed Media

Diversions for solo saxophoneLori Ardovino, ASCAP
Whimsical
Reckless
Vigorous
Jauntily
 Lori Ardovino, soprano saxophone

The Center Holds William Price, ASCAP
 Fixed Media

The Sword and the LuteAlan Goldspiel, BMI
I. Lion's Claw
II. Cross Swords
III. Night Song
 Lori Ardovino, soprano saxophone; Alan Goldspiel, guitar

TherEture..... Richard Montalto, ASCAP
 Richard Montalto, theremin

Status Quo Olga Harris, ASCAP
Hoff Nunc
 Zane Lynn, tenor; Julia Mortyakova, piano

Sonata No. 1 "Antithetical References" Valentin M. Bogdan, ASCAP
 Valentin M. Bogdan, piano

Soundscapes.....Joe L. Alexander, BMI
 Alan Goldspiel, guitar; soundfile

Somnoroase Pasarele (Sleepy Birds) Valentin M. Bogdan, ASCAP
 Zane Lynn, tenor; Valentin M. Bogdan, piano

Nostalgia-Theme and Variations on "Dark Eyes" Olga Harris, ASCAP
 Julia Mortyakova, piano; Valentin M. Bogdan, piano

Performers Bios:

Mary Alexander and **Karen Chapman** have been playing duets and small ensemble works for over ten years. They are librarians with the University of Alabama.

Dr. James Zingara is currently Assistant Professor of Trumpet at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where his responsibilities include applied trumpet and brass methods, coaching and conducting brass ensembles, performing with the UAB Faculty Brass Quintet and coordinating the annual UAB Brass Symposium. From 1998 to 2011 Dr. Zingara served as Associate Professor of Music at Troy University in Troy, Alabama where he taught applied trumpet, brass methods, conducted the Troy University Trumpet Ensemble and served as Coordinator of Applied Studies. He has performed in 32 states as well as England, Singapore and Denmark. From 1989-1996 he served as principal cornet/trumpet soloist with the US Air Force Heritage of America Band. Former positions include the National Symphonic Winds, Sinfonia da Camera, Illinois Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and the Cheyenne Symphony. As a chamber musician, he has performed with the UAB Faculty Brass Quintet, the Alabama Trumpet Guild Ensemble, the Chicago Chamber Brass, the University of Illinois Faculty Brass Quintet, Ensemble *Screamer*, the Heritage Brass and many other regional brass quintets and ensembles. His over 120 solo appearances have included professional, military, university and high school level organizations across the United States. He has recorded on the Telarc, Zephyr, Capstone and Mark labels, including a Grammy Award winning CD in 1994.

Zane Lynn received his Bachelor of Music from MUW in May 2012 and is an active musician in the Columbus area. He has performed with the MUW Department of Theatre and the Druid City Opera Workshop at the University of Alabama. He serves as an administrative assistant for the Department of Music at Mississippi University for Women. He also currently serves as the choir director for Beersheba Cumberland Presbyterian church in New Hope, MS.

Julia Mortyakova is originally from Moscow, Russia. She appeared as a soloist with orchestras and performed in music festivals across the United States and abroad including: Aspen Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Natchez Festival of Music, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts, *Musica Nueva Malaga* (Spain), Assisi Music Festival (Italy), Zhytomyr's Musical Spring (Ukraine), and Symphonic Workshops International Piano Masterclass (Bulgaria). In the summer of 2013 she returned to Italy and was a featured performer at the Assisi Performing Arts Festival giving a solo recital and appearing as a soloist with the festival orchestra. Julia is the 2012 winner of the Sigma Alpha Iota Career Performance Grant. Dr. Mortyakova currently teaches and serves as Chair of the Department of Music at the Mississippi University for Women. She previously held a professorship at Alcorn State University. Her research includes applying the existential philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre to piano teaching, and the life and music of Cécile Chaminade. She has presented her research at numerous regional, national and international conferences. Currently, she is working on a book about the Russian-American composer, Olga Harris. Julia is a published author in the United States and Ukraine, and her first independent solo piano album has sold internationally. Dr. Mortyakova is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, Vanderbilt University, New York University, and the University of Miami.

Valentin Bogdan currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music at the Mississippi University for Women. Originally from Romania, he toured extensively throughout Europe and Asia in Netherlands, Great Britain, France and Jordan during his teenage years with the orchestra of Brasov *Tudor Ciortea Music Institute*. He is a prizewinning pianist who has performed solo recitals in the U.S, Canada, and Europe, and has performed with orchestras in Bulgaria, Romania, and the US. He has also released two piano solo recordings, “*The Grands of Piano*” and “*Live in Concert*.” He has had works premiered by musicians of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the Bergonzi String Quartet, Betta Colide Ensemble, Grambling State Wind Ensemble, and the Grambling State Chorale. He has had his music performed at Festival Miami, MOCA Concert Series, the Oregon Bach Festival, and the St. Joseph Catholic Church Concert Series in New York, and at new music concerts hosted by the College Music Society, Society of Composers Inc., NACUSA, and The Louisiana Composers Consortium. He was the 2010 Florida State Music Teachers Association commissioned composer of the year, and he has also received commissions from the Dranoff International Piano Foundation. Dr. Bogdan is a graduate of University of Miami, Michigan State University and Wayne State University with degrees in Piano Performance and Music Composition.

Sonata No. 1 “Antithetical References” - *This single-movement work explores the two main concepts a sonata is based on: balance and contrast. This exploration takes place in a number of ways: there is contrast between the themes (in texture, dynamics, registers, and overall mood), but there is also balance between the main sections of the work (exposition, development and recapitulation). The listener will hear percussive gestures pitted against melodious passages, fast vs. slow, forte vs. piano. They are meant to generate contrasting images through the piece, but also intended to keep the listener on the edge of their seat.*

“Somnoroase Pasarele” (Sleepy Birds) *is the first song of a cycle based on poetry by the Romanian Romantic poet Mihai Eminescu. A lot of Eminescu’s poetry is based on two main subjects: love and nature. This poem depicts the interaction of the elements of a forest at dusk (birds, trees, flowers). There is a mystical atmosphere throughout the poem, which I have tried to convey in the piano part, while the melodic line is a fairly traditional one. This performance represents the world premiere of this piece. The translation reads:*

All those sleepy birds
Now tired from flight
Hide among the leaves
 Good-night!
Only the spring whispers
When the wood sleeps silently;
Even flowers in the gardens
 Sleep peacefully!
Swans glide to their nest
Sheltering among the reeds
May angels guard your rest,
 Sweet dreams!
Above a night of sorcery
Comes the moon’s graceful light,
All is peace and harmony
 Good-night!

The Composers

Joe L. Alexander’s music has been performed throughout the United States, Ecuador and Germany. Performances include recitals/presentations at conferences of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance; the Louisiana Composers’ Consortium; National Association of Composers, USA; the Society of Composers, Inc.; the College Music Society; the Southeastern Composers’ League, the International Tuba Euphonium Conference and the National Association of Composers, USA, National Conferences. His music has been featured at Bowling Green State University’s annual *New Music & Art Festival*, and *New Music for Young Ensemble Composers’ Competition*. In 2002, the Monroe (Louisiana) Symphony Orchestra commissioned him to compose *Louisiana Blue* (baritone voice, flute, piano with orchestra accompaniment). His *Two Bryant Songs* (soprano, Bb clarinet and piano) are recorded on the CD, *Winds and Voices*, by Living Artist Recordings. Alexander is a Professor of Music at Louisiana Tech University where he teaches Theory, Composition and Low Brass. He has served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Southern Chapter of the College Music Society; Secretary, Vice-President and President for the Southeastern Composers’ League; and chair of the National Advisory Council for the National Association of Composers, USA. Currently, Alexander serves as the National Treasurer for NACUSA and President of the Mid-South chapter of the group. Under his direction, Louisiana Tech University hosted the 2005 & 2010 Southeastern Composers’ League’s Forum, and the 2013 National Association of Composers, USA *National Festival*. Alexander holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas and studied composition with Newel Kay Brown, Douglas Knehans, Martin Mailman, Cindy McTee, and James Riley. Alexander is the Louisiana Music Teachers Association, 2012 Commissioned Composer.

Sammy’s Suite was started during the summer of 2006 while I was in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. My wife started playing flute again after a break of several years. Mary soon started playing flute duets with one of our family friends, Karen Chapman. Within a short period of time, they started performing at area retirement homes and I started writing duets for them. The suite is written using Baroque, Classical & Romantic harmonies, modulations and compositional techniques. The composition is name for Karen’s cat, Sammy.

Soundscapes, for Guitar and Soundfile, was composed for my friend and colleague, Alan Goldspiel, in 2005 and revised in March 2009. Sketches of the piece were premiered at the Louisiana Tech University’s Liberal Arts Research Symposium on April 21, 2005. The soundfile was created by manipulating sounds using the Sound Forge and Vegas digital editing programs. The original guitar sounds were created by Alan Goldspiel playing various extended guitar techniques. I would like to thank Dr. Cain Budds for help in the final editing of the revised score. The piece is dedicated to Dr. Goldspiel and Dr. Cain Budds.

William Price’s music has been performed in Europe, South America, Asia, and throughout the United States. His works have been featured at the World Saxophone Congress, the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the Música Viva Festival in Lisbon, the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, and the Florida State University Festival of New Music. Price’s music received awards and commissions from numerous organizations, including ASCAP, the Percussive Arts Society, NACUSA, the Southeastern Composers League, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and in 2009 he was named the Music Teachers National Association Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year. His works are published by Triplo Press, Honeyrock Publishing, Cimarron Music Press, Northeastern Music Publications, Connors Publications, and Imagine Music Publishing. Price received a BMEd degree from the University of North Alabama and his MM and DMA degrees in Composition from Louisiana State University, where he studied with Dinos Constantinides. Dr. Price serves as Associate Professor of Music at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

Composed in 2010, **Sans Titre VII** is a nine-minute, single movement work for solo trumpet that explores physical space and temporal distance as determinants of musical form.

The Center Holds (2013), explores the subtle changes of shape and color through the superimposition of thick, slow-moving, granulated sound textures, and focuses on timbral counterpoint and the continual expansion and contraction of the overtones series. The work uses a single four-note quintal chord as its primary source material. Originally performed on a toy saxophone by the composer and recorded using ProTools, the sonority was retuned, and then granulated and re-recorded using MacPod granular synthesis software. By varying the size of the aural grains and the rate and direction at which the soundfile was read in real time, the resulting textures were layered in such a way so that each sustained note would sound as if it emitted its own interior, yet erratic rhythmic dialogue.

Richard Montalto holds degrees in Composition from the University of New Orleans, Tulane University, and the University of North Texas. He is the recipient of a number of awards, including an ASCAP Grants to Young Composers Award for his Symphony for Wind Ensemble, over 30 ASCAP Awards, and a Mississippi Artist Fellowship for his Symphony #2. His works have been performed at Carnegie Hall, the Montreaux International Jazz Festival, Symphony Space in New York, the New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center, the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States, the International Computer Music Conference, and throughout the United States and Europe. He has served as President of the Southeastern Composers' League and President of the College Music Society Southern Chapter. He has performed on bass across the United States, in South America, and in Europe with a number of ensembles, including Harry Connick and the New Orleans Pops. Prior to joining the Mississippi University for Women faculty in 1988, he served as director of the University of New Orleans Jazz Band.

To Confront an Ancient Night is a short, meditative work combining diverse musical influences. Elements of Tibetan chant, Japanese melodic resources, free atonality, sound mass and stretto emerge and dissolve throughout the work. An E-Mu Morpheus was the single sound source for the work.

TherEtude, was composed in October 2013, especially for a lecture/demonstration presented at the recent Mississippi Music Teachers Association Conference. It demonstrates various performing techniques and "special effects" that are capable with the instrument. The accompanying soundtrack is comprised entirely of digitally processed sounds created on the theremin. The accompaniment emulates timbres characteristic of electronic music of the 1950s.

Lori Ardovino is Professor of Clarinet and Saxophone at the University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL. Dr. Ardovino has been a guest recitalist at a number of colleges, universities and international festivals and performs with the Alabama and Tuscaloosa Symphonies when needed. She is an active composer and has had her works performed across the United States, Canada, Japan and Italy. She is an advocate for new music and is currently a composer/performer member of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance, where she has premiered numerous works. She was the 2012 Composer-in-Residence with **Escape to Create** and is published by Potenza Music Her recent CD, *From a Crack in the Wall* features clarinet music by Alabama composers. She recently was awarded the Alabama State Council on the Arts Artist Fellowship for 2013-2014 and was named the 2013-2014 University Scholar at the University of Montevallo. She is an Artist/Clinician for the Conn-Selmer Corporation.

Diversions for solo saxophone was written in 2013. The word "Diversion" is defined as an instance of turning something aside from its course or an activity that diverts the mind from tedious or serious concerns. Each of the pieces "diverge, deflect and redirect" through a series of twists and turns, stops and starts - aggressively at times, but they also has a whimsical flair, diverting from tedium.

An international solo/chamber music performer, guitarist **Alan Goldspiel** has performed world premieres at NY's Carnegie and CAMI Halls, been featured on NPR radio stations from coast to coast, and performed in the critically acclaimed Goldspiel/Provost Duo. Dr. Goldspiel was the only guitarist to be honored with the Marshall Dodge Award from the Performing Artists Associates of New England. He has been an Artist-in-Residence for North Carolina's Visiting Artist Program and a Composer-in-Residence with Escape to Create. At Louisiana Tech University, he received numerous awards for excellence in teaching, research, and service including the State Arts Council Artist Fellowship Award for artistic excellence. He taught at the International Guitar Festival held at The Hartt School, where he remains the only guitarist to be designated University Scholar for his research on the music of Villa-Lobos. Currently, he is Professor of Music and Chair, Department of Music at the University of Montevallo.

The Sword and the Lute was inspired by the interesting conjecture that many of the Saracen bodyguards/soldiers of the Middle Ages were thought to be musicians/lute players who accompanied many narrative songs of war – soldiers by day, lute players by night! That the power of music and song might be as lethal as a weapon of war is a thought-provoking subtext. Here, these inspirations manifest themselves as a duet/duel between the guitar and the soprano saxophone. *Lion's Claw* refers to the Arabic sword the scimitar, its powerful curved blade said to be quite effective in battle. *Cross Swords* pits each instrument against the other as groups of eighth notes accent and conflict within different parts of the measure. *The saxophone multiphonics* serve as a call to arms while the guitar pizzicato and percussion strike back each metaphorical blow. *Night Song*, when we are alone with only our thoughts, relives the day's exploits both triumphant and sorrowful, a time for the soldiers to pause and reflect.

Olga Harris was born in Moscow, Russia. She graduated from Ukraine College with a degree in Piano and received her Master degree as a composer from Moscow Conservatory and a Doctorate in Music Composition from Moscow Arts Academy. She was the last student of the famous composer Aram Khachaturian. Dr. Harris composed three symphonies, two piano concerti, two string quartets, four sonatas, two cantatas, five vocal cycles, many songs and over 600 pieces for piano and chamber instruments. She has also written music for two animated movies, theatre, and TV. Her music was performed at many festivals and concerts: *Moscow Autumn* in Russia, *Russian Avant-Garde* in Heidelberg, Germany, *Assisi Music Festival* in Italy, *Malaga Musica Nueva* in Spain, and the *Ukrainian Chamber Music Festival*. She has multiple performances in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Kiev (Ukraine), Riga (Latvia), Heidelberg, Dresden, and Munich (Germany), Malaga and Sevilla (Spain), and Paris (France). In the US, she had her music performed at the Aspen Music Festival, Interlochen Arts Academy, and on concerts in New York, Miami, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Nashville. She has lectured on Russian music at Limestone College, and performed at International Festival in Columbia, SC. She was the 2007 Tennessee State Music Teachers Association commissioned composer of the year. Dr. Harris is a professor of music composition at Tennessee State University.

Song Cycle Hoff Nunc (Hope)

The song cycle is based on short, philosophical poems about life and death. The poet was of Jewish-German descent and the poems reflect the dark themes surrounding World War II and Nazi Germany.

Status Quo "Those who want the world to stay the same do not want it to remain at all."
Hoff Nunc (Hope) "I hope. I hope. Do I hope? But anyway I hope that I still hope."

The composer wrote this cycle before immigrating to the United States and it reflects her hope that her homeland, Russia, will achieve stability.

Nostalgia - Variations on the Theme "Dark Eyes"

This piece is about a passionate love obsession, a spell, from which one cannot get away. The theme is based on a gypsy tune, "Dark Eyes." By a Russian superstition a "black eye" indicates that someone put a curse on another. Even though the composition is for two pianos, it is really a monologue of the person who cannot escape from his passion.