

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

School of the Performing Arts

Department of Music

Presents

National Association of Composers/USA

Mid-South Chapter

Featuring Music by

Joe L. Alexander

Jade Burrell

Ken Davies

Mel Mobley

Recital Hall

Howard Center for the Performing Arts

Ruston, Louisiana

Saturday, April 25, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Program

Tragic Suite

Keith Sanders, tuba

Joe L. Alexander, BMI

Wood Cuts

Mitchell Mobley, marimba
Mel Mobley, amplified scissors

Mel Mobley, ASCAP

Dark Fanfare

Keith Sanders, tuba
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

Jade Burrell

5 Inventions for 2 tubas

Keith Sanders, tuba
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

Joe L. Alexander, BMI

In Convenience

Mel Mobley, vibraphone

Mel Mobley, ASCAP

Wall Art: Paintings at a Coffee Shop

electronic stereo fixed media

Ken Davies, ASCAP

Infamy...

Joe L. Alexander, tuba
electronic stereo fixed media

Joe L. Alexander, BMI

Colloquium

Ken Davies, trombone
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

Ken Davies, ASCAP

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 (NACUSA); the Society of Composers, Inc.; the College Music Society; the Southeastern Composers' League, the International Tuba Euphonium Conference and the NACUSA *National Festival*. His music has been featured at Bowling Green State University's annual *New Music & Art Festival*, and *New Music for Young Ensemble Composers' Competition*. His **Two Bryant Songs** 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. Currently, he is the National Treasurer for NACUSA and President of the Mid-South Chapter. He hosted the 2005 & 2010 Southeastern Composers' League's Forum and the 2013 NACUSA *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. Additional information about the composer can be found by visiting his website, jlacomposer.com.

Tragic Suite is for unaccompanied tuba and was composed during the summer of 1997. The composer states: "The superb abilities of tubist, Mike Dunn, were foremost in my mind while writing the work." The work consists of five distinct sections with the pitch classes G, F#, Ab and Eb playing a prominent roll through out the work. Mike Dunn premiered the work on July 21, 1997 at a concert sponsored by the Birmingham Art Music Alliance. **Tragic Suite** is dedicated to Mike Dunn.

5 Inventions for 2 tubas - The first invention was composed in January of 2007 and the second one was composed in the summer of that year. Both were premiered at Louisiana Tech University in the fall of 2007. The remaining inventions were composed in April of 2009 and premiered later that month on a Louisiana Composers' Consortium Concert which was also held at Louisiana Tech University. The series of inventions use traditional contrapuntal techniques, but are cast in 21st Century settings.

Infamy . . . was realized at the *Scream Studio* at the University of Alabama during the fall of 1996. It uses the first line of Franklin D. Roosevelt immortal speech which ushered the United States into World War II. All of the sounds are derived from manipulations of certain words from the speech and sampled tuba sounds. The *Sound Designer II* program was primarily used to construct the piece. The composer premiered the work in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on December 3, 1996.

Jade Burrell was born in Cedar Rapids, IA in 1990 and has lived in numerous states around the country since 2001. She has attended Alverno College as a music therapy major and Lawrence University as a double degree music composition and psychology major. She is currently attending Mississippi University for Women with the perspective of graduating as a music therapy major upon completion of her internship in the spring of 2015. Jade's music ensemble experiences include choir, marching band, symphonic band, orchestra, madrigal, jazz ensemble, traditional and modern gamelan ensemble, traditional Ghanaian drum and dance ensemble, Afro-Cuban ensemble, Brazilian samba ensemble, and percussion ensemble. She is also proficient in guitar, piano, voice, ukulele, and percussion. Her musical influences include world music, the romantic and neo-classical era, jazz, 70's rock, and modern composers ranging from Cage to Whitacre.

Dark Fanfare was inspired by a Russian folk song originating from the mountain region. It was meant to be sung as a round but upon working with the melody line, I felt a call and response style forming and imaged horns communicating amongst the mountains. Mixed with the timber of the low brass, this piece evoked the image of the trail of horns sending a warning call of an incoming winter storm. These aspects come together to form a fanfare of the storm to come.

Wisconsin native **Ken Davies** holds an M.A. in trombone from Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro and an M.M. in composition from the University of Colorado at Boulder where he was a Cecil Effinger Fellowship composition student. During the 1970s, he was trombonist with Gabriel's Brass, a 12-piece jazz-rock show band based in Orlando, Florida, often appearing at Walt Disney World. He has worked as a commercial arranger and session producer for nationally broadcast record and television projects. Since 2002, he has resided in south Mississippi where he teaches brass, and runs his publishing company, Kenvad Music (see at www.kendavies.net). His works include acoustic and electronic pieces that have been performed nationally at conferences and festivals by Society of Composers, Southeastern Composers League, Electronic Music Midwest, Electroacoustic Barn Dance, Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers, Parma Music Festival, International Trombone Festival, and concerts. Honors include ASCAP awards, the

Mississippi Performing Artist Fellowship in Composition for 2006-2007 and 20122013, grants from Mississippi Arts Commission and a listing on the Mississippi Artist Roster. **His *Three Pieces*** for bass trombone and piano won the 2009 Eastern Trombone Workshop National Composition Competition. He is the 2013 Mississippi Music Teachers' Association commissioned composer. He has collaborated with his poet wife Judy to create a CD of poetic soundscapes featuring narrated poetry and electronic soundscapes. Their studio cats Little Fluff and Darius Meow supervise each piece of new music.

Mel Mobley, is an Associate Professor of Music, the head of music theory and composition, and the Biedenharn Endowed Professor in Music at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. As composer, conductor, performer, and advocate of new music, Dr. Mobley has been part of numerous premieres around the country. He has been commissioned as a composer by groups including the Monroe Symphony Orchestra and the Louisiana Music Teachers' Association. His music has been recorded on Ravello records and recent premieres include *Labored Breathing* by the Monroe Symphony Orchestra and *String Theory* by the ULM Wind Ensemble. Mel is the principal percussionist for the Monroe Symphony Orchestra, a founding member of the Implosion Percussion Group, and a performer with many regional orchestras in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas.