

**THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE
SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

presents

**COMPOSERS OF
NACUSA, MID-SOUTH REGION**

**Emy-Lou Biedenharn Recital Hall
Sunday, April 26, 2015
2:00 p.m.**

PROGRAM

Wood Cuts..... Mel Mobley
Mitchell Mobley, *marimba*
Mel Mobley, *amplified scissors*

Partita #4 for Euphonium..... Joe L. Alexander
II.
Cody Ford, *euphonium*

Wall Art: Paintings at a Coffee Shop..... Ken Davies
Fixed electronic media

Dark Fanfare Jade Burrell
Cody Ford, *euphonium*
Joe L. Alexander, *tuba*

Colloquium..... Ken Davies
Ken Davies, *trombone*
Joe L. Alexander, *tuba*

In Convenience Mel Mobley
Mel Mobley, *vibraphone*

Two Baroque Inventions..... Joe L. Alexander
Invention in G minor
Invention in D major
Cody Ford, *euphonium*
Joe L. Alexander, *tuba*

Dialog #4 for Euphonium and Tuba Joe L. Alexander
I. Moderato
II. Andante
III. Allegro
Cody Ford, *euphonium*
Joe L. Alexander, *tuba*



Program Notes

Wood Cuts is an attempt to create dramatic content with a combination of traditional and graphic notation as well as traditional and non-traditional instrumentation. The idea of "coloring" the sound of the marimba began an investigation into the complexities of sounds that can be created with just paper and scissors.

The fourth **Partita** was composed for my good friend, Demondrae Thurman. The second movement is based on the augmented scale [C, C#, E, F, G#, A].

Wall Art: Paintings at a Coffee Shop: The wall art at Beans & Cream coffee shop in Columbus, Mississippi displayed a series of four paintings of static monochromatic backgrounds with free abstract line drawings as foregrounds. That inspired me to create an electronic four-section musical work like those paintings, static sound backgrounds with abstract melodic "line drawings." Three short segments of contrasting noise form the transitions between the "sound paintings" as one promenade from one to the next. I made this a study in sound design using the MX4 software synthesizer plug-in by Mark Of The Unicorn run in a Digital Performer sequence. The musical MIDI content was composed in Finale notation before transferring its MIDI file to Digital Performer for audio processing.

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.

A **Colloquium** is an academic conference or seminar denoting a conversation or dialogue. It is also a rarely used word as a music title. So I adopted it for this piece because it is a work that first appeared as new music for a NACUSA concert where new music is enjoyed in a "seminar conversation" as well as fun time for composer-performers. The piece was written for Dr. Joe L. Alexander, tubist and professor at Louisiana Tech University. The world premiere took place at Louisiana Tech on April 25, 2015, with Dr. Alexander on tuba and the composer on trombone. Musically, the piece explores the unique power of the combined tuba-trombone timbre through a variety of interval combinations.

In Convenience was composed in collaboration with dance Tina Mullone. A piece was created with the musician declaring the choreography parameters and the dancer declaring the musical parameters. Once those parameters were set, and a title chosen, each collaborator worked to create a cohesive piece that is dramatic but without specificity.

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.

The original idea for the *Dialog* series was to compose a series of duets for tuba and a second instrument. The first piece in the series, *Dialog #1*, was composed in 2000 and is for flute and tuba. The second *Dialog* is for trumpet and tuba, and the third one is for violin and tuba. *Dialog #4* was composed in 2014 for my euphonium student, Cody Ford. The first movement was premiered in April of that year and the remainder composed and premiered in the fall.



About 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. Additional information about the composer can be found by visiting his website, jlacomposer.com.

Ken Davies (www.kendavies.net) 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. Since 2002, he has resided in south Mississippi where he teaches brass privately. His works include acoustic and electronic pieces that have been performed across America, in Canada and in UK. Honors include ASCAP awards, the Mississippi Performing Artist Fellowship in Composition for 2006-2007 and 2012-2013, commissioned composer (2013) for Mississippi Music Teachers' Association, and winner of the 2009 Eastern Trombone Workshop National Composition Competition.

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.

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 regional orchestras in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas.