

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
Valentin M. Bogdan
Ken Davies
Mel Mobley

Recital Hall
Howard Center for the Performing Arts
Ruston, Louisiana
Sunday, November 2, 2014
2:00 p.m.

Program

Tributaries

- I. Serioso*
- II. Delicate*
- III. Maniacal*
- IV. Purposeful*
- V. Tenacious*

Mel Mobley, ASCAP

Clarinet, Scot Humes
Cello, Mark McCleery
Piano, Richard Seiler
Percussion, Greg Lyons

Escape From the Matrix

- I. Matrix*
- II. Lovesong*
- III. Escape*

Ken Davies, ASCAP

Cody Ford, euphonium
Shayla Blake, piano

Life In a Koi Pond

Joe L. Alexander,

BMI

Louisiana Tech Low Brass Ensemble
Joe L. Alexander, conductor

Couplets for Two

- I. Couplet 1*
- II. Couplet 2*
- III. Couplet 3*

Valentin M. Bogdan, ASCAP

Mary S. Alexander, flute
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

Dialog #4 for Euphonium & Tuba

Joe L. Alexander,

BMI

- I. Moderato*
- II. Andante*
- III. Allegro*

Cody Ford, euphonium
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

Dialog #1

Joe L. Alexander,

BMI

Mary S. Alexander, flute
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

Compare and Contrast

Ken Davies, ASCAP

Cody Ford, euphonium
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

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.

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.

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*, is for flute and tuba. It was composed for the flutist, Tammi Powell and we premiered the piece on May 24, 2001 in Birmingham, Alabama on a faculty recital at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The piece was extensively revised in March of 2009. Later in 2009, Louisiana Tech colleague, Kristin Polk, helped me premiere the revised first movement.

My latest tuba-euphonium quartet is called *Life in a Koi Pond*. It was composed and premiered in the April of 2014.

Valentin Mihai Bogdan serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Mississippi University for Women. A native of Romania, he began his performing career as a teenager, when he toured with the orchestra of *Tudor Ciortea Music Lyceum of Brasov* throughout Europe and Asia, in France, England, Netherlands, and Jordan. Throughout his career, he was awarded prizes at various piano competitions, and he has performed solo and chamber music recitals in North America and Europe. He was a soloist with the Varna Symphony (Bulgaria), Wayne State Symphony (Michigan) and the Arizona Western College Concert Band. He has released two piano solo recordings, *The Grands of Piano* and *Live in Concert*. His compositions were performed at the Assisi Festival of Performing Arts (Italy), Festival Miami, Music at MOCA Concert Series, the Oregon Bach Festival, and at conferences hosted by the College Music Society, NACUSA, and the Society of Composers Inc. His music was premiered by musicians of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, Beta Collide, Grambling State University Wind Ensemble, Grambling Chorale, Black Bayou Brass Trio and the AWC Wind Ensemble. He was the 2010 Florida State Music Teachers Association commissioned composer of the year, and he was also commissioned by the Dranoff International Two Piano Foundation, and the AWC Concert Band. He is a graduate of Wayne State University, Michigan State University and University of Miami, with degrees in piano and music composition.

Couplets For Two was composed in the summer of 2014 for my good friends Joe and Mary Alexander. They are based on everyday life scenes. They also feature original poetry written by the composer. The piece was premiered on a Mid-South NACUSA concert held at Mississippi University for Women this past September.

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 2012-2013, 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.

The title came later as the intuitive sense from which I was composing this piece of 'absolute' music fancied about for a cool sounding title. The slight, almost Hindemithian sound resulting from strong use of melodic and harmonic fourths seemed to suggest a kind of imposing confinement, perhaps not unlike that which Hindemith may have felt as the political matrix of his time began to overrun and encompass him. The recent movie (The Matrix) tells of a sci-fi social confinement while our own era unfolds a matrix of ever increasing global controls. As a product of the 1960s, I'm also still cognizant of the 'rules' of that era's war between the tonality matrix and the 12-tone matrix versus today's diversity of artistic expression. *Lovesong* is a free-flowing ballad and an answer to those who have asked me if I could write a 'pretty song.' Love is perhaps the ultimate in freedom from the matrix, thus a fitting intermediate movement. The final movement, *Escape*, was written once I had a title in mind. Naturally, it had to be fast and impetuous, yet allowing for the brief lounge jazz breather in the middle.

The whimsical title refers to one of the education world's best known devices for test writing. However, this piece is not a test, but rather a tribute to professor and student. The piece was requested by my southeastern USA friend, colleague, composer and tubist, Dr. Joe L. Alexander. The work was first performed by Dr. Alexander and his star euphonium student, Cody Ford, on April 13, 2014 at Louisiana Tech University at Ruston. The concert was sponsored by the Mid-South Chapter of the National Association of Composers, USA (NACUSA).

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.

Tributaries is a mixed quartet that looks both to the past and future. The instrumentation is a tribute to Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* with a change from violin to percussion. The idea for the piece was to create a "tribute" to former composers by using a technique from their style while avoiding emulating that style. The title of each movement gives a subtle hint as to the composer that inspired some of its techniques. In addition, each technique continues to resurface once introduced - even in future movements. So the piece operates like a river with its tributaries adding "new water" rather than replacing it. Though techniques are borrowed from other composers, a purposeful attempt is made to create new structures with the techniques and introduce ideas such as current folk (i.e. "pop") rhythms that would not have been available to composers of the previous century.

The Louisiana Tech Low Brass Ensemble

Trombone

Stephen Brashear
Josh Mattison
Michael Maxey

Bass Trombone

Cory Ford

Euphonium

Cody Ford
Hayden Migliore
Tyler Smith
Rodarius Tatum

Tuba

John Jones
Joseph Murphy
Cole Thompson

Joe L. Alexander, conductor