

Biographies

Joe L. Alexander is an American composer of band, orchestral, chamber, choral and electronic music. His music has been performed throughout the United States, and at such faraway places as Ecuador, Italy, Germany, Greece, Russia, Scotland and South Korea. His compositions have been selected for performance by 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 Southeastern Electro-Acoustic Composers Collective, and the International Tuba Euphonium Conference. His music has been featured at Bowling Green State University's annual New Music & Art Festival, the Electroacoustic Barn Dance festival (Fredricksburg, VA and Jacksonville, FL), the Birmingham New Music Festival, New Music on the Bayou Festival (Monroe, LA), Spectrum Music Festival (Kazan, Russia), and New Music for Young Ensembles Composers' Competition (New York, NY). His Two Bryant Songs (soprano, Bb clarinet and piano) are recorded on the Living Artist Recordings series, Winds and Voices; Summer Sounds Beckon Me (SATB choir piece, text by L. B. Morgan) is on Ablaze Recordings' New Choral Voices; and Chopawamsic (trumpet and soundfile) will be on the upcoming Ablaze Recordings' Electronic Masters. His Partita #4 for Unaccompanied Euphonium was selected for the Semifinal Round Competition of the 2019 International Tuba Euphonium Association's Solo Euphonium - Artist Division. Alexander is the commissioned composer for the 2012 Louisiana Music Teachers Association and the 2017 Mississippi Music Teachers Association. Dr. Alexander is an Associate Professor of Music at Mississippi University of Women where he teaches Theory, Composition, Music History and Low Brass. He also serves as the National Treasurer for NACUSA. While at Louisiana Tech University, he hosted the 2005 and the 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. His tuba teachers include Bruce Mosier, Ken Meisinger and James Michael Dunn. Additional information about the composer can be found by visiting his website, jlacomposer.com.

***Ruston Romp & Oriental Dreams** were composed in the spring of 2015. They were premiered at Mississippi State University on September 26, 2018.*

A native of Romania, pianist and composer **Valentin Mihai Bogdan** serves as Associate Professor of Music at Mississippi University for Women. His compositions were performed in Europe and North America, at the Assisi Festival of Performing Arts (Italy), Festival Miami, Music at MOCA Concert Series, the Oregon Bach Festival, and at new music concerts hosted the College Music Society, NACUSA, the Society of Composers Inc., and the International Trumpet Guild. 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. The past two years, he has fulfilled commissions by trumpet virtuosos James Zingara, Randall Sorensen, the University of Alabama Birmingham Trumpet Ensemble, the Starkville-MSU Symphony, and the AWC Concert Band. He was also commissioned by the Dranoff Two Piano Foundation of Miami. He was the winner of an Artist Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission (2018). Valentin was named the 2010 Florida State Music Teachers Association commissioned composer of the year, and the 2015 Mississippi Music Teachers Association commissioned composer. As a pianist, he has won awards at

national and international competitions, and he has performed in Europe, Asia, and North America, including France, England, Netherlands, Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Jordan, Canada, and the US. He is a graduate of Wayne State University, Michigan State University and University of Miami, with degrees in piano and music composition.

***Preludes for Piano** is a set of short pieces exploring various combination of compositional techniques from classical as well as non-classical genres. They were written in 2018.*

***Elegie** was originally written for violin and piano and it was premiered at the Assisi Performing Arts Festival in 2017. The cello version was written in 2018. The work is dedicated to the loving memory of Elisaveta Bogdan.*

David R. Peoples writes with a ginger ale in hand on a balcony surrounded by forest. It's from here, surrounded by nature, that all of his stories begin – before being released into and around the world.

***Into the Nightscape** The emotional expression of this piece paints a fictional adventure where there is an escape from the artificial lights of urbanity into a celestial blanket of stars in a wooded landscape. These movements are night-inspired pieces and are the 3rd and 4th of the 5 movement composition.*

Composer **Mark Prince Lee** resides in the Nashville, Tennessee area where he conducts, performs, and teaches at Columbia State College. Lee received his B.M. in composition from Florida State University, and his M.M. in composition from Memphis State University. Post graduate study includes two summers at the Darmstadt Ferienkurse followed by three years of participation in the composition seminars of Karlheinz Stockhausen in Kürten Germany. Lee also holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in German from Vanderbilt University. There his research focused primarily upon the corollary between listener cognition in music and reader response theory in reception aesthetics. His music draws upon both areas in exploring the relationship between pitch and time.

***IO/F-4: Music in 5 Groups** is the third in a series of pieces for solo cello; **IO/F-2, IO/F-3, IO/F-4, IO/F-5, IO/F-6** collectively entitled **5R**. Consisting of 5 sets of fixed pitches divided into 5 Groups, **IO/F-4** is a systematic exploration of pitch/time relationships. The individual Groups are connected by pitch juxtapositions and real-time correlations. Groups I, and V, which share the same fixed pitch set serve as the principle foundation for the inner movements, Groups II, III, and IV which contain their own fixed pitch sets.*

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 for 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, Nizhniy 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 Colombia, 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.

Waltz for Caroline, Waltz in Russian Style, Intermezzo Jane are four hand pieces written by Olga Harris for the Mortyakova/Bogdan piano duo. They appear on "Journey for Two", a newly released album by the two pianists.

Sonata-Fantasia is a one movement work. It has been performed in the US and Russia, at conferences held by the College Music Society and at "Moscow Autumn", one of Russia's premiere new music festivals.

Alan Goldspiel has performed world premieres at NY's Carnegie/CAMI Halls, been featured on NPR radio stations from coast to coast, and performed in the critically acclaimed Goldspiel/Provost Duo. In April, SAI honored him as a "Friend of the Arts," and then in May he was awarded a grant and designated a 2018 NAMM Foundation/CMS GenNext Fellow. He is the recipient of the Alabama State Council on the Arts 2016-2017 Artist Fellowship Award for artistic excellence as well as professional commitment and maturity – awarded to outstanding individual artists from Alabama who create important works of art and make valuable contributions to the entire state. His music has been performed at international/national events, including the conferences of the North American Saxophone Alliance, International Clarinet Association, New Music on the Bayou, and National Association of Composers/USA. Dr. Goldspiel received the 2014 AMTA Composition Commission and in 2013, he was awarded an Escape-to-Create residency. He is the only guitarist to be honored with the Marshall Dodge Award (Performing Artists Associates of New England). He has received numerous awards for excellence in teaching, research, and service including the LA State Arts Council Artist Fellowship Award for artistic excellence. He remains the only guitarist designated University Scholar (The Hartt School) for his research on the music of Villa-lobos. He is Professor of Music and Chair, Department of Music at the University of Montevallo. More information, including news, events, and catalog can be discovered at the website www.alangoldspiel.com.

TALE OF THE BIRD MOUND

Ancient civilizations in North America built large earth mounds for reasons which we can only speculate. The people who lived then and the society they created are both a great mystery. One such mound, Poverty Point (Louisiana), is in the shape of a bird, an important symbol based on engravings and other artifacts found there. The engraving called Fox-Man, for example, is thought to represent a horned owl. Excavated objects of pottery and stone tell us all that we know about the lives of these Mound Builders. Stone point artifacts are thought to have been used on the ends of spears which were thrown with the help of an Atlatl, a device held in the hand and hooked to the spear to increase speed and distance. It is fascinating to consider Poverty Point culture and this tale of the Bird Mound celebrates its legacy.

Performers Bios

Diana Peoples is an active performer and accompanist. She has premiered numerous pieces at the Music for Now series in North Georgia and has enjoyed many collaborations with artists throughout the world. Diana has performed with the Rome Festival Orchestra/Opera, Southeast Missouri Symphony Orchestra, and the Southern Illinois Symphony. She accompanies and teaches piano at the University of North Georgia. Diana earned her doctoral degree at the University of Texas at Austin and previously studied piano with such artists as James Sifferman, Mona Smith, Heidi Williams, Elaine Greenfield, Danielle Martin, and David Renner.

Deidre Vaughn Emerson first started playing cello at the age of five. She received her Bachelors of Music in Cello Performance magna cum laude at Birmingham Southern College, and her Masters in Cello Performance at University of Houston. She has studied and performed at a number of music festivals throughout the United States and Europe. Currently she resides in Nashville, Tennessee. Here she teaches at a number of schools, colleges, and studios and also maintains her own private teaching studio. She also does recording and performance work in this city's vibrant industry, and is involved in many professional ensembles."