

*Tennessee State University Department of Music and the National Association of Composers USA
Present
A New Music Concert featuring Works of NACUSA Mid-South Composers*

*Sunday, October 11th 2015, at 3 pm
Goins Auditorium, Tennessee State University, Nashville TN*

PROGRAM

- Soulful Quartet, No. 2* Gary Powell Nash, ASCAP
Bone Therapy Trombone Quartet
Joseph Awad, Wes Ramsay, Eric Wenker, trombone
Rob Sherill , bass trombone
- Adagio for Julia* Olga Harris, ASCAP
Julia Mortyakova , piano
- Soliloquy 2* Ken Davies, ASCAP
Ken Davies, Trombone
- Etudes for Solo Piano* Valentin M. Bogdan BMI
I. Introduction
II. Basso Ostinato
III. Whole Tone Clusters
IV. Sets
V. Aug
Valentin M. Bogdan, piano
- Dialog #4 for Euphonium & Tuba* Joe L. Alexander, BMI
I. Moderato
II. Andante
III. Allegro
Cody Ford, euphonium
Joe L. Alexander, tuba
- Phostastecal Salsa* Gary Powell Nash, ASCAP
Brian Utley, alto saxophone
Peter Kolkay, bassoon
- Family Tangos* Olga Harris, ASCAP
Parus
Come Home
Valentin Bogdan, accordion; Julia Mortyakova, piano

Composers' Bios

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, 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 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.

Adagio for Julia was written for pianist Julia Mortyakova, the composer's daughter. It is meant to represent various aspects of space; it is a message for a broader perspective.

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.

I believe that any musical performance involves three equally important entities: the performer, the composer, and the audience. Audience reaction, their response to the music, is one of the things that make a live performance unique. This set of etudes aims to involve all three entities; these pieces apply the meaning of the word etude, "study", not only to the performer, but also to the audience and composer. Some of the writing is meant to challenge the pianist, similarly to the etudes of past major composers, while some of these etudes are the result of the composer challenging himself to make the most use of certain techniques. Finally, some of these works involve the audience.

Gary Powell Nash, a native of Flint, Michigan is Professor of Music at Fisk University in Nashville, TN where he teaches and coordinates courses in music theory, technology, composition, applied woodwinds and conducts the Fisk Jazz Ensemble. Nash holds a Ph.D. in Music Composition from Michigan State University. As a composer of Western classical music, Nash has written musical works for orchestra, band/wind ensemble, choir, art songs (four in Chinese), electroacoustic works and instrumental chamber compositions, including two short film scores. His music has been performed in all major regions of the United States and abroad on the continents of Asia and Europe. Nash has received numerous grants, commissions and awards for his compositions including the 2007 UNCF/Mellon Foundation Faculty Seminar in Ghana. Others include Tennessee Music Teachers Association Composer of the Year, 2005-6, Mississippi Arts Commission, American Composers Forum, Carnegie Hall and Fulbright, where he was Visiting Professor of Music Composition at University of the Philippines-Diliman, May 30, 2000- March 28, 2001. Nash's scores are published by Art of Sound Music, MusicaNeo and Tuba/Euphonium Press. 11 of his compositions are featured on compact disc with five of those appearing on Albany, Centaur and Citadel Records labels.

Gary Powell Nash has composed a total of four "soulful" works, which includes 2 trios and 2 quartets. Each of the "soulful" works are based on and inspired by an American popular musical genre, particularly either jazz, gospel, spirituals, rhythm and blues or some combination of those. Soulful Quartet, No. 2 for trombone quartet follows this same premise as it utilizes both jazz and rhythm and blues-type music. Soulful Quartet, No. 2 is a medium fast tempo, single movement composition in F minor mode with rhythm and blues-type melodies and chord progressions, stemming from repeated phrases and supported by an active and highly syncopated bass line. Soulful Quartet, No. 2 utilizes a ternary design, with the middle section in F major. The word "phostastecal" is one that Gary Powell Nash created by rearranging the letters of the group's name that the work was originally conceived for. Phostastecal Salsa is based on and inspired by salsa music as it utilizes such melodies, rhythms and motifs. Composed in an G minor mode, it features fast, energetic and dance-like music, mostly demonstrated in its use of highly syncopated rhythms. It also explores the extreme high and low tessituras for both instruments.

Joe L. Alexander's music has been performed throughout the United States, Ecuador, Germany and South Korea. 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, jacomposer.com.

Dialog #4 was composed and premiered in 2014 for my student, Cody Ford. My concept for the *Dialog* series was to compose a series of duets for tuba and a second instrument. Cody and I premiered the first movement on the April 6, 2014, on a Louisiana Composer's Consortium concert in Ruston, Louisiana. The remainder of the piece was premiered that fall in Ruston.

Wisconsin native **Ken Davies** has had acoustic and electronic works performed at numerous new music festivals such as the Society of Composers, Southeastern Composers League (he is a past president), Electronic Music Midwest, Electroacoustic Barn Dance, International Trombone Festival, National Association of Composers USA, Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers Parma Music Festival, London New Wind Festival (UK), and Sonic Coast (UK). In Orlando, Florida, he made his living as a trombonist with the popular 12-piece jazz-rock show band, Gabriel's Brass, appearing often at Walt Disney World during the 1970s. He was also active as a brass teacher and an arranger-producer for nationally broadcast record and TV projects. Since 2002, he resides in south Mississippi where he teaches brass and owns his publishing company, Kenvad Music (see at www.kendavies.net). He has collaborated with his poet wife Judy to create a CD of poetic soundscapes featuring narrated poetry and electronic soundscapes. Awards include the Mississippi Arts Commission's Performing Arts Fellowship for Composition (twice), the Mississippi Music Teachers' Association's Commissioned Composer, and winner of the American Trombone Workshop National Composition Competition. His music studies were at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Yale University, Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro (MA trombone), and the University of Colorado at Boulder (MM composition). His studio cats, Little Fluff and Darius Meow, supervise each new piece of music before it goes to press.

Most often known as a literary device, a soliloquy is usually found on the dramatic stage as a character speaks his thoughts to himself while the audience listens in ("to perform or not to perform; that is question"). When I returned to college in 1990 as a lazy, rusty and neglected trombonist, I composed an etude for myself which I called *Soliloquy 1*. I filled it with those "trombony things" I had long neglected during my musical "dry spell," such as sharps, clefs, non-diatonic intervals, and the like. My teacher seemed to see enough value in it that he asked for a copy. Now, twenty-five years later, comes *Soliloquy 2*. This one is more in line with the pensive, pondering thoughts about what musical fragments, melodies and contours I like rather than a collection of riffs I ought to practice.

Performers Bio:

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. She invites you to visit her website at www.juliamortyakova.com

Cody Ford is a music performance major at Louisiana Tech University studying euphonium with Dr. Joe L. Alexander and conducting with Mr. Jim Robken. He has had additional studies with Mr. Robert Freeman, Dr. Gail Robertson, and Dr. Demondrae Thurman. Mr. Ford was principal euphonium soloist with the 2014 Louisiana Intercollegiate Honor Band and was featured at the 2014 Louisiana Music Educators Association All-State Conference and Convention. He is active as a soloist and private teacher for middle school to college students and a founding member of the Red & Black Tuba/Euphonium Duo with Keith Sanders. In 2015, Cody was selected as one of the Drum Majors for the Louisiana Tech University "Band of Pride".

Bone Therapy is a group of dedicated Nashville area part-time trombonists formed in 2004 in search of the enjoyment that comes with playing trombone ensemble music of all styles. The name comes from the group's origin as a trombone quartet of physicians in various phases of their careers. Since some of the group were also members of a physician - predominant big band "Sound Therapy", the name was a natural. Bone Therapy has become a large trombone choir that now includes lawyers, vets, clergy, IT personnel, current and former band directors, high school students, etc. We feel our name expresses the effect of fine trombone music on those who play and listen to it. On occasions when some of us perform as a smaller group, we add the name "Osteoblasts"

Brian Utley is Adjunct Associate Professor of Saxophone at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. Previously, he was Associate Professor of Saxophone at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. The Owensboro, Ky., native received the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in saxophone performance, with a minor in music theory, from Louisiana State University. He also holds the M.M. from L.S.U. and the B.M. from Murray State University. His primary saxophone teachers include Griffin Campbell and Scott Erickson. Utley has been a featured soloist with the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony and the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, and has also performed numerous times with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, the Nashville Saxophone Quartet and the Jackson Symphony. He is a regular recitalist at regional and national conferences of the North American Saxophone Alliance, and has performed at multiple NACUSA conferences, World Saxophone Congresses, the International Saxophone Symposium, the 2011 University of Alabama-Huntsville New Music Festival, and the Southern Regional Conference of the College Music Society. Utley is also in demand as a guest artist, clinician and adjudicator throughout the country, having presented recent master classes and guest recitals at St. Mary's College in Maryland, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Baylor University and Northwestern State (La.) University. An advocate of new music, he has premiered numerous works by noted composers including David Froom, L. Mark Lewis, Stephen Lias and William Price. Utley also performs in a variety of chamber music settings and is co-founder of the award-winning Red Stick Saxophone Quartet. He has recorded on the New Tertian Records and Magni Publications labels, and is currently involved in a recording project featuring 21st-century music by American composers.

Peter Kolkay, Associate Professor of Bassoon at Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music Called "stunningly virtuosic" by *The New York Times* and "superb" by the *The Washington Post*, bassoonist Peter Kolkay claimed First Prize at the Concert Artists Guild International Competition in 2002 and was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2004. He is an Artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and a member of the IRIS Orchestra in Germantown, Tenn. He is Associate Professor of Bassoon at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. Current season highlights include a recording of Stravinsky's *L'histoire du soldat*, a chamber music appearance on the String Theory series in Chattanooga, and a solo performance at Bargemusic in Brooklyn, N.Y. Kolkay's recent seasons have included solo recitals at Wolf Trap, Merkin Hall, St. Martin's Abbey (Wash.), and the Teatro Nacional in Panama City; concerto appearances with the South Carolina, Rochester, and Westchester Philharmonics and Waukesha Symphony; and chamber music engagements at Music@Menlo, the Mainly Mozart Festival, the Spoleto USA Festival, and the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival. Kolkay actively engages with composers in the creation of new works. He recently performed the world premiere of Joan Tower's bassoon concerto, *Red Maple*, with the South Carolina Philharmonic, and will premiere a new work for solo bassoon by Gordon Beferman in February 2015. Kolkay has premiered solo and chamber works by Judah Adashi, Elliott Carter, Katherine Hoover, Harold Meltzer, Russell Platt, John Fitz Rogers, and Charles Wuorinen. His debut solo CD, titled *BassoonMusic* and released in August 2011 on CAG Records, spotlights works by 21st-century American composers. Kolkay was awarded the Carlos Surinach Prize by the BMI Foundation for outstanding service to American music by an emerging artist. Kolkay earned a doctorate from Yale University as a student of Frank Morelli and a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with John Hunt and Jean Barr. A native of Naperville, Ill., Mr. Kolkay holds a bachelor's degree from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., where he studied with Monte Perkins. His other interests include travel, modern and contemporary art, and mystery novels.