



UNIVERSITY OF
FINE ARTS

Piiksinaasin

Presents

Véronique Fortier, saxophone
Erika Kobza, piano
Cadence Krueger, clarinet

In a

Junior Recital

Assisted by

John-Paul Ksiazek, piano
Carmen Letourneau, piano
Dr. Bradley Parker, piano

From the Studios of

Dr. Holly De Caigny

Dr. Deanna Oye

Peggy Mezei

7:30pm

April 9, 2025

Recital Hall

PROGRAM NOTES

***Fantasia in C minor, K. 475* - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)**

Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Fantasia* in C minor, K. 475 (1785) is full of orchestral writing and dramatic, contrasting scene-like sections, which makes the piece reminiscent of Mozart's famous operas. This fantasia was initially published with Piano Sonata No. 14 in C minor, K. 457. Interestingly enough, it shares similar characteristics with Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 8 '*Pathétique*', in C minor, Op. 13, such as the tragic nature and the abrupt, grandiose chords. The second movement of that Sonata will also be performed later this evening.

***Adiós Nonino* - Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)**

Originally written for tango quintet, *Adiós Nonino* was written in 1959 in memory of his father, Vicente "Nonino" Piazzolla. Following an expressive cadenza, the piece unfolds with a melancholic tango melody, evoking deep sorrow. As the piece progresses, this theme transforms, symbolizing Piazzolla's emotional journey through loss and remembrance. I first encountered this piece through a video of Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir skating to it at the 2005 World Junior Figure Skating Championships. The expressive melody and the passionate flair of the tango resonated deeply with me and inspired me to program this piece.

Piano Sonata No. 8 '*Pathétique*' in C minor, Op. 13, II Adagio cantabile - Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

The second movement of Beethoven's '*Pathétique*' Sonata (1778) is an expressive piece with intense lyricism that makes it stand the test of time. The publisher gave the sonata the title '*Pathétique*' in reference to its tragic nature. This well-known piece has been featured in films such as *Jurassic Park: The Lost World* (1997) and *Little Women* (2019).

Clarinet Sonata, Op. 120, No. 2 in Eb Major - Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) was one of the most influential composers of the Romantic era. His Clarinet Sonatas, written in 1894, represents the culmination of his late chamber music style, and they are dedicated to clarinetist Richard Mülfeld. This work has an incredibly rich piano part, which interplays with the melodic content of the clarinet perfectly to create the most beautiful and impactful sonorities. Brahms's intricate use of hemiola, which is the effect of a shift between triple and duple rhythmic figures, is ingeniously embedded into the entire framework of the piece.

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble - David Maslanka
(1943-2017)

Maslanka's alto saxophone concerto consists of five movements, blending songs and interludes. Maslanka writes "*Walking through a Montana field on a brilliant late fall day, three images came in rapid succession: a distant row of red plant stems caught by the morning sun, snow on the surrounding high mountains, green grass at my feet. The following poetic image came: "Fire in the earth, Snow in the heavens, New green grass in the middle of November"*". The earth represents stability and grounding, while fire symbolizes destruction, renewal, and passion. This imagery is reflected in the interplay of the lyrical, yet heroic main theme and the rapid, technical passages. Challenging yet exhilarating to perform, *Fire in the Earth* is a showcase of both musical virtuosity and emotional depth.

Rhapsody in E-flat Major, Op. 119, No.4 - Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

This *Rhapsody* is part of the collection *Klavierstücke* Op. 119, or Four Pieces for Piano (1893), which is one of Brahms' last compositions for solo piano. *Rhapsody* in E-flat Major takes the listener through a journey of various themes and keys, such as its grand beginning E-flat major section, brooding C-minor section, elegant A-flat major section, bouncy C major section, and intense final E-flat minor section.

***Capriccio for unaccompanied clarinet in A* - Heinrich Sutermeister (1910-1995)**

Capriccio for unaccompanied clarinet in A was written by Heinrich Sutermeister in 1946 as a competition piece for the Genoa Conservatory. Sutermeister was a Swiss composer primarily concerned with writing music for television operas, this history comes out in his work in his utilization of specific character-driven melodic motifs. This piece is perfect for a competition piece, as it challenges the player to demonstrate the clarinet's technical and lyrical capabilities. The piece has a whimsical character, using notations like *legatissimo*, *spirito*, *grazioso*, *giocosso*, *ruvido*, and *amabile* to demonstrate how the player will interpret different sections.

***Sonatine for Alto Saxophone and Piano* - Claude Pascal (1921–2017)**

Claude Pascal (1921–2017) was a French composer known for his neoclassical style and lyrical writing. His *Sonatine* for Alto Saxophone and Piano, composed in 1971, is a playful and virtuosic work that highlights the expressive and technical capabilities of the saxophone. It's broken up into 3 sections: *Allegro*: A bright and playful opening, *Andante*: A lyrical, introspective movement, and *Très Vif*: A virtuosic, energetic finale. With its witty character and technical flair, *Sonatine* is a joy for performers, offering both expressive moments and lively melodies.

***Shimmer* - Heather Schmidt (b. 1974)**

Composed by Calgary-born composer Heather Schmidt, *Shimmer* is a captivating character piece. Schmidt describes the piece in the quotation below.

“The title '*Shimmer*' captures the essence of this short piano piece. The music is highlighted by rapid runs, graceful arpeggios, and crystalline sonorities. Magical sounds and colors appear throughout. The delicate upper register of the keyboard predominates, with the exception of a brief climax which travels the full range of the keyboard.” (Schmidt)

Downpour - Jenni Watson (b. 1985)

“*Exploring Sydney as a tourist, during the rainy season, torrential downpours - not letting them stop the exploration of the city*”. Written for solo saxophone, I thought the darkness and richness of the tenor saxophone fit the atmosphere of the music really well. This piece is supposed to evoke a rain cloud rolling in, raindrops increasing until transforming into a harsh and wild storm, the rain never letting up but concludes with finding joy in the situation presented.

8 pieces (Acht Stücke) for Clarinet, Viola and Piano, Op. 83, No. 7, Allegro vivace, ma non troppo - Max Bruch (1838-1920)

Acht Stücke, or Eight pieces (1910), was composed by German composer Max Bruch. He composed this trio for his son Max Felix, a clarinetist. As you will notice, our trio consists of a clarinet, a piano, and a tenor saxophone, instead of a viola. Véronique arranged the viola part for tenor saxophone, creating a new timbre and contrast between the two woodwinds and piano. Our trio selected No. 7 due to its upbeat and playful feel and thought it would be a good finale for our program. This piece is the only one of the eight in a major key, contributing to its lively nature. Making music with your friends is a wonderful experience, and it has been so fun to put this trio together. We hope you enjoy!