

The Audubon Concert: Student Chamber Groups and World Premieres

Livestream from Watson Chamber Music Hall
Sunday, March 14, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Presented by

UNC School of the Arts
Brian Cole, Chancellor

School of Music
Saxton Rose, Interim Dean



uncsa.edu/performances

The Audubon Concert: Student Chamber Groups and World Premierers

from String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96.....Antonin Dvořák
("American") (1893) (1841 - 1904)
Scherzo: Molto vivace

Heather Blake, violin
Matthias Semrau, violin
Jessie Burdette, viola
Helen Campbell, cello
Ida Bieler, faculty coach

from String Quartet No. 2 in D Major (1881).....Alexander Borodin
Notturmo: Andante (1833 - 1887)

Kennedy Graves, violin
Keely Reitman, violin
Joshua Forbes, viola
Elijah White, cello
Kevin Lawrence, faculty coach

String Quartet No. 2 ("Wood Thrush") (2020).....Gustav Edward Knudson
(world premiere) (b. 1999)

Luca Kevorkian, violin
Marta Đorović, violin
Marija Seselgyte, viola
Jake Anderson, cello
Ida Bieler, faculty coach

Journey of the Wood Thrush (2020).....K.C. Pyle
(world premiere) (b. 1998)

Austen Speare, violin
Sam Mihavetz, cello
Arianna Bohning, piano
Kevin Lawrence, faculty coach

from Suite for Violin and Piano (1943).....William Grant Still
African Dancer (1895 - 1978)

Ruth Kelley, violin
Kelsey Carlisle, piano
Allison Gagnon, faculty coach

ABOUT THIS EVENING'S PREMIERES

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF FORSYTH COUNTY, local chapter of the National Audubon Society, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2021. The two compositions, which have their premieres this evening, were commissioned by Forsyth Audubon as part of these festivities and were composed by two University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) School of Music composition students who graduate this year. The commission was specifically connected to the wood thrush, a songbird species that nests in Forsyth County, notably in familiar woodland areas like Reynolda Gardens and Historic Bethabara Park. More than that, the wood thrush was adopted in 2014 as Forsyth Audubon's "species of concern" from among those species designated as such by the National Audubon Society, as it is the only one of these which breeds in Forsyth County. The wood thrush breeds in the eastern United States and winters in Central America. Its population had declined by 40 percent, with the fragmentation of forest habitat identified as the major reason for this decline.

Forsyth Audubon decided to partner with the Belize Audubon Society, Audubon's International Alliances Program, and scientists at the Smithsonian Institute to study wood thrush migration. Forsyth Audubon members traveled to Belize, raised money to fund the tiny GPS packs, and spent hundreds of hours assisting with trapping and tagging the birds. While it was a daunting process for a team of mostly volunteers, evidence was collected that birds had been to Central America and back! Throughout this journey Forsyth Audubon has been grateful for the support of Audubon North Carolina.

From this project a documentary film called the "Wood Thrush Connection" was produced by the Climate Listening Project. The full-length film can be found on YouTube; the trailer may be viewed this evening. In 2018, in partnership with Piedmont Environmental Alliance, curriculum materials for a fourth-grade educational presentation were developed and piloted in area schools as a way to raise environmental awareness among youngsters. The compositions written for the 50th anniversary represent the third stage in heightening awareness of not only the wood thrush as a species of concern, but also of bird migration and how bird populations are impacted by environmental issues in both breeding and wintering habitats. The performance tonight is a special wood thrush connection between Forsyth Audubon and the students at UNCSA, inspired by these birds and their journey and brought to life for you by our student musicians.

BIOGRAPHIES

GUSTAV EDWARD KNUDSON is a composer originally from Chicago, Illinois. He is currently a college senior at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) and studies with Kenneth Frazelle. His interest in music burgeoned at an early age when his father introduced him to rock bands like Wilco and They Might Be Giants. He began playing music at the age of eleven in sixth grade band in Gainesville, Florida, but had minor instruction in guitar and drums beforehand. He studied classical percussion throughout high school and took an interest in composition in his freshman year. He now plays guitar, accordion and piano in addition to percussion. Compositionally, Knudson is influenced by the sounds of traditional world music (especially European folksongs and Japanese music) and 20th-century classical music, taking melodic and harmonic ideas from composers like Stravinsky, Messiaen and Percy Grainger. He is often inspired by the sights and sounds of nature, such as birds and birdsong, foxes and the Appalachian landscape.

K.C. PYLE is an American composer and multi-instrumentalist. A native of Winston-Salem, his music is greatly influenced by the sights, sounds and folk music traditions of the Appalachian Mountains and foothills region, as well as various folk music traditions from across the globe. These include Balinese Gamelan, which he has studied for the past three years under Elizabeth Clendinning as a member of Gamelan Giri Murti at Wake Forest University, most recently having served as the group's student assistant director. Pyle has had recording sessions with Eighth Blackbird, the Verona Quartet and Akropolis Reed Quintet, as well as an upcoming session with yMusic. He has also had works performed by the UNCSA horn studio and the UNCSA symphony orchestra. In addition, he has performed at the Smithsonian Museum of American History with Gamelan Giri Murti. In his free time, Pyle studies, designs, builds and composes music for the traditional five-string banjo. At UNCSA, Pyle is a college senior studying composition with Lawrence Dillon.

An alumna of UNCSA, **IDA BIELER** joined the faculty in 2013 and was named artistic director of the school's Chrysalis Chamber Music Institute when it was formed in 2015. She has won prestigious music competitions on three continents, has been a regular performer in major music capitals throughout the world, has recorded for radio and television on five continents, and has appeared with leading international orchestras. She is on the faculty of both the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf, Germany, and Kunstuniversität Graz, Austria. Bieler is the creator and director of the Vivaldi Project, a teacher training program in both the Robert Schumann Hochschule and UNCSA aimed at educating underprivileged youth.

Canadian pianist **ALLISON GAGNON** directs the Collaborative Piano Program at UNCSA and has enjoyed a varied career as recitalist with both instrumental and vocal colleagues. Before joining the UNCSA faculty in 1998, she taught at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and was staff pianist at McGill University in Montreal. For many years she was a piano staff member for the Meadowmount School of Music in New York. A dedicated educator, Gagnon has received the UNCSA Excellence in Teaching Award. She also serves on the Executive Board of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association (NCMTA). Graduates of the collaborative program that she created at UNCSA are professionally active across the United States and abroad. Her developing interest in the role of music in dementia care includes a pilot project that she mentors through UNCSA's ArtistCorps community engagement initiative. Gagnon completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree with Anne Epperson at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her earlier teachers were Dale Bartlett (McGill), Michael Krist (Vienna Hochschule fur Musik), Pierre Jasmin and Margaret McLellan (Queen's) and her mother, Marjorie Gagnon. Her creative interests include ceramics and wildlife photography.

KEVIN LAWRENCE has consistently elicited superlative responses for his performances in major musical centers of the United States and Europe. He has appeared in recital at the National Gallery of Art in Washington; Merkin Hall and Lincoln Center in New York; in Chicago, Houston, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Rome, Prague, St. Petersburg and Moscow. Lawrence has premiered works by contemporary American compositional voices Laura Kaminsky, Judith Shatin, Lawrence Dillon, Michael Rothkopf and Evan Chambers. His recordings of American sonatas and chamber music on the New World and Bridge labels won significant critical recognition and were named as Critics Choice by American Record Guide. Lawrence studied with Ivan Galamian and Felix Galimir at the Juilliard School and with Josef Gingold at the Meadowmount School in Westport, New York. In 1980, Galamian appointed Lawrence to the Meadowmount faculty, where he went on to teach for 14 years. Afterward, he became dean and then artistic director of the Killington Music Festival in Vermont. He is the founder and director of Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, which will hold its seventeenth season on the campus of University of Vermont next summer. Lawrence has given master classes throughout the United States and in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Canada, Israel, Venezuela, Costa Rica, China, Thailand and Korea. Since 1990, he has served as a faculty member of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), where he was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award in 2007.

UNCSA MANIFESTO

We Believe

Artists enrich our culture, enlighten our society, lift our spirits, and feed our souls.

Integrative **arts education** from an early age sparks a lifetime of creative thinking, powerful self-expression, and innovative problem solving.

Rigorous **artistic training** empowers our students and graduates to engage our communities, advance local and global creative industries, and inspire the world.

Arts organizations improve the quality of life and place in big cities and small communities, transforming them from merely livable to truly lovable.

UNC School of the Arts nurtures the talent, hones the craft, and develops the unique voices of emerging artists. We realize the full potential of exceptionally creative and passionate students to do their best work and become their best selves.

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The Dean's Councils support each of UNCSA's five arts schools – Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking, and Music. Dean's Council members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more, work closely with the Dean to advance that school's mission and fundraising priorities, and enjoy a deeper relationship with the Dean and students of the school. If you are interested in joining one of these groups of committed individuals, please contact Vice Chancellor for Advancement Ed Lewis at 336-770-3330 or lewised@uncsa.edu.

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The School of Music gives talented young artists the opportunity to perfect their musical talent and prepare for life as professional musicians. Our training includes both private instruction and public performance experience, including more than 150 recitals and concerts presented each year. This performance experience, combined with career development opportunities and studies in music theory, literature and style, provides the ultimate training to help young musicians grow as both artists and professionals.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Woodwind and Brass: UNCSA Ensembles in Concert

Monday, March 15, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Livestream from Watson Chamber Music Hall

Woodwind and brass student ensembles coached by the UNCSA faculty will be featured in a varied program.

Best of the School of Filmmaking

Available On Demand

Friday, March 19 through Sunday, March 21, 2021

Interim Dean of Filmmaking Dale Pollock curates a collection of some of the best short films created by student filmmakers from throughout the history of the school.

UNCSA Baroque Ensemble in Concert

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Livestream from Watson Chamber Music Hall

Join faculty and students for a festive evening of Baroque music in honor of our newly acquired Kingston Harpsichord. The program will highlight the harpsichord and virtuoso faculty and student artists.

UNCSA Jazz Ensembles in Concert

Saturday, March 27, 2021 • 3 p.m.

Livestream from the Stevens Center for the Performing Arts

Experience the award-winning UNCSA Jazz Ensemble directed by Ron Rudkin. The concert will feature small jazz groups, including two saxophones, trumpet, trombone and a rhythm section, performing arrangements from the American Songbook and standard tunes by American jazz musicians.

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