

UNCSA

NINA DECESARE IN RECITAL

Sept. 9 at 3 p.m.

WATSON HALL

Nina DeCesare

DOUBLE BASS

Mikyung Sung

DOUBLE BASS

Allison Gagnon

PIANO

PRESENTED BY

UNCSA

Brian Cole

CHANCELLOR

Saxton Rose

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, DEAN

NINA DECESARE IN RECITAL

Cello Suite No. 5, presented in A Minor, BWV 1011 Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Gavottes I and II
Gigue

Nina DeCesare, double bass

Sonata in E Minor Vilmos Montag
(1908-1991)

Andante moderato
Andante
Allegro

Nina DeCesare, double bass
Allison Gagnon, piano

Grand Duetto No. 2 for Two Double Bases..... Giovanni Bottesini
(1821-1889)

Allegro agitato
Andante
Rondo: Allegretto

Nina DeCesare, double bass
Mikyung Sung, double bass

BIOGRAPHIES

NINA DECESARE

Nina DeCesare joined the bass section of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in September 2020 after five years in the Oregon Symphony bass section. She has also performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Houston Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Sun Valley Music Festival, Knights Orchestra, Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music and Oregon Bach Festival. Equally comfortable as an orchestral musician, soloist and chamber musician, DeCesare regularly performs with Chatter ABQ, Third Angle New Music, 45th Parallel, Chamber Music by Candlelight and Classical Up Close. In 2023, she presented a headliner recital at the International Society of Bassists Convention at the historic Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Alongside her busy performing schedule, DeCesare is passionate about teaching and mentorship, and in 2022, she was appointed to the faculty at Peabody Conservatory. She is also on the faculty of Domaine Forget Academy and the National Orchestral Institute and previously she served on the faculty at NYO Canada. She has presented masterclasses at the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Pittsburgh Bass Symposium, Michigan State University, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, James Madison University and University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She has been featured as a recitalist and faculty member at the SF Bass Bash, Golden Gate Bass Camp, KC Bass Workshop, the Twin Cities Bass Camp and the Rabbath Institute Los Angeles.

DeCesare began playing the bass while studying with renowned pedagogue George Vance, later working closely with Ira Gold and Hal Robinson. In 2011, she made her solo debut with the Chesapeake Orchestra in Southern Maryland, performing the Vanhal Concerto. In 2014, she completed her Bachelor of Music at Rice University, studying with Paul Ellison. During her time at Rice, she spent her summers at the Tanglewood Music Center, Sarasota Music Festival, Moritzburg Festival Academy, Wabass Institute and Domaine Forget International Academy.

MIKYUNG SUNG

Mikyung Sung gives some of the most fearlessly virtuosic and emotionally satisfying performances ever heard on the double bass. She has recently appeared in performance with the Seongnam Philharmonic Orchestra, in recitals in Seoul with pianist Ilya Rashkovsky, and she was a featured artist with pianist Jaemin Shin at the 2018 One Month Festival hosted by Park Chang-Soo's "The House Concert" series. She came to the attention of bassists around the world through videos of her performances while studying for her Artist Diploma at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, featuring prominently as a finalist in major

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competitions along the way. Even before that, Sung had already been well known in her native South Korea as a bass prodigy alongside her brother Minje Sung.

Since her professional debut at age 12 with the Guri Philharmonic, she has performed as soloist with orchestras such as the Staatsochester Rheinische Philharmonie, Philharmonie Baden-Baden, Philharmonia Coreana, Colburn Orchestra and Seongnam Philharmonic. She has performed at the Kumho Art Hall and Kukje Art Hall, the Pyeongchang Great Mountains Music Festival, Ditto Festival, Palm Springs Life Festival with Sarah Chang, Music From Angel Fire, the Korea National University of Arts concert series, multiple times at The House Concert series, as a featured artist at the 2018 One Month Festival and numerous times at The Colburn School.

Initially taught by her double bassist father, Sung spent six years concertizing across South Korea as a double bass duo with her brother, often with her mother accompanying on piano, including several appearances on KBS television. She also won first prize in several Korean bass competitions. In 2010, she took first prize in the International J.M. Sperger Double Bass Competition in Germany in addition to several special prizes. In 2015, at the ISB Competition in Colorado, she received the Thomas Martin prize for the best performance of a work by Bottesini and second place overall. In 2017, at the Bradetich Competition in Texas, she received the internet-voted prize for best finals performance and Honorable Mention overall.

Sung enjoys collaborating with other musicians, including in bass duos and chamber ensembles. In the 2018-19 season, she was a principal bass of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and taught at the Shanghai Orchestra Academy. In 2020, Sung and several friends formed the Emeth Ensemble double bass quartet.

ALLISON GAGNON

Canadian pianist Allison Gagnon directs the Collaborative Piano Program at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) and concertizes with both vocal and instrumental colleagues. Before joining UNCSA in 1998 she was affiliated with Queen's University and McGill University in Canada. She was a member of the piano staff at the Meadowmount School of Music in New York for almost 20 years and has also spent summers at the Banff Centre in Canada and the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. This summer, she returned to Music at Port Milford in Canada. Her most recent premiere was "Shelter" by Lawrence Dillon, performed with UNCSA colleague Maria Serkin, at the International Horn Symposium in Montreal, Canada, this summer.

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Gagnon has twice received the UNCSCA Excellence in Teaching Award. Graduates of the collaborative piano program she launched 22 years ago are active professionally across the US and abroad. Since 2019 she has served as faculty mentor for the Music Between Us initiative of UNCSCA's ArtistCorps, providing interactive musicmaking in dementia care. Her CD release with Judith Saxton was distributed worldwide by the International Trumpet Guild, and her definitive piano reduction of Ernest Chausson's "Poème" Op. 25 for Violin and Orchestra has been published by Encore Music.

Gagnon completed her Doctor of Musical Arts with Anne Epperson at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her earlier teachers were Dale Bartlett (Montreal) Michael Krist (Vienna), Pierre Jasmin, Margaret McLellan (Kingston) and her mother, Marjorie Gagnon. Her creative interests include ceramics and wildlife photography.

UNCSA MANIFESTO

We Believe

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

Integrative **ART 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.

ART 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.



THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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.

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The Associates, UNCSA's volunteer organization, invites you to join them. For more information about the organization and volunteer opportunities, visit www.uncsa.edu/associates or email them at UNCSAassociatesportal@uncsa.edu.

UNCSA

Ten Thousand Birds

Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

DANIEL'S PLAZA

Come commune with nature and experience Pulitzer and Grammy award-winning American composer John Luther Adams' "Ten Thousand Birds."

The work, meant to be performed outdoors, is inspired by the songs of birds that are native to, or migrate through, the area in which the piece is being performed — for this performance, Winston-Salem. Follow the cycle of a day, starting with avian songs of the morning, then afternoon, evening, night, and finally returning to morning. The performers are on the move as they play and encourage you, the audience, to move, too, and experience the music from a variety of perspectives.

UNCSA Wind Ensemble: Light Refractions

Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

STEVENS CENTER

Inspired by Super Novas to Greek Methodology, the UNCSA Wind Ensemble presents the music of Katahj Copley, Kathryn Salfelder, Anthony DiLorenzo, Jennifer Jolley and John Mackey.

The UNCSA faculty brass quintet, Watson Brass will be featured with the wind ensemble on Anthony DiLorenzo's fiery Chimera based on the mythical Greek creature. Members include David Dash and Mary Elizabeth Bowden, trumpets; Maria Serkin, horn; Seth Frack, trombone; and Brent Harvey, tuba. UNCSA Director of Instrumental Ensembles Mark A. Norman will conduct.