



COLLEGE *of*
FINE ARTS

School of Music

presents

Senior Recital

Carly Williams, clarinet
Dr. Cecilia Kao, piano

November 7, 2026

5:30 PM

Pepsico Recital Hall

Program

Romanze for Bb Clarinet and Piano Marie-Elisabeth von Sachsen-Meiningen
(1853-1923)

Raja Music for Solo Clarinet John Mayer
(1929-2004)
I. Vilasakhani
III. Vibhasa (Sunrise)
VII. Puravi (End of Day)
XI. Vasanta (Spring Raga)

Concertino in E-flat Major, Op. 26 Carl Maria von Weber
(1786-1826)

Intermission

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Pastorale Cévenole

Louis Cahuzac
(1880-1960)

Three Duos for Clarinet and Bassoon, WoO27 No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Dorian Holley, bassoon

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music Education degree. Ms. Carly Williams is a student of Dr. Corey Mackey.

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Program Notes

Marie-Elisabeth von Sachsen-Meiningen (1853-1923) was a German princess, pianist, and composer. She was the only daughter of Georg II, Duke of Saxe-Meiningen. Her father was a patron of the performing arts and supported the development of her musical life. She is best known in the clarinet community for her one-movement work, *Romanze in F major*, for clarinet and piano. She studied piano with Theodor Kirchner and Johannes Brahms, and kept a close relationship with Richard Strauss and Hans von Bülow. When she wasn't composing, she supported young singers by helping finance their education and welcomed them into her home. She died on February 22, 1923, in Obersendling, near Munich, Germany, at the age of 69.

Romanze for Bb Clarinet and Piano (1892) reflects the lyrical melodies and expressive character associated with nineteenth-century Romantic music. This piece was Meiningen's best-known compositions. It was written for clarinet and piano, but included an orchestra version as well. Meiningen wrote this piece for Richard Mühlfeld, a renowned German clarinetist. Mühlfeld premiered the piece in 1892, accompanied by pianist Fritz Steinbach in March 1892. This single movement piece contains two contrasting sections and is written in a three-part, ternary form.

John Mayer (1929–2004) was an Indian composer, violinist, and music educator known for combining Indian classical music with Western classical traditions and jazz. Born in Calcutta, British India, Mayer studied music in India before receiving a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London in 1952. He performed as a violinist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and later the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Throughout his career, Mayer explored the musical traditions of both Eastern and Western cultures, becoming particularly well known for his contributions to Indo-jazz fusion. His compositions incorporated Indian ragas, Western classical forms, and jazz influences, creating a distinctive musical style. In addition to composing, Mayer taught at Birmingham Conservatoire, where he helped establish a degree program in Indian music.

Raja Music for Solo Clarinet (1952, published 1958) is an exploration of Indian classical music through a Western lense. The piece consists of nine short sections, each associated with a specific raga. These ragas are connected to particular times of day or seasons, giving each section its own musical character and expressive purpose. The piece uses melodic flexibility and expressive ornamentation of Indian music. Mayer encourages a quasi-improvisatory approach, allowing the performer to emphasize the natural flow of the melodies and incorporate expressive techniques associated with Indian musical traditions. The piece shows the performer Mayer's approach to combining Indian and Western musical traditions.

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826) was a composer, conductor, pianist, and critic. He was an influential nineteenth-century composer and leading figure of German opera in the 1820s. In 1797, Weber's family moved to Salzburg. Here, he studied counterpoint with Michael Haydn and wrote his first composition. From 1798 to 1800, Weber and his father moved to Munich, where his father supported and promoted his son as an up-and-coming prodigy. By 1799, he had composed an opera, a Mass, and multiple piano pieces. In 1803, he moved to Vienna to study with Joseph Haydn, but instead studied with Georg Joseph Vogler. For three years, Weber traveled through Germany to give and organize concerts, write articles, and compose. In 1813, he accepted the directorship of the Prague Opera and held the position until 1816. In December 1816, Weber was appointed kapellmeister in Dresden. Throughout the new years, he spent his time writing operas, including *Der Freischütz* (1817-1820) and *Oberon* (1826). Towards the end of his life, his health was very poor, and he passed away on June 5, 1826.

Concertino in E-flat Major, Op. 26 (1811) Weber composed the Concertino in a single night for clarinetist Heinrich Baermann, and it was premiered the following day in Munich. Its first performance on April 5, 1811, was greeted with immediate success. The work moves through several contrasting sections, including a slow, lyrical introduction, a theme and variations, and a lively finale. The Concertino in E-flat major, Op. 26, is a single-movement showpiece originally written for clarinet and orchestra.

Louis Cahuzac (1880-1960) was a French clarinetist, composer, and conductor who became one of the leading clarinet virtuosos of the early twentieth century. Born in southern France, Cahuzac began studying clarinet with his father before continuing his musical education at the Toulouse Conservatory, where he studied under Félix Pagès. In 1898, he entered the Paris Conservatoire to study with Cyrille Rose. This is where he earned first prize in clarinet in 1899. Throughout his career, Cahuzac performed as a soloist, conducted orchestras, and became known for his expressive musicality and technical abilities. He was also an influential teacher whose students went on to establish successful musical careers. As a composer, Cahuzac wrote primarily for the clarinet, often drawing inspiration from the folk music, landscapes, and cultural traditions of his native southern France. His compositions showcase the clarinet's lyrical qualities while incorporating elements of French musical style.

Pastorale Cévenole (1953) was created from the traditional folk music and landscape of the Cévennes, a mountainous region in southern France. The work is based on a French folk melody and reflects Cahuzac's connection to the musical traditions of his homeland. Originally composed for clarinet and piano, the piece was also arranged for clarinet and string orchestra. Cahuzac writes the piece in several contrasting sections, following an ABA form. This piece captures the beauty of the southern French countryside and demonstrates Cahuzac's ability to combine folk-inspired material with the expressive capabilities of the clarinet.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was a German composer and pianist whose music played a significant role in the transition from the Classical period to the Romantic era. Born in Bonn, Germany, Beethoven received his early musical education from his father and other local musicians. In 1792, he moved to Vienna to study with Joseph Haydn and establish himself as a pianist and composer. Beethoven quickly gained recognition for his impressive piano performances and innovative compositions. Throughout his career, he composed symphonies, concertos, chamber music, piano sonatas, and operas, totaling about 722 compositions. Although he began experiencing hearing loss in his late twenties, he continued composing some of his most celebrated works, including his third, fifth, and ninth symphonies. Beethoven's compositions are recognized for their emotional intensity, dramatic contrasts, and expansion of traditional Classical forms. He died in Vienna on March 26, 1827, leaving a lasting influence on generations of composers.

Three Duos for Clarinet and Bassoon, WoO27 No. 3 (1792) consist of three chamber works in C major, F major, and B-flat major. Traditionally attributed to Beethoven's early compositional period, the exact date and authorship of the duos remain uncertain because no surviving original manuscript has been identified. The works first appeared in print after Beethoven's death, and musicologists have debated whether all three were genuinely composed by him. The third duo consists of an Allegro sostenuto followed by an Aria con variazioni, which explores a theme through a series of variations.

Performer Biographies



Carly Williams

Carly is in her senior year at Texas Christian University, and is working towards the completion of a Bachelor's in Music Education. She has studied clarinet under Dr. Corey Mackey, conducting under Mr. Bobby Francis and Dr. Drew Dickey, and educational pedagogy under Dr. Laura Singletary.

At TCU, Carly has participated in many ensembles, including the TCU Symphonic band and Clarinet Ensemble. She has participated in the Horned Frog Marching Band each year and has been the Drum Major for the ensemble for two years. Outside of TCU, Carly teaches private lessons in Godley ISD for clarinet and saxophone students (beginner – high school senior).



Dr. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao

Taiwanese Pianist Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao enjoys performing in a wide variety of settings, including chamber music, opera, orchestral ensembles, new music ensembles, and choral music. Kao is currently the coordinator of collaborative pianists of the prestigious Meadowmount School of Music, founded by Ian Glamian in Westport, New York. She has been a collaborative pianist at Columbus State University and Mercer University in Georgia, where she worked with students of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings.

Kao holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Colorado Boulder and a Master of Music degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied with the pioneer pedagogue, Anne Epperson. Before her move to the U.S., she was one of the first pianists to receive the Master of Arts degree in Collaborative Piano from National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, where she also received her bachelor's degree in Piano Performance.



Dorian Holley

Dorian is in his second year of teaching as associate band director at Danny Jones Middle School & Mary Lillard Intermediate in Mansfield ISD.

Mr. Holley received his Bachelor's in Music Education from Texas Christian University, where he studied bassoon under Charles Hall, conducting under Mr. Bobby Francis, and educational pedagogy under Dr. Laura Singletary. While at TCU, he played bassoon and trumpet in many ensembles such as the Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, and Sangre Royal de TCU Mariachi Ensemble. He was also a Trumpet section leader in the Horned Frog Marching Band.