



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Sean Wright, saxophone
Dr. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, piano

Sunday, November 8th, 2020

3:00 PM

Ed Landreth Auditorium

Program

Sonata for Alto Saxophone in E \flat and Piano (1937)

Bernhard Heiden
(1920–2000)

- I. Allegro
- II. Vivace
- III. Adagio

Duo for E \flat Alto Saxophone and Piano (1964)

Walter S. Hartley
(1927–2016)

Pause

Concerto pour Saxophone Alto et Orchestre (1949)

Henri Tomasi
(1901–1971)

- I. Andante et Allegro
- II. Final: Giration

Iberia Suite for Saxophone Quartet (2004)

Ed Calle
(1959–)

- I. Midnight Rumba
- II. Siesta
- III. Pamplona

Sean Wright - Soprano Saxophone
Alec Olmedo - Alto Saxophone
Anna Rutherford - Tenor Saxophone
Jack Emery - Baritone Saxophone

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Music Education in Instrumental Concentration. Mr. Wright is a student of Mr. Joseph Eckert.

Sonata for Alto Saxophone in Eb and Piano

Bernhard Heiden

Bernhard Heiden was born in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, and lived there until he moved to the USA in 1935. He was involved with music during his childhood in Germany, beginning his studies with piano, clarinet, and violin, but eventually specializing in piano. Heiden had an aptitude for composition, eventually starting school in 1929 at the 'old' Berlin Musikhochschule, studying composition with Paul Hindemith. During his last year of school, he won the Mendelssohn Prize in Composition.

In this multi-movement work, the first movement is in full sonata form, launching into an aggressive start from the first bar. Many musical motives are presented by the saxophone and are passed around and augmented throughout the movement. Dotted rhythms are common in the more energetic sections, providing forward momentum. The movement ends with a small cadenza before restating the theme and finishing strong. The second movement starts off with a brisk and bouncy melody which becomes the main theme of the movement. Dotted rhythms are used extensively throughout the middle of the movement, stringing together many in long phrases. It finishes out with an ascending extended line of a repeated figure that is punctuated by an exclamation in the piano part. The final movement is two contrasting ideas, the slow adagio opening and the energetic presto section. The adagio section is extremely cantabile, letting the saxophonist show off great tone and phrasing. Spinning sixteenth notes marks the beginning of the presto, which maintains high energy through the end of the piece. The melody from the adagio is restated towards the end, but is then followed by the spinning presto theme and concludes with a dramatic altissimo G in the saxophone part.

Duo for Eb Alto Saxophone and Piano

Walter S. Hartley

Born in Washington, D.C., Walter S. Hartley began composing works at the age of five, pursuing it seriously by sixteen. He received degrees from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, eventually receiving his Ph.D. in composition there in 1953. Having written over 300 works for a variety of instruments and ensembles, Hartley is well-known especially for his compositions for orchestra, brass, and saxophone.

Hartley's Duo is a single-movement work that displays both virtuosity and distinct style. Although aggressive in nature, some of the main themes from the piece flow gracefully from phrase to phrase. A slower middle section provides a shift in mood before resuming the high-energy first melody, written in a different key. The piano takes the listener back to a more peaceful Lento section before launching back to yet another recap of the theme, ending with a high statement by the saxophone.

Concerto pour Saxophone Alto et Orchestre

Henri Tomasi

Born 1901 in Marseille, France, Henri Tomasi began his music studies at age seven at the Conservatoire de Musique de Marseille. By the age of twenty he enrolled in studies at the Conservatoire de Paris, where he grew into an accomplished composer, winning the second Grand Prix de Rome for his cantata, 'Coriola.' Later in his life, he discovered a particular love

for composing for wind instruments and wrote his most famous composition, the *Concerto for Trumpet*. Tomasi's Concerto for Alto Saxophone is a staple in saxophone literature and is known for its difficulty and complexity.

Although this piece is only two movements, there are a number of smaller sections within each movement that create different moods throughout. The opening introduction is slower and is written to sound almost rubato. A small cadenza leads into the quicker first main section, the style of which can be compared to Tomasi's trumpet concerto; separated, accented, and driving. One of the difficult things about playing this concerto is the repetition of figures in different keys. A motive will often be followed directly by echos in ascending or descending keys. The meter changes frequently, creating an ebb and flow of energy throughout the movement. The middle of the first movement is a large cadenza, providing the saxophonist the opportunity to change moods and show off. The last page of this movement is intense, building in both speed and angular motion only to be cut short and finished with a slow and mysterious recap of an earlier theme.

Movement two is entitled "Giration" due to its spinning and turning motion throughout. It has many similar motives to the first movement but organized differently. The opening melody is repeated in different keys two twice more before dispersing into a rolling section that is building towards the big finish. Sixteenth note and triplet patterns are echoed in ascending half-steps, moving into more and more intensity before, just like the first movement, all the energy stops and returns to the largo tempo for a big dramatic finish.

Iberia Suite for Saxophone Quartet

Ed Calle

Ed Calle is an accomplished instrumentalist and composer from Miami, Florida. Originally from Caracas, Venezuela, Calle is heavily influenced by Latin music and his Iberia Suite for saxophone quartet is a prime example of that.

The suite is a musical representation of the rich culture of Spain, the first movement depicting the rumba, a popular ballroom dance with high energy and rhythm. The second movement lets both the players and listeners take a rest, or "siesta," after the intense first (and soon to come third) movement. The final movement takes the listeners to the city of Pamplona, Spain, where *encierro* (or "running of the bulls") takes place. Still dance-like, this movement ends in a whirring flourish of chromatic and scalar figures split among the parts.