



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Molly Leonard, Saxophone
Dr. Cecilia Kao, Piano
Xander Byrd, Trombone
Karolina Rimskyte, Piano
Holt Lee, Bass

April 4th, 2023

8:30 PM

PepsiCo Recital Hall

Program

Rhapsody for Alto Saxophone

André Waignein
(1942-2015)

Concertino da Camera

- I. Allegro con moto*
- II. Larghetto, Animato molto*

Jacques Ibert
(1890-1962)

Duo for Two Cellos, op. 53 No. 3

Reinhold Glière
(1874-1956)

Xander Byrd, Trombone

Baby Grand

Billy Joel
(b. 1949)

Karolina Rimskyte, Piano
Holt Lee, Bass

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Ms. Leonard is a student of Mr. Joseph Eckert.
The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.
Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

André Waignein was a Belgian composer, conductor, trumpet player, and musicologist. He composed many prize-winning works for chamber, vocal, symphonic, and wind band music. His Rhapsody for Alto Saxophone, composed for the 5th International Adolphe Sax Competition (2010) in Belgium, is a musical journey that explores the saxophone's expressive nature and technical capability. It features a technically challenging and arabesque first movement, a serene second movement, and a brilliantly impressive third. Concertino da Camera was composed by Jacques Ibert, a graduate of the Paris Conservatory and cousin of renowned Spanish composer Manuel de Falla. Ibert was influenced heavily by his interest in theatre and was a successful violinist and pianist at the Conservatoire. Though he composed several light piano pieces, popular songs, and over sixty film scores, one of his most famous pieces is his Concertino for saxophone, written for the German-American saxophonist Sigurd Rascher. Whole-tone and chromatic scales and themes with rapid melodic fragments mark the first movement. The second movement begins with a lovely lyrical section initiated by the saxophonist alone, before bursting into another technical passage, and a virtuosic cadenza brings the concerto to a close.

Reinhold Glière's Duo for Two Cellos, op. 53 No. 3 is part of a ten-composition set for two cellos. Glière was a marvelously accomplished Russian composer and violinist whose works exhibit a range of influences from Wagner to Strauss to Debussy, especially adopting features of Russian Romanticism. Glière's ten cello duos are varied in character, and No. 3 is a beautiful, longing work in which the two cellos trade the melody in a slow, meaningful dance.

Billy Joel is an American pianist, singer, and songwriter of many genres including rock, pop, classical piano, and R&B. Among many honors and accomplishments, he has been nominated for 23 Grammy awards, winning several. He received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize in 2014, recognizing his enormous impact in promoting song as a medium of expression and cultural understanding. Joel wrote "Baby Grand", inspired by his idol Ray Charles, in a single night, for them to play together. Charles agreed to perform it with him after realizing that Joel wrote the wildly successful "New York State of Mind", also a masterpiece written in a single night. "Baby Grand" is a soulful ballad dedicated to the baby grand piano. Proving Billy Joel's ability to use song as a venue for deep musical expression, the piece conveys an instrument's unbreakable relationship with its performer.