



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Emily Dean, Percussion & Jett Schnackenberg, Saxophone

Sunday, November 10, 2024
Hall

7:00 PM

Van Cliburn Concert

Program

Diametrically, the Same

Nick Heilborn
(b. 1998)

Jett Schnackenberg, Tenor Saxophone & Kick Drum
Emily Dean, Marimba & Vibraphone

Saxophobia

Rudy Wiedoeft
(1893-1940)

Jett Schnackenberg, Alto Saxophone
Ms. Syuzanna Kaszo, Piano Accompanist

What A Wonderful World
Thiele

George David Weiss & Bob

(1893-1940) (1922-1966)
Arr. Alex Stopa
(b.1980)

Emily Dean, Marimba

A Gershwin Fantasy

Arr. Ralph Martino
(b. 1945)

Jett Schnackenberg, Alto Saxophone
Ms. Syuzanna Kaszo, Piano Accompanist

Turbo Scramjet

William Pitts
(b. 1986)

Jett Schnackenberg, Soprano Saxophone
Holt Lee, Alto Saxophone
Ashley Tyson, Tenor Saxophone
Maya Kamal, Baritone Saxophone

Recital Duo

Dan Knipple
(b. 1956)

Emily Dean, Percussion
Joe Donohue, Percussion

Brief Intermission

Bright Side

Rosie Cerquone
(b. 1998)

Emily Dean, Vibraphone & Vocal
Jett Schnackenberg, Clarinet
Luke Wilson, Bass Guitar
Haley Bruns, Drum Set

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor's of Music Education.

Emily Dean is a student of Mr. Joey Carter, Mr. Jeffrey Hodge, and Dr. Brian A. West.

Jett Schnackenberg is a student of Mr. Allen Cordingley.

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.

Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

Program Notes:

Diametrically, the Same by Nick Heilborn

Diametrically, the Same is an exploration of opposites coming to confluence: the wooden marimba and reed meet the metallic vibraphone and brass; the saxophone as a percussive instrument against the lyrical mallets; and the juxtaposition of classical and jazz music all saxophonists and percussionists are faced with. Who said classical music can't be fun and inviting?

Saxophobia by Rudy Wiedoeft

Composer Rudy Wiedoeft was one of history's most significant saxophone players, helping to popularize the saxophone during the 1930s. Sax-o-phobia, written in 1918, became the largest-selling solo in the saxophone's history. This ragtime piece has many humorous techniques to show what the saxophone was capable of.

What A Wonderful World by George David Weiss & Bob Thiele

Alex Stopa has created a beautiful rendition of one of history's most beloved songs. Arranged for 5-octave marimba (playable on a 4.5-octave instruments with the included substitutions), this version honors the original with grace and idiomatic nuance, sure to be a highlight on percussion recitals, weddings, church services, or anywhere one might enjoy the marimba's expressive qualities.

Louis Armstrong's iconic recording of What a Wonderful World is loved and recognized by all. Remarkably, this peaceful pop ballad, with its uplifting and optimistic lyrics, was composed and recorded during a tumultuous period in American history.

In 1967, the Vietnam war was raging, Martin Luther King was campaigning for civil rights amid race riots around the country, and the "Summer of Love" brought nearly 100,000 youth ('hippies,' as they were known) to San Francisco. These events embodied a climate of intense social and political unrest in America.

Amidst this turmoil, at an all-night recording session in Las Vegas, Louis Armstrong recorded What a Wonderful World. Juxtaposed against this political and social turbulence, What a Wonderful World, with its positive message of peace and tolerance, could appear out of place. It seems to recall a simpler time. Musicians and artists, however, have long held up a mirror to society, and it's quite likely that composer George Weiss and lyricist Bob Thiele wrote the song after seeing how Louis Armstrong's music helped to bring people of different races together.

Over 50 years later, Louis Armstrong's performance of What a Wonderful World continues to resonate with listeners. The lyrics retain their poignancy and serve as an enduring reminder of benevolence and the human spirit.

This arrangement for solo marimba leads the original melody through a few unexpected twists and turns, while showcasing the mellow and warm tonal nuances of the marimba. Harmonically, it draws influence from the jazz idiom for which Louis Armstrong was famous.

A Gershwin Fantasy

Arranged by Ralph Martino, this piece contains several of George Gershwin's greatest hits, such as Summertime, Fascinating Rhythm, Rhapsody in Blue, I Got Rhythm, and more. George Gershwin was a famous American composer who composed many popular works in jazz and classical styles. The saxophone switches from these two styles of music to show how Gershwin was able to write for both.

Turbo Scramjet by William Pitts

William Pitts is an Atlanta-based composer, conductor, and arranger. He studied saxophone, conducting, and composition at Emory University and completed graduate studies in Music at North Georgia University and the University of Michigan. Pitts has done many arrangement works for the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps of Rockford, Illinois. He has also completed many compositions for many different ensemble settings.

Direct program notes from the composer:

“Turbo Scramjet is named for an experimental engine developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). A ramjet, sometimes referred to as a stovepipe jet, or an athodyd, is a form of jet engine using the engine's forward motion to compress incoming air.

...I just thought Turbo Scramjet would be a great name for a saxophone quartet. Scramjets are both fast and highly unpredictable, and I wanted to incorporate these characteristics into the music. The driving nature of the rhythm is relentless and, in many spots, unstable. The use of shifting meters as well as random syncopated rhythms makes it difficult to tap one's foot through the whole piece. As soon as there is any feeling of stability, the strain disintegrates with either a unison rest, or a quarter rest spaced differently through each voice.

After this opening, the middle section is more subdued and focuses on the calm during a smooth flight. The call and response of the soprano and alto saxophones are still free-flowing, but is focused on counterpoint rather than rhythmic drive. Eventually, all four parts remerge and the rhythmic drive returns to life. After the gradual build to the climax, the momentum relents until the final punch.” - William Pitts

Recital Duo by Dan Knipple

A duet that illustrates the contrasting style of concert and rudimental snare drumming techniques. The piece explores various possible tonal sounds on the two snares in order to enhance the melodic interest between the two parts. Polyrhythms play a vital role in the piece, as do the carefully placed meter changes.

Bright Side by Rosie Cerquone

Bright Side is a song written and released in 2022 by vibraphonist-singer-songwriter Rosie Cerquone (also known by the stage name ROSiE CQ). Rosie is a classically and jazz-trained percussionist who has always loved singing and songwriting, which allows her to create music in what she calls a “pop percussion” style. She is

passionate about creating songs like Bright Side that can be performed both in concert halls and on pop music stages.

Bright Side was originally recorded as a trio: a vibraphonist-singer, a bass player, and a drummer. But anyone who plays this piece is encouraged to arrange it in whatever instrumentation they want to. Players are also encouraged to improvise and embellish their parts in whatever ways feel like “their voice” while still maintaining the integrity of the song.

About Tonight’s Collaboration:

Emily (Bullard, Texas) and Jett (Mansfield, Texas) first met back in 2021 while they were both pursuing an Associate of Arts in Music at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas. They both actively participated in the TJC Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensembles, and Apache Marching Band, which is how the friendship eventually came to be. After sharing the stage multiple times, it only made sense to collaborate once again when the opportunity to share a Junior Recital arose. Emily and Jett are incredibly grateful for the personal growth and many amazing musical moments they have experienced at both TJC and TCU. They are grateful for their paths crossing once again as they continue to “Figure It Out” on their academic and musical journeys.

Message from Jett:

“*Figure It Out* is a core value TJC has established during my time there studying. This value has helped me become more professional. It also helps me accomplish my personal goals in my career and life, which these goals started as dreams of mine. Right now, during the rough time of the semester, Emily and I definitely have been using this core value to make this recital happen.

I want to dedicate this performance to the professors who have guided me through my journey. Dr. Airheart, who was my instructor at TJC, and Mr. Cordingley, who is having to deal with what Dr. Airheart has made me become (of course, this is a sarcastic joke).”

Message from Emily:

“First and foremost, I want to give thanks to God for His guidance, grace, and the countless blessings that have made this journey possible. Without His strength and inspiration, none of this would be achievable. With every high and low, He has been with me and has given my journey meaning and purpose.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this recital possible. To my fellow performers -Jett, Joe, Haley, & Luke-, thank you for your dedication and passion—it's been a true joy to share this experience with you. I’m deeply grateful to my instructors - Dr. West, Mr. Hodge, Mr. Carter, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Strickland, and MANY more - for their guidance and support, helping me grow every step of the way. A special thank you goes to my family - Mom, Dad, and Audrey- and to my friends for their constant encouragement and belief in me. Your support means the world and has been my inspiration throughout this entire journey. And, of course, thank you to all of you in the audience and online for being here for me today. Your presence makes this moment truly meaningful. To be able to share music with a group of people that I love is truly an incredible blessing.”