



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

*An Evening of Melodrama*  
*Music and Narration*

**Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, piano**

Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

7:00 pm

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

**Program**

Das Schloss am Meere for Narrator and Piano, TrV191 (1899)  
*(The Castle by the Sea)*

Richard Strauss  
(1864-1949)

James Rodriguez, recitation

The Manitou Incline for Soprano Saxophone and Piano (2021)  
I. Beckoning  
II. Broken  
III. Determined

Joel Love  
(b. 1982)

Paul Zaborac, soprano saxophone

Suite No.1 for Tuba and Piano (Effie Suite) (1960)

Alec Wilder  
(1907-1980)

Clay Garrett, tuba

The Pied Piper of Hamelin for Narrator and Piano, Op. 23 (1914)

Arthur Bergh  
(1882-1962)

Sara Doan, recitation

## Performer Bios

Honduran baritone, **James D. Rodriguez**, has appeared in operatic works by Bizet, Rossini, Mozart, Donizetti, Strauss, Verdi, Catán, and many others. Favorite roles include Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Tonio in *Pagliacci*, Dr. Rappaccini in *La Hija de Rappaccini*, Herr Fanninal in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and the title roles in *Rigoletto* and *Falstaff*, the latter which he performed with the TCU Opera and Symphony Orchestra. Other appearances include those with Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera in the Heights, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Opera Theatre Pittsburgh, the Natchez Festival of Music, and the Moores Opera Center. Concert appearances include Beethoven's 9th Symphony & Mass in C, Fauré's Requiem, Handel's Messiah, Carlisle Floyd's Pilgrimage, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, Goodall's *Eternal Light: A Requiem*, and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with the Houston Camerata, Fort Bend Symphony, and San Antonio Symphony, among others.

An avid collaborator, he has performed recitals with PianoTexas Festival with Dr. Michael Bukhman, the Festival of American Song with Dr. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao (with composer Libby Larsen in residency), Opus Nova, Mt. Vernon Music, and Austin Chamber Music Center, for which he was awarded an Austin Critics Table Award for his participation in "Black Composers Concert: The Black Female Composer", with pianist, Dr. Artina McCain. In addition, he has performed as part of a trio with Drs. McCain and Alfred, touring the works of Black Female Composers as part of a recital series throughout the United States. In 2024, he sang as part of the Mahogany Chamber Music Series at the Crosstown Theater in Memphis, Tennessee and premiered *Colossus Mother of Exiles* by Christopher Aspaas with the TCU Concert Chorale. He is also the recipient of the gold medal in the Young Texas Artists Vocal Competition in 2012.

Dr. Rodriguez is an Associate Professor of Voice & Voice Pedagogy. He holds advanced degrees from the University of Houston and is a Certified Vocologist from the National Center for Voice and Speech

**Paul Zaborac** is a versatile saxophonist known for his creativity as a performer, composer, and educator. Well versed in jazz, classical, and contemporary music, he seamlessly bridges musical boundaries.

Paul has organized and managed performance tours and produced or co-produced several albums which feature his original compositions and arrangements, including *Actualize*, *Paul Zaborac Quartet: Live, Long Way Out*, and *Russian Romantic Music for Saxophone and Piano*. As a co-founder and artistic director of the *Scheherazade Music Festival* he has premiered multiple new works by modern composers for innovative mixed chamber ensembles.

Presenting concerts throughout the United States, he has been invited to perform at multiple universities and national conferences and has performed internationally in China, Hong Kong, Costa Rica, and Australia. He has appeared with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, the Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra, and the National Repertory Orchestra. Paul has also had the opportunity to share the stage with notable jazz musicians such as Rufus Reid, Tia Fuller, John Von Ohlen, Everett Greene, Greg Gisbert, Stan Sulzmann, Chad Eby, Stockton Helbing, Paul McKee, Ernie Watts, and Michael Dease, and tour internationally with the University of Colorado-Boulder Concert Jazz Ensemble.

Dr. Zaborac has been a visiting professor at the University of Denver Lamont School of Music and has taught saxophone and coached chamber music at the University of Colorado Boulder. He regularly presents guest clinics and masterclasses at universities and high schools. Paul holds degrees from Simpson College (BMus), The Sydney Conservatorium of Music in Australia (MM), and The University of Colorado Boulder (DMA). He is currently active as a teacher and performer in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

**Dr. Clay Garrett** serves as Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in Tuba/Euphonium at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX. Previously, he held similar positions at Temple College, Texas A&M – Kingsville, and Texas A&M – Central Texas. Clay has earned degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, and The University of Texas at Tyler. He is Principal Tubist of the Victoria Symphony Orchestra and regularly performs with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, and the East Texas Symphony Orchestra. As a soloist, Clay has performed throughout the United States and abroad, and has been a prizewinner, finalist, and semi-finalist at such competitions as the International Markneukirchen competition in Germany, the Lieksa Brass Week competition in Finland, as well as the Leonard Falcone competition and Concert Artist's Guild competition in the United States.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, **Sara Doan** began studying piano at the age of 3 with Donna Edwards. She earned a bachelor's and master's degree in piano performance at the University of North Texas, and completed doctoral coursework at TCU.

Ms. Doan has performed with the Meadows Symphony Orchestra in Dallas and the North Texas Symphony Orchestra in Denton. She has presented recitals across Texas, and in Oklahoma, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. In December 2010, Ms. Doan served as guest artist in the First International Piano Festival of Bogota, Colombia where she performed, taught master classes, led discussions, and served on the competition jury.

Ms. Doan has served as collaborative pianist-in-residence at Southeastern Oklahoma State and adjunct professor of piano at the University of North Texas and Tarleton State University. She maintains a private studio in the DFW area and is an adjunct professor at Tarrant County College - Northwest Campus. She also presents educational programs through The Cliburn.

Taiwanese pianist **Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao** is a dynamic performer that is in demand as a chamber musician. She has collaborated with several distinguished artists including Lynn Harrell, Stefan Jackiw, Robert McDuffie, Bion Tsang, Gerardo Ribeiro, David Coucheron, and Jennifer Stumm, members of the Tokyo, Emerson, Juilliard String Quartets, among many others.

Kao is an Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in Music and Collaborative Piano Artist at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. She is also the co-founder and artistic director of Scheherazade Music Festival in Manhattan, Kansas, and the Coordinator of Collaborative Piano at the prestigious Meadowmount School of Music 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.

She has appeared at Carnegie Weill Hall and can be heard with cellist Bion Tsang on his CD *The Blue Rock Sessions*. She was also a member of the Boulder Altitude Directive, a modern music ensemble dedicated to commissioning and performing new music, during their inaugural season. Cecilia has received fellowships for both the Aspen School of Music and the Music Academy of the West. She also was a chamber music artist at the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival in Florida.

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. Prior to 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. Her principal teachers include Anne Epperson, Margaret McDonald, Alexandra Nguyen, Elizabeth Pridgen, Chi-Chen Wu, and Shu-Cheng Lin. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao is a Yamaha Artist.