



Research on Contemporary Composition



Conference 2022
OCT 29/30.006

Dahlonega, Georgia
9:00 am - 9:00 pm



UNG UNIVERSITY of
NORTH GEORGIA™
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

SESSION VIII. 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm (Shott Auditorium)

UNG Department of Music and NACUSA Presents
a Composers Recital
Shott Auditorium - Dahlonega Georgia
October 30, 2022 | 2:00 pm

Paul Dice, composer

Between the Stars

Serena Scibelli, violin; Luca Lombardi, double bass

Joe L. Alexander, composer

Partita #7 for unaccompanied violin

Serena Scibelli, violin

Craig Peaslee, composer

Blues So Low

Luca Lombardi, double bass

Betty R. Wishart, composer

Phantasmagoria

Jeri-Mae Astolfi, piano

David R. Peoples, composer

Reveries for double bass

Luca Lombardi, double bass

Hannah Heaton, composer

Around Me

Serena Scibelli, violin

Alan Goldspiel

Mountains Beyond Clouds

Brittney Patterson, bass flute; Alan Goldspiel, guitar

Sunday – 2:00 pm
Organizational Recital

Paul Dice

Paul Dice studied composition at the Boston Conservatory of Music with Joel Kabakov, privately in Boston with John Adams, and with his most influential teacher, Lou Harrison, at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in Florida and in California. His commissions include those from the American Composers Forum, Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, Carleton Chinese Music Ensemble, the experimental vocal ensemble Listen, the Edina Concert Orchestra, the Chinese Heritage Foundation, and Fedogan and Bremer Publishing among others. Dice has also received funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board, including 2019 and 2013 Artist Initiative Grants, and was the recipient of 2012 and 2017 McKnight Established Artist Awards from the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council. Finding enjoyment in composing for foreign or unusual instruments, Dice has composed for harmonic singers, traditional Chinese instruments, Indonesian gamelan, Philippine kulintang, metal sculpture, in addition to Western instruments. His music is primarily inspired by movement and sounds found in nature, and techniques and practices used in other art forms or cultural traditions that he adapts for use in his own special brand of music. Since 2018 he has also been composing music for short films produced in the United Kingdom.

Dice's first success as a composer came in 1981 when his piano piece "Portrait" was premiered at Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. The same year he was featured on a broadcast of "Music in Minnesota" on Minnesota Public Radio. Performances and broadcasts of his works throughout the US soon followed. In 1986 he was commissioned by the experimental vocal ensemble Listen to write a piece that utilized vocal harmonics, a practice he studied during a residency with David Hykes and

the Harmonic Choir and has used in several of his pieces. In 1990 Dice was featured in an article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune written by classical music critic Michael Anthony. Dice's first piece for string quartet, Gulls Circling a Bay, was premiered by the Filharmonica Quartet of Novosibirsk in Novosibirsk, Russia; and was chosen for a reading session by the esteemed Arditti String Quartet from England. It received its US premiere at Walker Art Center in 1994, and in 2017 was performed at the Carolina Chamber Music Festival in New Bern, North Carolina. A version of the piece with Chinese pipa was performed at the Minnesota Orchestra Donor Party in 2017 by members of the Minnesota Orchestra with Gao Hong on pipa. The most recent version for string quintet was premiered at the 2020 TUTTI Festival by Sybarite5 (Sami Merdinian and Sarah Whitney, violins; Angela Pickett, viola; Laura Metcalf, cello; and Louis Levitt, bass).

In 2009 Dice became the only foreigner to be commissioned by a new program at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing designed to encourage composers to combine Western and traditional Chinese instruments in their works. The Leven String Quartet and pipa master Gao Hong premiered his Birds in Flight in the conservatory's concert hall on July 4, 2011. In 2016, Dice's Back to the Bass Licks for guqin (7-string ancient Chinese zither) and bass was performed at a nationwide guqin conference in Nanchang, China. It was also performed at the 2017 Beijing Modern Music Festival's "Lights and Shade - Concert of Modern Music for Guqin" and was published in China by the Central Conservatory. His most recent composition, Between the Stars for violin and cello, was scheduled for three spring performances by Duo-B (violinist Hirono Sugimoto Borter and cellist Philip Borter) before the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of all public events. An earlier version of the piece for Chinese erhu and yangqin was premiered in 2019 at

Carleton College by Cao Dewei, erhu; and Chen Xiangyang, yangqin.

In 1992 Dice travelled to China and Kazakhstan as part of a People to People Citizen Ambassador Program Music of the Minorities Delegation. He returned to China in 1993 to present his paper on the famous Chinese composer A Bing at an international conference in Wuxi. He returned again in 1995 to serve as an Artist-in-Residence at the Xian Conservatory of Music. Dice served as Music Advisor for the six-episode Twin City Public Television series "Made in China" and as an English editor for the Hal Leonard Pipa Method Book written by Gao Hong. He is the president of International Friendship Through the Performing Arts, a non-profit organization that promotes intercultural friendship, understanding and interaction through activities in the performing arts. www.iftpausa.com

Joe L. Alexander

Composer, tubist, theory pedagogist and music historian, Joe L. Alexander, joined The W music faculty in the Fall of 2016. His music has been performed throughout the United States, Ecuador, Germany and South Korea. His compositions have been performed on recitals at conferences of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance; the Louisiana Composers' Consortium; National Association of Composers, USA (NACUSA); the Society of Composers, Inc.; the College Music Society; the Southeastern Composers' League, the International Tuba Euphonium Conference and the NACUSA National Festival. His music has been featured at Bowling Green State University's annual New Music & Art Festival, the Electroacoustic Barn Dance, the Birmingham New Music Festival, New Music on the Bayou Festival and New Music for Young Ensembles Composers' Competition. His Two Bryant Songs are recorded on the CD, Winds and Voices, by Living Artist Recordings. In 2012, he was

the Louisiana Music Teachers Association Commissioned Composer.

Dr. Alexander is an Associate Professor of Music at The W where he teaches Theory, Composition, Music History and Low Brass. He also serves as the National Treasurer for NACUSA. In 2005 & 2010 he hosted the Southeastern Composers' League's Forum and the 2013 NACUSA National Festival at Louisiana Tech University. Alexander holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas and studied composition with Newel Kay Brown, Douglas Knehans, Martin Mailman, Cindy McTee, and James Riley. Tuba teachers include Bruce Mosier, Ken Meisinger and James Michael Dunn. Additional information about the composer can be found by visiting his website, jacomposer.com.

Craig Peaslee

Craig Peaslee is a composer, arranger, and guitarist whose music explores the hybridization of American Jazz and Western Classical music traditions.

A disabled veteran, Craig's works are representative of the struggles veterans encounter with assimilation and alienation while returning to civilian life and the experience of serving active duty. Other works directly confront the socio-political issues of our time, conveying the issues in musical terms in order for the listener to think more critically regarding their community, culture, and society. With a clear personal musical identity, Craig's harmonic, rhythmic, and technical explorations sear a sonic imprint into the audience through the fusion of disparate genres into the liminal space between idioms and cultures.

In 2021, Craig's orchestral work, *Second City Strut*, took First Place in the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra Composition Contest. He also saw two of his works become finalists in three separate categories of the

American Prize: The Death of a Nation for string quartet and pre-recorded media in the Composition for Chamber Ensemble category (for which it received a Special Judges' Citation for Social Relevance and Musical Quality), and *Second City Strut* a finalist in the Orchestra Composition category and Third Place in the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award.

Recent performances of compositions and arrangements have been by the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Julius Quartet, Bowery Trio, Northern Illinois University's Graduate Brass Quintet, Arcadian Winds, Flight 5-8-4 Big Band from Los Angeles, The Moonlighter's Orchestra, Extra Crispy Brass Band and Brew City Big Band of Milwaukee, and the jazz ensembles of the University of Wisconsin and Northern Illinois University.

Growing up in a rural village, Craig is passionate about presenting new music to small communities and areas that do not normally get the opportunity to attend concerts featuring new music. For these reasons, Craig enjoys writing music that is accessible while also sounding new and invigorating.

Betty R. Wishart

Betty Wishart' began composing while studying piano with Richard Bunger. After earning degrees in piano performance from Queens University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she pursued studies in both piano and composition in New York City. Since her music was first published, her music has been performed in France, Germany, Greece, Italy, England, Russia, South Korea, and throughout the United States at diverse venues including Academia Filarmonica di Bologna, International Composers Symposiums (France), Women Composers Festival of Hartford (CT), Cape Fear New Music Festival (NC), Carmichael Hall (Washington, DC), University of California (Los Angeles and Santa Barbara), Third, Scots &

Mariners Church (Philadelphia, PA), Third Street Music Settlement School (NYC), San Jose State University (CA), University of Alabama, American Swedish Institute, Music of American Women (NYC), Vox Novus Fifteen Minutes of Fame (WI), Tenri Institute (NYC), Temple University, and conferences of Delta Omicron, Society of Composers, Inc., Southeastern Composers' League, Florida Music Teachers Association, and the National Association of Composers, USA. She has received awards from the American Pen Women, American College of Musicians, Composers Guild, Broward County Music Teachers Association, ASCAPlus, and Regional Artist Project Grants from the Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cumberland County.

In 2021 five of Wishart's compositions were performed by Tamara Licheli on Phasma Music's album *NEW MUSIC FOR SOLO PIANO*. In 2019 Wishart received a Regional Artist Project Support Grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cumberland County to compose and record an album of piano music performed by Jeri-Mae G. Astolfi. In November 2020 Ravello Records released the album *MOODS,...* "An exceptional endeavor in the area of solo piano music, each selection brings the listener on an exhilarating and enlightening journey that truly showcases the boundlessness of the piano"(Take Effect Review). In March 2016 Ravello Records released *Piano Sonorities*, the debut album of Wishart's piano music "...an utterly beguiling collection of piano music (Classical Nowhere). In May 2017 Navona Records released Wishart's *Concertante No.1...Journey into the Unknown...*"It is music of ponderous mystery, bounding across our listening space with great grace." (GappleGate Classical Modern Music Review). "Awaking" and "Frolicking" were included on flautist Iwona Glinka's *ONE MINUTE* recording released by Sarton Records in March 2017. In 2019 *Oracles for flute and piano* (Iwona Glinka, flute;