

The Grambling State University  
Department of Music

presents

*National Association of Composers/USA*

*Mid-South Chapter*

Featuring Music by

Joe L. Alexander  
Valentin M. Bogdan  
Joshua Carver  
Cody Chandler  
David Cortello  
Joshua Mattison  
Mel Mobley

Recital Hall  
Conrad Hutchinson Jr. Performing Arts Center  
Grambling, Louisiana  
Wednesday, April 10, 2013  
6:00 p.m.

# Program

*Therefore My Heart Is Glad*

Grambling State University Choir  
Natorshau Davis, conductor

Valentin M. Bogdan, ASCAP

*Rhythm n' Motion*

**I. Moderato**  
**II. Allegro**  
**III. Adagio**

Cody Chandler

Ann Sorensen, violin

*Battle Suite*

**I. To Arms**  
**II. Hymn**  
**III. Charge**

Joshua Mattison

Louisiana Tech Low Brass Ensemble  
Joe L. Alexander, conductor

*Wash Me Away*

Randall Sorensen, trumpet  
fixed media

David Cortello

*Sonata No. 1*

Cain Budds, guitar

Joshua Carver, BMI

*Dialog #2*

Randall Sorensen, trumpet  
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

Joe L. Alexander, BMI

*Etudes for Solo Piano*

**I. Introduction**  
**II. Basso Ostinato**  
**III. Sets**  
**IV. Aug.**

Valentin M. Bogdan, ASCAP

Valentin M. Bogdan, piano

*Coloring with Water*

Alex Noppe, trumpet  
James Boldin, horn  
James Layfield, trombone

Mel Mobley, ASCAP

# The Composers

**Joe L. Alexander's** music has been performed throughout the United States, Ecuador and Germany. Alexander is an Associate Professor of Music at Louisiana Tech University where he teaches Theory, Composition and Low Brass. He serves as the National Treasurer for National Association of Composers, USA and President of the Mid-South chapter of the group. Alexander holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas.

The original idea for the *Dialog* series was to compose a series of duets for tuba and a second instrument. *Dialog #1* is for flute and tuba and was composed for the flutist, Tammi Powell. *Dialog #2*, which I composed for Randy Sorensen, is for trumpet and tuba.

**Valentin Bogdan** started his music studies in his native Romania. As a teenager, he toured with the “*Tudor Ciortea Music School Orchestra of Brasov*” throughout Europe and Asia, in countries like the Netherlands, Great Britain, France and Jordan. As a pianist, he was awarded prizes at various competitions, and he has performed extensively in North America and Europe. Dr. Bogdan is a graduate of University of Miami, Michigan State University and Wayne State University, with degrees in Piano Performance and Music Composition. He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Grambling State University.

This work was originally written to be performed during Easter. The text is an adaptation of Psalm 16. The piece explores the concepts of dissonance vs consonance and of traditional vs contemporary harmony (such as triads vs quartal and secundal chords). These harmonic shifts are meant to represent the multiple experiences (some positive and some negatives) that occur in our everyday lives. This performance represents the world premiere of this piece.

I believe that any musical performance involves three equally important entities: the performer, the composer, and the audience. Audience reaction, their response to the music, is one of the things that make a live performance unique. This set of etudes aims to involve all three entities; these pieces apply the meaning of the word etude, “study”, not only to the performer, but also to the audience and composer. Some of the writing is meant to challenge the pianist, similarly to the etudes of past major composers, while some of these etudes are the result of the composer challenging himself to make the most use of certain techniques. Finally, some of these works involve the audience. These pieces are quiet, still, based on single gestures, and their goal is to draw some type of reaction during the actual performance. This way, all three entities mentioned in the beginning are present, and a complete performance is created.

**Joshua Carver** attends Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree in music composition under Dinos Constantinides. His *String Quartet No. 1* recently won first prize in the Philip Slates Memorial Composition Competition. In addition to composing new works for performers across the great state of Louisiana, Carver, a resident of Lafayette, frequently arranges music for the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra and First Baptist Church of Lafayette.

*Sonata No. 1* explores free chromaticism while managing to stay harmonically grounded within a double-tonic complex of E and A. There are two thematic ideas, both with a chromatic scale as the basic structural element. These ideas are developed and recapitulated in a traditional sonata-form manner.

**Cody Chandler**, a native of Choudrant, LA, is a junior piano performance major at Louisiana Tech University. Cody is a collegiate member of Music Teachers National Association, and he has maintained a private piano studio for over 5 years. Cody is the pianist for both the Louisiana Tech University Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. He has also served as the pianist for North Louisiana Masterworks Chorus and the United Methodist Church.

**David Cortello** is a composer of contemporary music for solo and small ensembles, orchestra, electronics, multimedia, film, and liturgy. Mr. Cortello received his B.A. in music from the University of New Orleans, his M.M. from Louisiana State University, and will graduate with his Ph.D. (music composition) from LSU in May 2013.

*Existential Mix No. 1* is an electroacoustic work for trumpet and digital media. Though the trumpet part is written out, it would be acceptable to improvise a live part over the digital media on the trumpet or other instrument. On several levels, the piece is related to Charles Ives' *The Unanswered Question*; the structure is based on a foundation of sustained sound, like Ives' strings; there is also a question and answer format between the live instrument and the spoken word present in the digital media, just as the flutes and trumpet converse in the Ives composition; even the title reflects a question of existence as Ives may have been asking.

**Joshua Mattison** is a fourth year music student at Louisiana Tech University studying composition under Dr. Joe L. Alexander. Joshua plans to pursue a graduate degree in music following graduation from Louisiana Tech.

Battle Suite is a three movement work written for the Louisiana Tech Low Brass Ensemble. The first movement, To Arms, is a fast paced piece with sections of rhythmic interlocking and a recurring theme. The second movement, Hymn, is a slower piece beginning with a euphonium duet, and continues into the third movement, Charge, by means of an attacca. The final movement is another fast paced movement, but this time in compound meter. The initial theme from the first movement returns in the last section of the final movement.

**Mel Mobley** has been a composer and performer of contemporary music for the last 20 years. He has been part of numerous premieres around the country and has been featured as a performer and/or composer at contemporary music festivals including BONK in Tampa, FL, FunNewMusic in Champaign, IL, and the 1999 SEAMUS National Convention in San Jose, CA. His compositions have been performed throughout the United States and he has been commissioned by The Monroe Symphony Orchestra and the chamber group, Three-Headed Monster in addition to several soloists. His first opera, Sylvan Beach, was premiered in the spring of 2010.

#### **The Louisiana Tech Low Brass Ensemble**

**Trombone:** Joshua Mattison, Michael Maxey

**Euphonium:** Sam Allelo, Daniel Barnes, Rodarius Tatum

**Tuba:** Brandon Frierson, Travis Harold, John Jones, Joe Murphy, Larry Scott Williams