

*Tennessee State University Department of Music and the National Association of Composers USA
Present
A New Music Concert featuring Orchestral Works of NACUSA Mid-South Composers
Performed by the Tennessee State University Symphony Orchestra,
Deidre Emerson Conductor*

*Sunday, October 12th at 2 pm
Goins Auditorium, Tennessee State University, Nashville TN*

PROGRAM

Piano Concerto “Julia” Olga Harris, ASCAP
II. Adagio

Julia Mortyakova , piano and the TSU Orchestra

Imprint William Price, ASCAP
TSU Orchestra

She Mel Mobley, ASCAP
TSU Orchestra

Ataraxia Valentin Bogdan ASCAP
TSU Orchestra

Strings Ablaze Ken Davies, ASCAP
TSU Orchestra

Sinagua David Cortello, ASCAP
TSU Orchestra

Circles Joe L. Alexander, BMI
TSU Orchestra

Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra Olga Harris, ASCAP

Oscar Utterstrom, Trombone and the TSU Orchestr

The Composers

Olga Harris was born in Moscow, Russia. She graduated from Ukraine College with a degree in Piano and received her Master degree as a composer for Moscow Conservatory and a Doctorate in Music Composition from Moscow Arts Academy. She was the last student of the famous composer Aram Khachaturian. Dr. Harris composed three symphonies, two piano concerti, two string quartets, four sonatas, two cantatas, five vocal cycles, many songs and over 600 pieces for piano and chamber instruments. She has also written music for two animated movies, theatre, and TV. Her music was performed at many festivals and concerts: *Moscow*

Autumn in Russia, *Russian Avant-Garde* in Heidelberg, Germany, *Assisi Music Festival* in Italy, *Malaga Musica Nueva* in Spain, and the *Ukrainian Chamber Music Festival*. She has multiple performances in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhniy Novgorod, Kiev (Ukraine), Riga (Latvia), Heidelberg, Dresden, and Munich (Germany), Malaga and Sevilla (Spain), and Paris (France). In the US, she had her music performed at the Aspen Music Festival, Interlochen Arts Academy, and on concerts in New York, Miami, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Nashville. She has lectured on Russian music at Limestone College, and performed at International Festival in Colombia, SC. She was the 2007 Tennessee State Music Teachers Association commissioned composer of the year. Dr. Harris is a professor of music composition at Tennessee State University.

Needs Program Notes

William Price's music has been performed in South America, Asia, and throughout the United States and Europe. His works have been featured prominently at such events as the World Saxophone Congress, the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the Música Viva Festival in Portugal, the Musinfo Art and Sciences Days in Bourges, France, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Chamber Music Festival in Singapore, and the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival. Dr. Price serves as Associate Professor of Music at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he teaches courses in music theory and composition. www.williampricecomposer.com (needs program notes)

Valentin Mihai Bogdan serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Mississippi University for Women. A native of Romania, he began his performing career as a teenager, when he toured with the orchestra of "*Tudor Ciortea Music Lyceum of Brasov*" throughout Europe and Asia, in France, England, Netherlands, and Jordan. Throughout his career, he was awarded prizes at various piano competitions, and he has performed solo and chamber music recitals in North America and Europe. He was a soloist with the Varna Symphony (Bulgaria), Wayne State Symphony (Michigan) and the Arizona Western College Concert Band. He has released two piano solo recordings, "*The Grands of Piano*" and "*Live in Concert.*" His compositions were performed at the Assisi Festival of Performing Arts (Italy), Festival Miami, Music at MOCA Concert Series, the Oregon Bach Festival, and at conferences hosted by the College Music Society, NACUSA, and the Society of Composers Inc. His music was premiered by musicians of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, Beta Collide, Grambling State University Wind Ensemble, Grambling Chorale, Black Bayou Brass Trio and the AWC Wind Ensemble. He was the 2010 Florida State Music Teachers Association commissioned composer of the year, and he was also commissioned by the Dranoff International Two Piano Foundation, and the AWC Concert Band. He is a graduate of Wayne State University, Michigan State University and University of Miami, with degrees in piano and music composition.

Ataraxia – is a Greek Philosophy term used by Pyrrho and Epicurus for a lucid state of robust tranquility, characterized by ongoing freedom from distress and worry. The main concept of this work is the apparent autonomy of each part pitted against an overall structural rigidity. Conflict is also present at times, as to state that true *Ataraxia* is idealistic, but in the end stillness prevails.

Joe L. Alexander's music has been performed throughout the United States, Ecuador and Germany. Performances include recitals/presentations at conferences of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance; the Louisiana Composers' Consortium; National Association of Composers, USA; the Society of Composers, Inc.; the College Music Society; the Southeastern Composers' League, the International Tuba Euphonium Conference and the National Association of Composers, USA, National Conferences. His music has been featured at Bowling Green State University's annual *New Music & Art Festival*, and *New Music for Young Ensemble Composers' Competition*. In 2002, the Monroe (Louisiana) Symphony Orchestra commissioned him to compose *Louisiana Blue* (baritone voice, flute, piano with orchestra accompaniment). His *Two Bryant Songs* (soprano, Bb clarinet and piano) are recorded on the CD, *Winds and Voices*, by Living Artist Recordings. Alexander is a Professor of Music at Louisiana Tech University where he teaches Theory, Composition and Low Brass. He has served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Southern Chapter of the College Music Society; Secretary, Vice-President and President for the Southeastern Composers' League; and chair of the National Advisory Council for the National Association of Composers, USA. Currently, Alexander serves as the National Treasurer for NACUSA and President of the Mid-South chapter of the group. Under his direction, Louisiana Tech University hosted the 2005 & 2010 Southeastern Composers' League's Forum, and the 2013 National Association of Composers, USA *National Festival*. Alexander holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas and studied composition with Newel Kay Brown, Douglas Knehan, Martin Mailman, Cindy McTee, and James Riley. Alexander is the Louisiana Music Teachers Association, 2012 Commissioned Composer.

Wisconsin native **Ken Davies** (www.kendavies.net) holds an M.A. in trombone from Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro and an M.M. in composition from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has worked as a commercial arranger and session producer for nationally broadcast record and television projects. Since 2002, he has resided in south Mississippi where he teaches brass, and runs his publishing company, Kenvad Music. His works include acoustic and electronic pieces that have been performed nationally at conferences and festivals by Society of Composers, Southeastern Composers League, Electronic Music

Midwest, and others. Honors include ASCAP awards, the Mississippi Performing Artist Fellowship in Composition for 2006-2007 and 2012-2013, and a listing on the Mississippi Artist Roster. His *Three Pieces* for bass trombone and piano won the 2009 Eastern Trombone Workshop National Composition Competition. He was the 2013 Mississippi Music Teachers' Association commissioned composer.

Remembering the success of John Adams' 4-minute orchestral *Short Ride In A Fast Machine*, I wanted to write a short, driving piece for string orchestra that could be playable by a good high school group or above who want set the strings on fire without the interference of winds, brass and percussion. Several rhythmic and melodic ostinatos and short melodic fragments help drive the piece forward

David Cortello (needs bio)

Walnut Canyon

Over the course of 60 million years the 20 mile long, 400 feet deep Walnut Canyon, in present-day Arizona, was etched into the Colorado Plateau by a small creek. Between 1100 and 1200 AD migratory Native Americans settled in Walnut Canyon, living in the canyon cliffs for safety, and farming the plateaus above. The Walnut Canyon National Monument is filled with the ruins of the cliff dwellings of these people. Because of their resiliency in settling a land without water, they became known as the Sinagua people – the people “without water”. For reasons unknown, the Sinagua left the Canyon around 1250 AD.

Mel Mobley is the Head of Music Composition and Theory at the University of Louisiana at Monroe where he currently holds the Biedenharn Endowed Professorship in Music. As composer, conductor, performer, and advocate of new music, Mel has been part of numerous premieres around the country. He has been featured as a performer and/or composer at contemporary music festivals including BONK in Tampa, FL; FunNewMusic in Champaign, IL; the Electro-Acoustic Juke Joint Festival in Cleveland, MS; and the SEAMUS National Convention in San Jose, CA. He has had recent premieres performed by the Monroe Symphony Orchestra, The Black Bayou Brass Trio, and the ULM Wind Ensemble. His commissioned work, *Tributaries*, will premiere this fall at the Louisiana Music Teachers' Convention. His work “Covering” will be released by PARMA Recordings this fall on compact disc and the NAXOS database. He also performs with several regional symphonies and with his percussion ensemble, The Implosion Percussion Group. Dr. Mobley is a member of the National Composer's Association, USA (NACUSA); the Louisiana Composers' Consortium (LCC); the Southeastern Composers' League (SCL); and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

Needs Program Notes

Performers Bio:

Julia Mortyakova is originally from Moscow, Russia. She appeared as a soloist with orchestras and performed in music festivals across the United States and abroad including: Aspen Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Natchez Festival of Music, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts, *Musica Nueva Malaga* (Spain), Assisi Music Festival (Italy), Zhytomyr's Musical Spring (Ukraine), and Symphonic Workshops International Piano Masterclass (Bulgaria). In the summer of 2013 she returned to Italy and was a featured performer at the Assisi Performing Arts Festival giving a solo recital and appearing as a soloist with the festival orchestra. Julia is the 2012 winner of the Sigma Alpha Iota Career Performance Grant. Dr. Mortyakova currently teaches and serves as Chair of the Department of Music at the Mississippi University for Women. She previously held a professorship at Alcorn State University. Her research includes applying the existential philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre to piano teaching, and the life and music of Cécile Chaminade. She has presented her research at numerous regional, national and international conferences. Currently, she is working on a book about the Russian-American composer, Olga Harris. Julia is a published author in the United States and Ukraine, and her first independent solo piano album has sold internationally. Dr. Mortyakova is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, Vanderbilt University, New York University, and the University of Miami. She invites you to visit her website at www.juliamortyakova.com

Oscar Utterstrom – (needs bio)

Tennessee State University Symphony Orchestra

Deidre Emerson, Conductor

Violin

Teanna Goeser
Tierra Eggleston
Christina McGarr
Ken Ozimek

Viola

Robert Pllow IV
Jennifer Warren Shoshana Jaff

Cello

Shearer Allen
Dr. Olga Harris

Bass

Chrishun Dorsey

Brittney Thomas

Percussion

Steven Phillips
Malcolm Jackson

Piano/ Harp

Lydia Browning

Clarinet

Jasmine Nicholson