

## PROGRAM

AL BENNER\*

**Parallels  
Chase**

Charles Jones, piano

DARIUS MILHAUD

**Scaramouche**

3. *Brazileira*

Joshua Poche, alto saxophone  
Charles Jones, piano

DINOS CONSTANTINDIES\*\*

**Family Triptych**

II. *Lenna in Minneapolis*  
Soojin Lee, violin

JOE L. ALEXANDER\*

**Two Baroque Inventions**

I. *G minor* II. *D Major*

Cody Ford, euphonium  
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

**Dialog #4**

Cody Ford, euphonium  
Joe L. Alexander, tuba

AL BENNER\*

**Étude on 3-Tones**

Marika Buchholz, clarinet

**3 “C”s for 2**

*Conversation – Canon - Celebration*

Joshua Poche, alto saxophone  
Mason Soudelier, alto saxophone

EDDIE “CLEANHEAD” VINSON

**Four**

Joshua Poche, alto saxophone  
Mason Soudelier, guitar

MAURICE RAVEL

**Jeux d'eau**

Charles Jones, piano

## COMPOSERS

The music of **AL BENNER** has been performed frequently throughout the US and Canada, with overseas performances at the Vatican City (Italy), the Czech Republic, Greece, and several cities in Norway. He has received numerous commissions from organizations, institutions, and individuals, such as the Louisiana Association of Symphony Orchestras, St. Norbert College, and the Louisiana Sinfonietta, to name a few. His awards include *ASCAP Standard Awards*, two *Composers Commissioning Awards* from the Louisiana Music Teacher's Association, and the *Audience Choice Award* from the Louisiana Sinfonietta, among others. He is the founder of the LCC, the Commissioning Chair for LMTA, the editor of *ComposerUSA*, the bulletin of the National Association of Composers, USA, and on their National Advisory Board, and on the Advisory Board of the Louisiana Sinfonietta. He has three degrees from Tulane University and a D.M.A. degree from LSU. Benner is on the music faculty of LSMSA and serves as the current Arts Department Chair. Six of his pieces were chosen by the National Federation of Music Clubs to be on their competition list for the next three years.

**Parallels** (2012) and **Chase** (2012) are very brief and suitable for encores. They were written for and are dedicated to Charles Jones as a showcase of his skills. *Parallels* is an exploration of the technique of planing – moving major and minor triads around the keyboard in a parallel manner regardless of their tonal function. The composer uses shifting accents and meter changes to keep the audience guessing the beat. *Chase* is a perpetual motion toccata involving rapid repetition of pitches with alternating hands. The hand that falls on the beat is constantly changing and the hands never play together until the end of the piece. *Chase* is one of the NFMC competition pieces for 2014-16 listed as Moderately Difficult Class III Piano Solo.

**Étude on 3-Tones** (1999) was written as a fun way a student can explore several musical areas. Settle in for a little jazz, a little modality, and a touch of syncopation as you lounge around on "a lazy afternoon." This piece was written for and is dedicated to Luke Hebert.

**3 “C”s for 2** (2013) gets its name from the titles of the three little works that comprise this selection. "Conversation" is a musical dialogue between the two instruments. "Canon" brings a slower, melodic element written around a canon. "Celebration" concludes as a traditional fanfare.

**DARIUS MILHAUD** (1892–1974) was a French composer and teacher. He was a member of *Les Six*—also known as *The Group of Six*—and one of the most prolific composers of the 20th century. His compositions are influenced by jazz and make use of polytonality. [Wikipedia]

**Scaramouche** (1937) was written for alto saxophone and orchestra (Op. 165). The version here is a piano transcription. It is one of Milhaud's most popular works. In three movements, the third is "Braziliere" which is based on folk tunes of that region.

The music of **DINOS CONSTANTINIDES** has been performed throughout the world. He is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards, including first prize in the *Delius Composition Contest*, the *American New Music Consortium Distinguished Service Award*, and he was honored with a *Distinguished Teacher White House Commission on Presidential Scholars*. Constantinides is Boyd Professor and Head of Composition at Louisiana State University, and the Music Director and Conductor for the Louisiana Sinfonietta.

**Family Triptych** (1999) portrays the individual members of the composer's family on specific occasions. *Lenna in Minneapolis*, the second of three movements, represents the activities of the composer's daughter as she pursued her doctorate at the University of Minneapolis. The movement is modal in character with a great deal of tonal presence.

**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 LCC; National Association of Composers, USA; the Society of Composers, Inc.; the College Music Society; the Southeastern Composers' League, the 2008 International Tuba Euphonium Conference and the 2009 & 2013 NACUSA National Festivals. His music has been featured at Bowling Green State University's annual *New Music & Art Festival*, and *New Music for Young Ensemble Composers' Competition*. His **Two Bryant Songs** 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. Currently, he is the National Treasurer for NACUSA and President of the Mid-South Chapter. He hosted the 2005 & 2010 Southeastern Composers' League's Forum and the 2013 NACUSA National

Festival. Alexander holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas. Alexander was the Louisiana Music Teachers Association, 2012 Commissioned Composer.

*Two Baroque Inventions: Invention for Euphonium and Tuba in g minor* was original conceived as a duet for bass trombone and tuba. It was composed in the Spring of 2008. Later that same year, I played a recital with fellow Louisiana Tech professor, Dr. Kristin Polk, oboe. So, I arranged the piece for us to perform on a LCC concert. The piece has also been arranged for two flutes. *Invention for Euphonium and Tuba in D Major* was also conceived as a duet for bass trombone and tuba, and was composed in 2010. Both duets were written while I was teaching 18<sup>th</sup> Century Counterpoint and were intended to help improve my knowledge of Baroque counterpoint.

The first movement of *Dialog #4* was composed in March of 2014 for my student, Cody Ford. My concept for the *Dialog* series was to compose a series of duets for tuba and a second instrument. Cody and I premiered the first movement on the April 6 LCC concert in Ruston.

**EDDIE VINSON** (1917-1988) was an American jump blues, jazz, bebop and R&B alto saxophonist and blues shouter. He was nicknamed "Cleanhead" after an incident in which his hair was accidentally destroyed by lye contained in a hair straightening product. [Wikipedia]

*Four* is a 1954 jazz standard composed by the American jazz saxophonist Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson and mistakenly attributed to jazz trumpeter Miles Davis. It was first recorded in 1954 by Miles Davis and released in 1956 on his album *Blue Haze*. [Wikipedia]

**MAURICE RAVEL** (1875–1937) was a French composer known especially for his melodies, orchestral and instrumental textures and effects. Along with Claude Debussy, he was one of the most prominent figures associated with Impressionist music. Much of his piano music, chamber music, vocal music and orchestral music has entered the standard concert repertoire. [Wikipedia]

*“Jeux d'eau* (1901) is at the origin of the pianistic novelties which one would notice in my work. This piece, inspired by the noise of water and by the musical sounds which make one hear the sprays water, the cascades, and the brooks, is based on two motives in the manner of the movement of a sonata—without, however, subjecting itself to the classical tonal plan.” - Ravel

#### PERFORMERS

**MARIKA BUCHHOLZ**, from Baton Rouge, is a junior at LSMSA. She has played the clarinet for eight years and is currently a student of Malena McLaren. She was the MTNA's South Central Instrumental representative this year at the National Conference in Chicago. She has been a member of the LMEA All-State Orchestra and Symphonic Band. Marika is also a member of the LSMSA Wind Ensemble and has played for the Chamber Ensemble.

**CODY FORD** is a freshman performance music major at Louisiana Tech University. He studies euphonium with Joe L. Alexander.

**DR. CHARLES JONES** is a member of the music faculty at LSMSA in Natchitoches. Jones won second prize in the Bartók-Kabalevsky International Piano Competition and recorded Bartók's *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion* with the Southwestern Chamber Soloists of Texas. An active member of LMTA (President 2000-03) and MTNA (National Board of Directors 2010-12, MTNA Foundation Fellow 2010), he holds state and national certification as a piano teacher from these organizations. He is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and holds the MM and DMA degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

**SOOJIN LEE**, from Mandeville, is a senior at LSMSA. She has been playing the violin for the past twelve years and is currently a student of Jivka Jeleva. Soojin has been a member of the LSMSA Chamber Ensemble.

**JOSHUA POCHE**, from Houma, is a junior at LSMSA. He has been playing the saxophone for the past six years and is currently a student of Paul Forsyth. Joshua is a member of the LSMSA Wind Ensemble. He has been a member of the LMEA All-State Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble.

**MASON SOUDELIER**, from Houma, is a senior at LSMSA. He has been playing the guitar and saxophone for six years. He is currently a saxophone student of Paul Forsyth. Mason is a member of the LSMSA Wind Ensemble. He has been a member of the LMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble for the past three years.



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Joe L. Alexander  
Al Benner

Featuring  
Guest LSMSA Faculty Artist

Charles Jones

7:00 p.m.  
April 14, 2014

Recital Hall  
Center for Performance and Technology  
715 University Parkway  
Natchitoches, LA