

**Mid-South Chapter of
the National Association of Composers, USA
June 13, 2014 – 7:30PM
LeBaron Recital Hall**

Program

Sessionography for solo bass clarinet Lori F. Ardovino

- I. King Super 20
- II. Composition No. 2
- III. Just Groovin'

Lori Ardovino, bass clarinet

Soundscapes for guitar and soundfile Joe L. Alexander

Alan Goldspiel, guitar

Etudes for Solo Piano Valentin M. Bogdan

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Basso Ostinato
- 3. Clusters
- 4. Sets
- 5. Aug.

Valentin M. Bogdan, piano

Floating Galaxy for fixed media Ken Davies

Meditation for Tuba Olga Harris

Joe Alexander, tuba; Julia Mortyakova, piano

TherEtude Richard Montalto

Richard Montalto, Theremin

Intermission

Family Tangos Olga Harris

Olga Harris, cello; Julia Mortyakova, piano
Valentin M. Bogdan, accordion

Notasonata for trombone and digital media

Ken Davies

Ken Davies, trombone

Petite Suite

Joe L. Alexander

I. Prelude

II. Song Without Words

III. Finale

Lori Ardovino, clarinet; Alan Goldspiel, guitar

Inhale

Richard Montalto

Pre-Recorded Electronics

And All That Jazz?

Alan Goldspiel

I. Blue Three (in the west end)

II. Jammin' (with honeysuckle)

III. I Awake (in a beautiful town)

Lori Ardovino, clarinet; Joe Ardovino, Trumpet

Alan Goldspiel, guitar

Bios and Program Notes

Lori F. Ardovino is Professor of Clarinet and Saxophone at the University of Montevallo. She is clarinetist with the Magnolia Trio, the MealloTrio, the Lebaron Trio, and alto saxophonist with the Cahaba Saxophone Quartet. Dr. Ardovino is an active performer in the Birmingham area and is called upon to play with the Alabama and Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestras and tenor saxophone with the Joe Giattina Big Band. She is an active woodwind doubler and has played for numerous performances in the Birmingham area. She is a clinician, adjudicator, and writes CD reviews for the Clarinet, official journal of the International Clarinet Association. Dr. Ardovino has been a guest recitalist at a number of colleges and universities and international and national festivals including the International Clarinetfest, the International Alliance for Women in Music Congress, NACWPI Conference, NACUSA Conference, the North American Saxophone Alliance and the Alabama Music Educators Conference. Dr. Ardovino received the 2013-14 Alabama State Council for the Arts Artist Fellowship and was recently chosen as the University of Montevallo University Scholar for 2014. She was the 2012 recipient of the *Escape to Create* artist residency in Seaside, FL. Locally, Dr. Ardovino has performed as a soloist with the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra, the Pelham High

School band and the University of Montevallo Wind Ensemble. She is an active composer and has had her works performed across the United States, Japan, Italy and Canada. She is an advocate for new music and is currently a composer/performer member of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance. Her recent CD, "From A Crack In The Wall", Clarinet Music by Alabama Composers, was released in January, 2013 and she is currently recording a CD featuring the music of saxophone music by Alabama Composers. Her music is published by Potenza Music. Dr. Ardovino is a Artist/Clinician for the Conn-Selmer Company.

sessionography

A description of various musical sessions. This piece for solo bass clarinet is in three movements. The first movement, *King Super 20*, is inspired by the artistry of Charlie Parker. The fast improvisatory runs represent his virtuosic technique. A quasi "walking bass" can be heard between the sudden bursts of notes. The title of this work is the brand of saxophone that Parker mainly played. *Composition #2* is inspired by the free jazz style of Anthony Braxton. His music is free improvisation based and named by Braxton "creative music." Extended techniques such as flutter tonguing and singing while playing add to the creative process and the flavor of Braxton's style. The name comes from similar titles for works by Braxton. Many of his pieces were simply called "Composition". *Just Groovin* is what Miles Davis' composition "Move" was dubbed by jazz critics. This movement is inspired by the rhythmic style and free improvisation style of this Bebop tune.

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 (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*, 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 and studied composition with Newel Kay Brown, Douglas Knehans, Martin Mailman, Cindy McTee, and James Riley. Alexander is the Louisiana Music Teachers Association, 2012 Commissioned Composer. Additional information about the composer can be found by visiting his website, jlacomposer.com.

Soundscapes, for Guitar and Soundfile, was composed for my friend and colleague, Alan Goldspiel, in 2005 and revised in March of 2009. Sketches of the piece were premiered at the Louisiana Tech University's Liberal Arts Research Symposium on April 21, 2005. The soundfile was created by manipulating sounds using the *Sound Forge* and *Vegas* digital editing programs. The original guitar sounds were created by Alan Goldspiel playing various extended guitar techniques. I would like to thank Dr. Cain Budds for help in the final editing of the revised score. The piece is dedicated to Dr. Goldspiel and Dr. Cain Budds.

Petite Suite for Two was composed in Spring of 2003 for fellow Louisiana Tech faculty members, Alan Goldspiel, guitar and Lawrence Gibbs, Bb clarinet. The piece consists of three movements which explore the textural possibilities between the two instruments. The composition was premiered on April 29, 2003 at the Louisiana Tech University's Liberal Arts Research Symposium. It was later performed at the New Arts Stage of *City Stages 2003* (Birmingham's World-Class Festival). It is dedicated to the two performers.

Valentin Bogdan currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music at the Mississippi University for Women. Originally from Romania, he toured extensively throughout Europe and Asia in Netherlands, Great Britain, France and Jordan during his teenage years with the orchestra of Brasov *Tudor Ciortea Music Institute*. He is a prizewinning pianist who has performed solo recitals in the U.S, Canada, and Europe, and has performed with orchestras in Bulgaria, Romania, and the US. He has also released two piano solo recordings, "*The Grands of Piano*" and "*Live in Concert.*" He has had works premiered by musicians of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the Bergonzzi String Quartet, Betta Colide Ensemble, Grambling State Wind Ensemble, and the Grambling State Chorale. He has had his music performed at Festival Miami, MOCA Concert Series, the Oregon Bach Festival, and the St. Joseph Catholic Church Concert Series in New York, and at new music concerts hosted by the College Music Society, Society of Composers Inc., NACUSA, and The Louisiana Composers Consortium. He was the 2010 Florida State Music Teachers Association commissioned composer of the year, and he has also received commissions from the Dranoff International Piano Foundation and the AWC Community Band. Dr. Bogdan is a graduate of University of Miami, Michigan State University and Wayne State University with degrees in Piano Performance and Music Composition.

"Etudes for Solo Piano"

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.

Wisconsin native **Ken Davies** 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 where he was a Cecil Effinger Fellowship composition student. During the 1970s, he was trombonist with Gabriel's Brass, a 12-piece jazz-rock show band based in Orlando, Florida, often appearing at Walt Disney World. 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 (see at www.kendavies.net). 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,

Electroacoustic Barn Dance, Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers, Parma Music Festival, International Trombone Festival, and concerts. Honors include ASCAP awards, the Mississippi Performing Artist Fellowship in Composition for 2006-2007 and 2012-2013, grants from Mississippi Arts Commission 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 is the 2013 Mississippi Music Teachers' Association commissioned composer. He has collaborated with his poet wife Judy to create a CD of poetic soundscapes featuring narrated poetry and electronic soundscapes. Their studio cats Little Fluff and Darius Meow supervise each piece of new music.

Floating Galaxy

A scientist acquaintance showed me some color slides of outer space taken through an astronomical telescope. Striking shots of orbiting phenomena, quasars, planets and galaxies represented by a wide spectrum of shapes and colors. As I watched the slides, I could "see" them move, slowly drifting, floating, interacting. I thought I might write an orchestral piece like this, sort of along the lines of Ligeti's *Atmospheres*. But then I decided that electronic media offered more control and a larger palette. From the CD of the same name, it's available from CD Baby and kendavies.net CD store with downloads available from iTunes, Amazon and others.

Notasonata for trombone and digital media

Living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the composer began this work in August 2005 as part of a planned local concert of solo electroacoustic works aimed at general as well as sophisticated audiences. After completing the opening 30 measures, work was stopped by hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. It was finally completed two years later. The fast-moving, colorful piece is driven by electronic drum-like sounds punctuated by bell-, string- and flute-like colors over several sections which vary and develop two themes. Although there are first and second themes, development and recapitulation sections (of sorts) the piece is not a sonata. The work received its world premier at the Delta State University Electroacoustic Juke Joint Festival in Cleveland, Mississippi in November 2007. It also received performances at University of Tennessee - Chattanooga (2008) and University of Central Missouri (2010) and NACUSA National Festival (2013).

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 Columbia, 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.

Meditation for Tuba was written for Joe Alexander. It was premiered in 2013 at Tennessee State University.

Family Tangos (for cello, piano, and accordion) were written for these three specific performers. They feature a combination of modern compositional techniques, classic tango, and even some jazz. The dual role (both of soloist and accompanist) of both piano and accordion is also explored.

Dr. Richard Montalto holds degrees in composition from the University of New Orleans, Tulane University, and the University of North Texas. He is the recipient of a number of awards, including an ASCAP Grants to Young Composers Award for his *Symphony for Wind Ensemble*, over 30 ASCAP Awards, and a Mississippi Artist Fellowship for his *Symphony #2*. His works have been performed at Carnegie Hall, the Montreaux International Jazz Festival, Symphony Space in New York, the New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center, the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States, the International Computer Music Conference, and throughout the United States and Europe. He has served as President of the Southeastern Composers' League and President of the College Music Society Southern Chapter. He has performed on bass across the United States, in South America, and in Europe with a number of ensembles, including Harry Connick, Neil Sedaka, the 5th Dimension, and the New Orleans Pops. Richard is currently a Professor of Music at Mississippi University for Women. Prior to joining the MUW faculty in 1988, he served as director of the University of New Orleans Jazz Band.

TherEtude was composed in October 2013, especially for a lecture/demonstration presented at a recent Mississippi Music Teachers Association Conference. It demonstrates various performing techniques and “special effects” that are capable with the instrument. The accompanying soundtrack is comprised entirely of digitally processed sounds created on the Theremin. The accompaniment emulates timbres characteristic of electronic music of the 1950s.

Inhale is from a set of eight electroacoustic works composed in 2015. All of the works in the set share the use of digital time expansion and pitch transposition as primary methods of sound source manipulation. A General MIDI recording of a very short work for guitar and violin serves as the original source material for *Inhale*.

An international solo/chamber music performer, composer/guitarist **Alan Goldspiel** has performed world premieres at NY's Carnegie and CAMI Halls, been featured on NPR radio stations from coast to coast, and performed in the critically acclaimed Goldspiel/Provost Duo. His music has been performed at international and national events, including the conferences of the North American Saxophone Alliance, International Clarinet Association, and National Association of Composers/USA. Dr. Goldspiel is recipient of the 2014 Alabama Music Teachers Association Composition Commission. In 2013, he was honored by a distinguished panel of jurors and awarded an

Escape-to-Create residency as a performer and composer-in-residence. Dr. Goldspiel was the only guitarist to be honored with the Marshall Dodge Award from the Performing Artists Associates of New England. He has been an Artist-in-Residence for North Carolina's Visiting Artist Program. At Louisiana Tech University, he received numerous awards for excellence in teaching, research, and service including the State Arts Council Artist Fellowship Award for artistic excellence. Currently, he is Professor of Music and Chair, Department of Music at the University of Montevallo. He has also taught for multiple years at the International Guitar Festival held at The Hartt School, where he remains the only guitarist to be designated University Scholar for his research on the music of Villa-lobos.

Taking its cue from three iconic jazz performers ***And All That Jazz?*** is a blend of styles combining blues and swing with a manipulation of sets derived from the three pieces alluded to in each of the movements titles. *Blue Three (in the west end)* salutes the pioneering work of Louis Armstrong, his Hot Fives and Sevens, and his *West End Blues*. *Jammin' (with honeysuckle)* pays homage to the landmark 1938 Carnegie Hall jazz concert of Benny Goodman and the fourteen minute jam session on the tune *Honeysuckle Rose* which was performed there. *I Awake (in a beautiful town)* celebrates the music of legendary jazz guitar great Django (a Gypsy name meaning "I awake") Reinhardt and his well-known work *Belleville*.