

Bios:

Biraj Adhikari is an international student from Nepal. He started his musical journey on fall 2016 and is working to get his degree in music from Mississippi University for Women. He is a sophomore.

Composer, tubist, and theory pedagogist **Joe L. Alexander**, joined the Mississippi University for Women's music faculty in the Fall of 2016. His music has been performed throughout the United States, Germany, Greece, Scotland, and South Korea. Many of these compositions have been performed on recitals/ conferences of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance; the College Music Society; the Louisiana Composers' Consortium; National Association of Composers, USA (NACUSA); the Society of Composers, Inc.; the Southeastern Composers' League; the Southeastern Electro-Acoustic Composers Collective; and the International Tuba Euphonium Association. 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 commissioned composer for the Louisiana Music Teachers Association. In 2017, Alexander was the Mississippi Music Teachers Association commissioned composer. Dr. Alexander is an Assistant 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. While at Louisiana Tech University, 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 has 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, jlacomposer.com.

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.

David R. Peoples, originally from Southern California, is a composer of traditional, experimental, jazz and rock styles. His music has been featured on numerous albums and performed throughout the world. Recently, David was a GMTA/MTNA commissioned composer, American Prize semi-finalist, Luxembourg Prize 3rd place winner, and the International Jazz Arranging Competition winner. Recent premieres and commissions include the Westpoint Band, Argento Chamber Ensemble, and Luna Nova Chamber Ensemble. Additionally, he has enjoyed jazz premieres by the Jazz Surge with Randy Brecker, David Sanchez, Rufus Reid, and Gary Foster. Dr. Peoples teaches at the University of North Georgia, where he has taught courses in composition, theory, class piano, and appreciation. He studied composition at The University of Memphis and the University of Texas at Austin under the direction of Kamran Ince, Jack Cooper, Jim Richens, Donald Grantham, and John Mills (and additional studies with composers in residence John Adams, John Corigliano, and Joseph Schwantner). His music is published by Bluesilhouettes Music and UNC Jazz Press and distributed

by J. W. Pepper. More information, including upcoming releases, events, and catalog can be discovered at the composer's website www.davidpeoples.com.

William Price's music has been performed at many international and national events, including the World Saxophone Congress, the Musica Viva Festival in Portugal, the Musinfo Art and Sciences Days in France, the Festival Internacional de la Imagen in Colombia, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Chamber Music Festival in Singapore, and the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival. Recordings of his music can be found on the Ablaze, Summit, Innova, New Focus, New Tertian, Empires, and Mark recording labels. William serves as Associate Professor of Music and Coordinator of Music Theory and Composition at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Website: www.williampricecomposer.com

Jorge Variego was born in Rosario, Argentina. He is a former Fulbright Scholar and is currently on the Music Theory/Composition faculty at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Actively involved with technology in sound and music, Jorge has been a pioneer in the field of interactive computer music, having created and performed a great deal of works for clarinet and electronics in the US, Europe and South America. He participated in many international music festivals such as MATA, SEAMUS, EMS, Sonoimagenes, Holland Festival, Festival de Jazz de Vigo, Via Stellae, ICMC, Big Ears and can be heard on many CDs, including his most recent solo releases Necessity (Albany Records) and Regress (CMMAS).

He was resident artist at the CMMAS, in Mexico, where he recorded the material for his CD Regress, fully dedicated to new music for clarinet and electronic media by Argentine composers. In June 2013, he was resident artist at the Visby Centre for Composers, in Sweden, where he composed a new work commissioned by the Berner Musikkollegium. In July 2014 he premiered a new work for bass clarinet and orchestra commissioned by the Symphonic Orchestra of Rosario, in Argentina. Most recently, he presented new works in Switzerland, Spain, the Netherlands and Australia. He received honorable mention in the American Prize in composition and was finalist in the SIME Electroacoustic Music Composition Competition. In 2017, the University of Quilmes, in Argentina, will publish his book on algorithmic composition as part of his collection of publications of Art and Sciences. This new publication will be presented at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in May 2018. He has been reviewer for the Fanfare magazine and juried the 2017 edition of the Undergraduate Awards international research competition. Mr. Variego has also served as an adjudicator for Seamus, SCI and Leonardo.

He is the founder director of the UT Electroacoustic Ensemble, a student group dedicated to free improvisation with electronic media, co-director of the UT Contemporary Music Festival, and co-directed the 2016 NACUSA-SCI Snapshot conferences at UT. His commission agenda includes upcoming works for the Indiana University guitar ensemble, the Orchester Liestal and Mr. Dieter Hennings.

Recently named 2011 Composer of the Year by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association (as well as the Nashville Area Music Teachers Association), **Mark Volker** is the Coordinator of Composition and Assistant Professor of Music at the Belmont University School of Music, where he teaches applied composition and music theory. Known for his colorful harmonic language and orchestration, as well as his facility with both electronic and traditional instrumentations, Mark's music has been performed and recorded by numerous performers around the world, including the Chicago Contemporary Chamber Players, eighth blackbird, the Pacifica String Quartet, Musica moderna Poland, the Pinotage ensemble, the New York New Music Ensemble, the Gryphon Trio, the Kiev Philharmonic, the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, So Percussion, Luna Nova, the Orquesta de Baja California, the Boston Brass, the Society for New Music, the Cold Fusion Ensemble, the Young Opera Company of New England, and the Nashville Ballet. His music has also been featured at many music festivals and conferences, including Music97, 99, 2001, the Gamper Festival, SCI regional and national conferences, June in Buffalo, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Chenango Summer MusicFest, the Belvedere Chamber Music Festival, ICMC, and SEAMUS. He has received awards from ASCAP, Meet the Composer, SCI, and ERMmedia. Mark's music can be heard on his recently released Centaur Records CD, Elemental Forces, as well as on volume 3 of ERMmedia's Masterworks of the New Era series. Mark's acclaimed ballet based on The Diary of Anne Frank is currently being performed by members of the Nashville Ballet in schools around Middle Tennessee as well as other venues