NEC New Music Ensemble

Stefan Asbury, guest conductor

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
8:00 p.m.
Brown Hall
Mark-Anthony Turnage (b. 1960)


- Prologue: Blood on the Floor (Biting)
- Junior Addict (Slow and sensuous)
- Shout (Harsh and hammered)
- Sweet and Decay (Dark and muddy, sweet and tender)
- Needles
- Elegy for Andy (Tender)
- Cut Up (Clear cut and decisive)
- Crackdown (Solo freely)
- Dispelling the Fears (Bleak and obsessive, always intense)

*jazz quartet:*

- Lenka Molcanyiova, saxophones
- Peikun Liu, guitar
- Misha Bjerken, bass guitar
- Jeff Sagurton, drums

*Blood on the Floor* is a suite in nine movements composed for orchestra and jazz trio by Mark-Anthony Turnage. It was composed over a span of three years (1993–1996) after a commission from the Ensemble Modern—a German music group—to produce a piece for an evening jazz event in 1994. After the performance, Turnage expanded the piece into a larger nine-movement suite. During this period of composition, Turnage's brother Andrew died of a drug overdose, shaping the music greatly. As a result, drug culture is one of the main themes in the suite. *Blood on the Floor* also draws influences from the paintings of Francis Bacon and Heather Betts; the suite's title is an adaptation of Bacon's painting *Blood on Pavement*.

Like other compositions by Turnage, *Blood on the Floor* incorporates elements of both classical and jazz music. Due to this, it has been described as being part of the "third stream" genre, a term coined by Turnage's former teacher Gunther Schuller. The suite is written as a concerto grosso and features a blend of classical, jazz, non-western and electronic instruments. As part of this fusion, the suite contains space for soloists to improvise in four of its movements. *Blood on the Floor* shows elements of non-functional harmony and has complex rhythmic changes, often changing metre.
every bar. Motifs are found recurring throughout the suite.

The premiere performance of *Blood on the Floor* was by the Ensemble Modern at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, in May 1996. The suite received a mixed reception from music critics. Some enjoyed the suite's fusion of classical and jazz music, while others found it to be an unfulfilling combination. Outside of the Ensemble Modern, *Blood on the Floor* has been performed by various ensembles, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestra.

— Wikipedia

A regular guest with leading orchestras worldwide, **Stefan Asbury** has appeared with prominent North American orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, most recently featured in their BSO NOW series which was streamed in January 2021; the LA Philharmonic and LA Chamber Orchestra. The orchestras of Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Fort Worth, St Paul, Montreal and Vancouver Symphony

He has conducted opera and ballet with Theatre de La Monnaie, Brussels, Lyons Opera, the Wien Modern festival, Perth Festival and Venice and Munich Biennales. A regular collaborator with Mark Morris, he conducted for the Mark Morris Dance Group’s touring production of Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet* culminating with performances at Lincoln Center, New York with Orchestra of St Lukes, and in London at the Barbican Centre Theatre with the London Symphony Orchestra.

In the 2016 Spoleto Festival, Charleston, he conducted the Galliard Theatre opening production of *Porgy and Bess*

With a worldwide presence, he was Chief Conductor and Conductor Emeritus of the North Netherlands Orchestra 2011-2018, Musician-in-Residence of the Tapiola Sinfonietta 2006-2012. He also has long-standing relationships with major orchestras in Europe and Asia including the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, Sinfonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig, Hessischer Rundfunk Symphony Orchestra Frankfurt, ORF Orchestra Vienna, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Copenhagen Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic, and West Australian Symphony Orchestra. He conducted the MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig as part of Beethovenfest Bonn 2018 and Orquesta Sinfonica de Bilbao during Bilbao’s Musika-Musica 2019 festival, and has appeared with the China National Symphony Orchestra, Beijing and NHK Symphony, Tokyo.

Stefan has particularly strong relationships with many living composers including Steve Reich, Wolfgang Rihm, Unsuk Chin and Mark-Anthony Turnage. As a recording artist, Stefan’s CD of music by Jonathan Harvey was awarded a Monde de la Musique CHOC award, and his complete cycle of Gerard Grisey’s *Les Espaces Accoustiques* with WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln won a Deutschen Schallplattenkritik award.

Educated at Oxford University and the Royal College of Music London, Stefan was a student conducting fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center in 1990 under Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa. Since 1995 Stefan Asbury has served on the faculty and has been the Head of Conducting since 2005 and currently is the Perles Family Foundation Artist in Residence.
We are very grateful to Ken Schaphorst who prepared the orchestra ahead of Mr. Asbury's first rehearsal.
Upcoming Concerts at NEC
Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert and ticketing information

**LIEDERABEND LXXI:** *This is the place - Voices of Exile and Exodus*
Tanya Blaich and Cameron Stowe, directors
*Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall*

**NEC SYMPHONY,** Hugh Wolff, conductor
Esmail Re|Member; Thompson *An Act of Resistance*; Shostakovich *Symphony No. 5*
*Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**SONATA NIGHT 50,** Music for Cello and Piano
a collaboration with the cello studio of Yeesun Kim
*Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall*

**HUMPERDINCK:** *Hansel and Gretel*
performed by NEC Undergraduate Opera Studio, Michael Meraw, artistic director
Steven Goldstein, stage director
*Thursday-Friday, March 14-15, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.*
*Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre*

**FACULTY RECITAL:** KENNETH RADNOFSKY, saxophone
*Monday, March 25, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC**
New music by NEC composers, performed by their peers
*Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Burnes Hall*

**NEC SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE:** Kenneth Radnofsky, director
*Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**PIANO DEPARTMENT CONCERT: IVES 150**
Bruce Brubaker, curator of piano programming
“Ives Extended”: NEC piano students perform *The Celestial Railroad*, the *Set of Five Take-Offs*, works by Carl Ruggles, Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell, and rarely heard music for two pianos in quarter-tones by Ives, David Fulmer, and Georg Haas.
*Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**NEC Peyton Residency Concert,** curated by Sid Richardson
“The Music of Valerie Coleman”
*Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*
“Connections” Chamber Music Series, Max Levinson, director

Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

First Monday in Jordan Hall, Laurence Lesser, artistic director

Mozart Ein musikalischer Spass (A Musical Joke), K. 522; Smetana Trio in G Minor, op. 15; Bruckner Quintet in F Major, WAB 112; Ayano Ninomiya, violin; Kim Kashkashian, viola; Lluis Claret, cello; HaeSun Paik, piano; Borromeo String Quartet

Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC CMA Honors Ensemble: Red Bird

Karl Henry, voice, cello; Yifei Marine Zhou, voice; Adrian Chabla, voice, piano; Jacqui Armbruster, voice, viola; Evan Haskin, guitar

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Philharmonia, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Chen Wu Xing (Five Elements); Strauss Death and Transfiguration; Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2, Changyong Shin ’24 AD, piano

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Jazz Honors Ensemble: Moon.Unit

Koki Renwick, trumpet; Jake Walters, piano; Dominic Vance, percussion

Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Percussion Group, Will Hudgins, director

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Artist Diploma Recital: Leland Ko ’24, cello

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Enchanted Circle, Steven Drury, artistic director

The Callithumpian Consort performs piano trios by Ives and Ravel and Elliott Carter’s Sonata for Violoncello and Piano

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Honors Ensemble: Trio Nomad

Shalun Li, piano; Felicitas Schiffner, violin; Jiheuk Choi, cello

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall
Upcoming Concerts at NEC
–continued

**STRAUSS: Die Fledermaus**
performed by NEC Opera students and members of NEC Philharmonia;
Joshua Major, director; Robert Tweten, conductor
*Thursday–Sunday, April 11-14, 2024, Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre, times vary*

**BRASS BASH**, James Markey, director
*Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**MARION RUBIN BERMAN ’31 PIANO HONORS CONCERT**
*Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC**
New music by NEC composers, performed by their peers
*Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

**NEC WIND ENSEMBLE & SYMPHONIC WINDS**
Carl Atkins, William Drury, Rachel Brake ’24 MM, and Jackie Hu ’24 MM, conductors
- Atkins We Free Kings; Johnson Poem for Brass; Dello Joio Scenes from the Louvre; Dove Figures in the Garden; Bach/Mowett Brandenburg Concerto No. 3; Nieske Pop’s Parade; Schoenberg Theme and Variations, op. 43a
*Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**CMA DEPARTMENT: “The Music of David Bowie”**
Lautaro Mantilla, curator
*Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**SONATA NIGHT 51: Music for Saxophone and Piano**
a collaboration with the saxophone studio of Kenneth Radnofsky
*Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall*

**NEC JAZZ ORCHESTRA**, Ken Schaphorst, conductor
Carl Atkins guest conductor - “The Music of Wayne Shorter”
*Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**SONG AND VERSE 3**
JJ Penna, curator
*Friday, April 19, 2024 at 8:30 p.m., Burnes Hall*
Support the future of music at NEC!
Your gift to The NEC Fund has a direct and immediate impact on student scholarships, NEC’s world-class faculty, and a collaborative and innovative learning environment rooted in the highest level of musical excellence. Please consider making a gift to support NEC at necmusic.edu/give.

Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

Stay connected
necmusic.edu/tonight