

## **Concert Program**

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## NEC Symphonic Winds

William Drury, conductor

with Rachel Brake '24 MM, conductor

Nicholas Ottersberg Enriquez '24, baritone

Thursday, September 28, 2023 7:30 p.m. NEC's Jordan Hall

#### PROGRAM

**Bruno Martino** (1925–2000) arr. Dave Rivello

### Estate

soloists: Sam Childs, tenor saxophone George Maclaurin, piano Daniel Mayer, double bass Caleb Montague, drums

## Charles Gounod

(1818–1893)

#### Elena Firsova (b. 1950)

Petite Symphonie Adagio et allegretto Andante cantabile Scherzo Finale

Three Portraits, op. 153 (2022) World Premiere – composed for William Drury Lea Untrue Europa

Nicholas Ottersberg Enriquez '24, baritone

William Drury, conductor

Intermission

Da-Yu Liu '24 DMA

The Torment of a Flower (rev. 2021)

Elizabeth Maconchy (1907–1994)

Music for Brass and Woodwind (1965)

Rachel Brake '24 MM, conductor

#### **Upcoming Wind Ensemble Concerts**

NEC WIND ENSEMBLE, James Stephenson, guest conductor Stephenson Symphony No. 2, "Voices"; Bernstein Overture to Candide; Brahms Variations on a Theme by Haydn, op. 56a; Stephenson Octet Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC SYMPHONIC WINDS, William Drury, conductor Nielsen Symphony for Brass and Organ; Firsova Oblivion; Nieske Like Dancing (world premiere) Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC WIND ENSEMBLE, Robert Spittal, guest conductor Strauss Serenade in E-flat Major, op. 7; Harbison Three City Blocks; Spittal Concerto for Wind Ensemble (2023) Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

#### Firsova Three Portraits

#### Liia

Vernis' v smisitel'nae lona, Atkuda, Liia, ty prishla, Za to, shto sonstsu Il'liona, Ty zholtyj sumrak pretpochla.

Idi, nikto tibia ni tronit Na grud' attsa v gluhuiu noch Puskaj glavu svaiu uronit Krovasmesi tel'nitsa doch.

No raka vaia peremena F tebe ispolnitsa dalzhna: Ty budish Liia ni Ielena! Ne patamu narichena,

Shto tsarskaj krovi tiazhelee Struitsa v zhilah, chem drugoj, Net, ty paliubish iudeia, Ischeznish v niom i boh s taboj.

#### Nepravda

Ia s dymiaschej luchinaj fhazhu K shestipalaj Nepravde v izbu: Dajka ia na tibia pagliazhu, Vet' lizhat' mne f sasnovam grabu.

A ana mne salionyh gribkof Vy ni mait v gorshke izpad nar, A ana iz rebiachih pupkof Padaiot mne gariachij atvar.

"Zahachu, gavarit, dam ischo", Nu, a ia ne dyshu, sam ni rad, Shast' k parogu kuda tam F plicho utsepilas' i taschit na zad.

Vosh da glush u niio, tish da msha, Poluspalenka polutiur'ma Nichevo, harasha, harasha... Ia i sam ved' takoj zhe, kuma.

#### Lea

Go back to the incestuous womb, From where, Lea, you have come, Because you preferred a yellow twilight To the bright Ilion's sun.

Go, no one will harm you in your incest, Let the incestuous daughter in her plight Drop her head on her father's breast In the dead of the gloomy night.

But a doomed change in you, unveiling, Will have to be fulfilled hence: You will be Leah, not Helen, You were not named thus since

It is harder for a royal blood than Any other to stream in the veins, – No, you will fall in love with a Jew, And will disappear in him—God be with you!

#### Untruth

I come with a smoking torch In the hut of a six-fingered untruth: —Let me look at you, let me watch, Since I'll be laid in a pine coffin, struth.

She treats me with pickled mushrooms, Takes a pot from under her plank-bed And serves a fresh nourishing broth Cooked from the babies' navels.

—"If I want, I'll pour you some more..."
I am so scared I can barely breathe...
I tried to run to the door—oh, no go...
She grabbed my shoulder and dragged me back.

Peace and moss on her hut, nice and lice, In the back of beyond bedroom-cell. —You are good, you are good, all is nice... We are birds of one feather—in hell.

#### Evropa

S rozovoj penoj ustalosti

Miahkih gub iarasna volny zelionye roet byk, Fyrkaet, grebli ne liubit zhenaliub, Nosha hrebtu neprivychna, i trut velik.

Izretka vyskachit del'fina kaliso Da pafstrechaetsia kaliuchij iozh,

Nezhnye ruki Evropy, berite vsio! Gde ty dlia vyi zhelannej iarmo najdiosh?

Gor'ko vnimaet Evropa moguchij plesk, Tuchnae more krugom zakipaet v kliuch, Vidna strashit eio vod maslianistyh blesk I saskal'z nut' by hatela vshershavyj kruch.

O, skol'ko raz ej milee ukliuchin skrip,

lonam shirokaia paluba, gurt avets I za vysokaj karmoiu mel'kan'e ryb, S neiu bezvesel'nyj dal'she plyviot grebets.

Osip Mandelstam

#### Europa

With the pink foam of fatigue around soft lips,
Furiously a bull plows green waves,
He dislikes rowing, a womanizer, he snorts,
Labor is hard, and his back is not used to a hefty weight.
Rarely a wheel of a dolphin would jump out
Or a prickly sea hedgehog would come across.
Europa's tender hands, its all yours!

Where would one find a better yoke for a neck?

Bitterly Europa listens to a mighty splash, A fat sea around boils and raves, She seems to fear an oily blaze Or else she would glide from these rough slopes.

Oh, how much sweeter for her is the oarlocks' squeak, A herd of sheep and a wide womb of a deck, And the flashing of fish behind a high stern! But an oarless rower swims on with her on his back.

**Elena Firsova** was born in Leningrad into a family of physicists. She made her first attempts at composition at the age of twelve, and began her formal studies in 1966 at music college in Moscow and continued from 1970 to 1975 at the Moscow Conservatoire where her teachers were Alexander Pirumov (composition) and Yury Kholopov (analysis).

In 1975 she established contact of a crucial importance with Edison Denisov, one of the leading figures of Soviet contemporary music. Her music was first featured outside the Soviet Union in 1979.

*Earthly Life*, one of many works by Firsova setting the verse of Osip Mandelstam, was commissioned by the BBC and premiered by Penelope Walmsley-Clarke and the Nash Ensemble. The work established Firsova's reputation in the UK and has led to two further Mandelstam cantatas written for the Nash Ensemble: *Forest Walks* (1987) and *Before the Thunderstorm* (1994).

Firsova's music has been included in Soviet seasons at the Bath Festival in 1987, the Almeida Festival in 1989, the South Bank Centre's Russian Spring Festival in 1991, and the Philharmonia Orchestra's Music of Today series in 2001. Recent orchestral works include *Augury* commissioned by the BBC Proms for the BBC Symphony

Orchestra under Andrew Davis, and *Cassandra* written for the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and recorded on BIS Records. Recent chamber works have included the latest in her series of ten string quartets written for the Britten, Danish, Smith and Brodsky Quartets.

Elena Firsova was married to the composer Dmitri Smirnov (1948–2020). Since they took up residence in the UK in 1991 they have become increasingly active in the British musical scene, combing composing with teaching.

#### Liu The Torment of a Flower

Composed originally in 2018 for choral ensemble, this work draws its inspiration from a traditional Taiwanese Hokkien melody "The Torment of a Flower" (雨夜花) published in 1934. Lyrics written by Chiu Thiam-ōng (周添旺) and original melody written by Teng Yu-hsien (鄧雨賢), the song employs the metaphor of petals enduring the ceaseless torrents and gusts of a tempestuous night:

Rainy night flower, rainy night flower, Succumbed by the storm and fell to the ground. No one understood my never-ending sorrow. A flower withered is gone forever.

The flower withered, the flower withered. Who could come to look after? Ruthless storm had stepped upon my future. The blossom is in the dirt, what could I do?

The rain is ruthless, the rain is ruthless. It cares not about my future, It doesn't look after my soft heart, Cause my future to shine no light.

The rain is falling, the rain is falling, Drowning me in the pool of suffering. It tears me apart like leaves severed from the branches, Yet no one shall ever see.

Shortly following the completion of this work, my grandparents passed away. This deepened the personal significance of the text and music in the work. Hopefully, the music serves as a sanctuary where souls may find repose. The piece was revised for wind octet in 2021. -Da-Yu Liu

## Maconchy Music for Brass and Woodwind

*Music for Brass and Woodwind* was conceived to make use of the architecture of the church, with the trombones processing up the aisle and the horns entering from the Lady Chapel. Liturgical, thematic material is stated by the trombones and trumpets in a gently moving 5/4, interspersed with trumpets building to a climax. Out of this are suspended pianissimo chords from the horns, slowly moving under expressive

wind and trumpet solos. The third section is a fleet scherzando with a central lyrical meno mosso, leading into and providing a counter-subject to a restatement of the first theme before the final elegiac code.

NEC Symphonic Winds	
William Drury, conductor	

Flute	Bassoon	Trombone
Isabel Evernham	Yerin Choi	Becca Bertekap
Anna Ridenour	Seth Goldman	Devin Drinin
JouYing Ting	Wilson Lu	Jaehan Kim
Nina Tsai	Carson Meritt	Allie Klaire Ledbetter
Oboe	French horn	Bass Trombone
Yuhsi Chang	Elijah Barclift	Ki Yoon Park
Robert Diaz	Mattias Bengtsson	Shin Tanaka
Corinne Foley	Graham Lovely	
Rebecca Mack	Mauricio Martinez	Tuba
Victoria Solis Alvarado	Xiaoran Xu	Masaru Lin
		Hayden Silvester
Clarinet	Trumpet	
Sarah Cho	Maxwell DeForest	Timpani
Evan Chu	Sebastián Haros	Ngaieng Lai
Xianyi Ji	Matthew Mihalko	
Adlemi A. Zambrano	Justin Park	Bass
	Alexandra Richmond	Brian Choy
Wind Ensemble Graduate	Cody York	

Assistants Weizhe Bai Rachel Brake

Harp Shaylen Joos

#### William Drury

#### Director of Symphonic Winds

William Drury is NEC's Conductor of Wind Ensembles and directs the NEC Symphonic Winds. He is also Music Director and Conductor of the Falmouth Chamber Orchestra and plays saxophone with the Jimmy Capone Big Band.

As a conductor, Drury has premiered works by composers such as Bell, Pinkham, Fletcher, Popkin, and Zorn; conducted orchestras at Harvard, Brown, and Brandeis universities and numerous Air Force bands throughout the nation; and has previously been MIT's Assistant Conductor of Orchestras, conductor of the Boston Conservatory's Wind Ensemble, assistant conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Boston, and conductor of the Auros Chamber Orchestra. As a jazz saxophonist, Drury has performed with Natalie Cole, the Coasters, Dave Stewart and MFB, and played lead tenor sax with the Bob Curnow Big Band. Before entering undergraduate studies, he worked for five years as a track laborer for the Burlington Northern Railroad.

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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.



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