

NEC Symphonic Winds

William Drury, conductor

with

Brian O. Walden '02 MM, guest conductor

Sara Zerilli '26 MM, mezzo-soprano

William Donaldson, bagpiper

Thursday, September 26, 2024

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Franz Krommer
(1759–1831)

Octet-Partita, op. 69

Allegro
Andante cantabile
Menuetto: Allegretto
Rondo: Allegretto

Richard Toensing
(1940–2014)

The Wendell Berry Songs

Grace
October 10
The Cold
The Finches
April Woods: Morning

Sara Zerilli '26 MM, mezzo-soprano

William Drury, conductor

Florence B. Price
(1887–1953)
arr. Cheldon R. Williams

Adoration

orch. by William Grant Still
trans Darrell Brown

Dances in the Canebrakes (1953)

Nimble Feet
Tropical Noon
Silk Hat and Walking Cane

Brian O. Walden '02 MM, guest conductor

Peter Maxwell Davies
(1934–2016)
arr. Mateo Ayala Roman

An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise, J. 284

William Donaldson, bagpiper

William Drury, conductor

Toensing *The Wendell Berry Songs*

Grace

(for Gurney Norman, quoting him)

The woods is shining this morning.
Red, gold and green, the leaves
lie on the ground, or fall,
or hang full of light in the air still.
Perfect in its rise and in its fall, it takes
the place it has been coming to forever.
It has not hastened here, or lagged.
See how surely it has sought itself,
its roots passing lordly through the earth.
See how without confusion it is
all that it is, and how flawless
its grace is. Running or walking, the way
is the same. Be still. Be still.
"He moves your bones, and the way is clear."

October 10

Now constantly there is the sound,
quieter than rain,
of the leaves falling.

Under their loosening bright
gold, the sycamore limbs
bleach whiter.

Now the only flowers
are beeweed and aster, spray
of their white and lavender
over the brown leaves.

The calling of a crow sounds
loud – a landmark – now
that the life of summer falls
silent, and the nights grow.

The Cold

How exactly good it is
to know myself
in the solitude of winter,

my body containing its own
warmth, divided from all
by the cold; and to go

separate and sure
among the trees clearly
divided, thinking of you

perfect too in your solitude,
your life withdrawn into
your own keeping

- to be clear, poised
in perfect self-suspension
toward you, as though frozen.

And having known fully the
goodness of that, it will be
good also to melt.

The Finches

The ears stung with cold
sun and frost of dawn
in early April, comes

the song of winter finches,
their crimson bright, then
dark as they move into

and then against the light.
May the year warm them
soon. May they soon go

north with their singing
and the season follow.
May the bare sticks soon

live, and our minds go free
of the ground
into the shining of trees.

April Woods: Morning

Birth of color
out of night and the ground.

Luminous the gatherings
of bloodroot

newly risen, green leaf
white flower

in the sun, the dark
grown absent.

Wendell Berry

Sara Zerilli is a first year master's student at New England Conservatory in the studio of MaryAnn McCormick. She received an Encouragement Award in the 2024 Metropolitan Opera's Laffont District Competition. Sara completed her Bachelor of Music degree at Manhattan School of Music, studying with Mignon Dunn and Shirley Close. Performance highlights include Viardot's *Cendrillon* (Armeline) with MSM, *Suor Angelica* (La Principessa) with Operallora, *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Fortuna) with MSM, *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Ottavia) with Saluzzo Opera Academy. Sara is looking forward to her upcoming roles in NEC's *Later the Same Evening* as Estelle in November, and *Così fan tutte* as Dorabella in February.

Bagpiper **William Donaldson** was born in Ellon in the north east of Scotland in 1944. He was raised in Fraserburgh. His father's family came from the Angus and Deeside glens and the Mearns. But it was among his mother's folk from the fishing villages of Inverallochy and Pennan that from infancy he was immersed in traditional music.

He began learning the pipes at the age of 12 when "Mr Drummond", an ex City of Dundee Police Piper came to the area. On moving to Aberdeen University he joined their Officer Training Corps pipe band, becoming pipe sergeant and then Pipe Major. His first composition to have a public airing was the retreat air *Union Glen* on the 1960's BBC radio programme *Chanter*. The band gave a focus for experiment in the light music repertoire, which one band member who went on to great fame in the piping world summed up nearly thirty years later as having "broadened my musical horizons and had a great effect on my musical attitudes". From 1969 to 1977 he studied piobaireachd with Robert Bell Nicol, who agreed to teach him tunes outside the competition repertoire. A stay in Glasgow in 1974 also enabled him to study with Donald MacPherson.

Willie Donaldson's Ph.D. on Jacobite song pioneered a new area of scholarship, a study of the nature of transmission in the traditional performing arts beginning with the broadside songslips from the 17th and 18th centuries. This approach was developed further in various published studies of the song, instrumental music and language of the Scottish people. Donaldson's knowledge of the historic repertoire is reflected in some of the little known older tunes and settings included in his light music collection, published by Ceol Sean at www.ceolsean.net, the first new collection of bagpipe music committed exclusively to the medium of CD-ROM, with the title *From Broadside to Broadband*.

Dr. Donaldson's first book is a comprehensive and brilliantly researched look at the history of pipe music, composers and compilers. His two books *The Highland Pipe and Scottish Society: 1750-1950* (2001) and *Pipers* (2005) are masterly works of research and prose that have broadened the scope of piping literature immensely and occasioned no small amount of controversy.

Dr. Donaldson's work has been recognised by a number of awards including an individual Leverhulme Research Fellowship, the Thomas Blackwell Memorial prize, a Scottish Arts Council prize and a Wingate Fellowship. Willie Donaldson has been a librarian, an archivist and a teacher. He currently teaches in the English Department at M.I.T., in Cambridge Mass., where he spends most of his time with his wife, Dr. Ruth Perry.

Captain Brian O. Walden '02 MM, U.S. Navy (Ret.) has served as Interim Director of Bands at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA where he currently teaches the trumpet studio and music education. He has served as Associate Professor, Director of Bands & Instrumental Studies/Director of Music Education at Samford University in Birmingham, AL and as Director of Bands/Director of Music Education at Marshall University in Huntington, WV where he was also the Coordinator of the Graduate Conducting Program. Brian is currently the Conductor of the Virginia Wind Symphony and the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia Wind Symphony. He is also performing as Principal Trumpet with the Virginia Wind Symphony and featured as a member of the Old Dominion University Faculty Brass Quintet. He received a BA in Music/Religious Studies (Double Major) from Saint Leo University, FL and a MM in Wind Ensemble Conducting from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA. Subsequent DMA studies were achieved at Boston University and PhD studies at George Mason University, VA. Captain Walden is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association, the highest honor for Bandmasters in North America and has received the Legion of Merit from President Barack Obama and is also a recipient of the National Medal of Arts.

William Drury

Conductor of Wind Ensembles

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.

NEC Symphonic Winds

William Drury, *conductor*

Flute

Rylan Collins
Meredith Daly
Sadie Goodman
Amelia Kazazian
Junhyung Park
Anna Ridenour
Yuxin Song
JouYing Ting
Nina Tsai

Oboe

Yuhsi Chang
Katherine Filiss
Annie Jung
Victoria Solis Alvarado

Clarinet

Sarah Cho
Evan Chu
Rohan Miovic
Haoran Sun
Cole Turkel
Hanlin Yu
Zhenyue Zheng

Bassoon

Daniel Arakaki
Jiayue Chen
Yerin Choi
Sylva Goldman
Erik Paul
Dingding Xiong
Keer Zhou

French horn

Elijah Barclift
Chih-Yu Ashley Chiang
Mathys Elbaz
Flynn Ewer
Hans-Erik Jerosch
Mauricio Martinez
Connor Wood

Trumpet

Lily Clark
Maxwell DeForest
Harry James
Topher Meeks
Anry Ramirez-Garcia
Joshua Retiz
Noah Semsar
Richard Taylor
Marlon Teruel

Trombone

Becca Bertekap
Max DiFonzo-Jones
Devin Drinin
Quinton Krull
Allie Klaire Ledbetter
Alex Russell
Jaewon Sim

Bass Trombone

Kyeongmin You

Tuba

Hayden Silvester

Percussion

Camden Briggs
Izzy Butler
Rohan Zakharia
Mingcheng Zhou

Bass

Brian Choy

Harp

Shaylen Joos
Ji Ma

Piano

Doris Wang
Ashly Zhang

Special thanks to Honghao Zheng '25 MM for his assistance
in the preparation of tonight's concert.

Upcoming Wind Ensemble Concerts

NEC WIND ENSEMBLE

Patricia Cornett, guest conductor

“Inspiration from Song”

Martin y Soler *Divertimento No. 4*;

Sweelinck Variations on “Mein junges Leben hat ein end”; Horne *Deep River*;

Grainger *Lincolnshire Posy*; Grantham *Phantastische Spirites*

Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC WIND ENSEMBLE, SYMPHONIC WINDS, SYMPHONIC CHOIR

Joseph Higgins, guest conductor; William Drury, conductor

G. Gabrieli *Canzon per Sonar Septimi Toni No. 2*; Bernstein *Profanation*

Copland *Variations on a Shaker Melody*; Hailstork *American Guernica*

Shaw *and the swallow*; Bates *Rusty Air in Carolina*; Grantham *Southern Harmony*

Gulda *Konzert für Violoncello und Blasorchester*, Amit Peled '99, cello

Stanford/Bettany *At the Abbey Gate*

Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

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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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