

Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra

Frank Carlberg, director
Joshua Gagnon, assistant

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
8:00 p.m.
Brown Hall

PROGRAM

Thomas Griffin

Huesos Desnudos

soloists: Matt Wessner, baritone saxophone
Sammy Davies, trumpet
Cooper Malanowski, trombone
Victor Giraldez, drums

Nadav Brenner

Music Nerds' Music

soloists: Sammy Davies, trumpet
Niko Malinowski, guitar

Using a 12-tone row and a conscious attempt to write something that will challenge me performance-wise, I wrote this tune in 2023 and soon grew to hate it. Coming back to it this year with a little more empathy, I gave it a new title and a big-band arrangement. – Nadav Brenner

Trevor Johnson

Boar Hunt

soloists: Joe Wagner, alto saxophone
Alexander Hussain, tenor saxophone

Boar Hunt was written to emulate the emotional journey of a hunt. From the anxious anticipation of lying in wait for your prey to the violent confrontation when you find it. The calm after a kill, the slow realization your actual prey escaped your search, and the dread that follows as you slowly become the hunted. – Trevor Johnson

Wayne Shorter
(1933–2023)
arr. Jim Connolly

Iska (Storm and Calm from Odyssey of Iska)
soloists: Joe Wagner, soprano saxophone
Domas Žeromskas, piano

Iska is an arrangement of Wayne Shorter's *Storm and Calm* from his album *Odyssey of Iska*. In the original recording, the theme weaves in and out like a recurring whisper, drifting through waves of free improvisation to create a mysterious, interconnected atmosphere. I was inspired to expand on this melodic idea, translating its gentle, elusive quality into the rich textures and layered sounds of a jazz orchestra.

In this arrangement, the melody unfolds with new harmonic dimensions while preserving not only its original essence but also the improvisatory spirit that defines the album. My goal was to create a soundscape that echoes the intimacy and fluidity of Shorter's work on a larger scale, allowing the theme to evolve and transform while staying true to the soul of the original.

– Jim Connolly

Jim Connolly

A Day Late, A Dollar Short
soloist: Alexander Hussain, tenor saxophone

In *A Day Late, A Dollar Short*, I aim to capture the everyday experience of striving to keep pace with life's demands. It reflects the delicate balance—or more often, the imbalance—of juggling all the aspects of our lives, from personal ambitions to everyday responsibilities. This piece speaks to the familiar feeling of reaching for goals that always seem just out of reach, or the determination to keep up with the unrelenting grind that pulls us in every direction.

The tune begins with a sparse, understated melody—a simple, minimal motif that feels like a lone thought. But as the piece progresses, this melodic cell starts to evolve, expanding and gaining momentum. Urgency builds as the melody develops, fighting its way forward even as other themes and musical interjections attempt to pull it off course.

Through this journey, *A Day Late, A Dollar Short* encapsulates both the chaos and the persistence that define modern life. It's a celebration of resilience, of continually pushing forward—even if we're always a little bit behind.

– Jim Connolly

Intermission

Benedict Koh

Fuschia

soloists: Alexander Hussain, tenor saxophone
Domas Žeromskas, piano

Fuchsia is a vivid reddish-purple color named after the Fuchsia plant. This piece is meant to recreate this color. – Benedict Koh

Niko Malinowski

Between Worlds

soloists: Joe Wagner, alto saxophone
Cooper Malanowski, trombone
Victor Giraldez, drums

The title, *Between Worlds*, reflects the method with which the original thematic material was derived. The melodic and harmonic ideas explored in the piece are a composite of “worlds,” oftentimes being the key centers of Eb and G, and sometimes G and Db. I was inspired to explore the space between these sounds. The resulting combination feels human; it is complex, messy at times, composed of many identities, and not easily defined. – Niko Malinowski

Joe Wagner

Pismo Dunes

soloist: Niko Malinowski, guitar

I wrote this piece while reflecting on my recent time on the west coast. Seeing the vastness of the Oceano State sand dunes and considering the small grains of sand that built the miles of dunes gave inspiration to using small melodic and motivic ideas to create the piece. Many thanks to all of the musicians and friends involved as well as guidance from Ken, Frank, and Ben. – Joe Wagner

Alexander Hussain

Empress Dragonfly

soloists: Domas Žeromskas, piano
Victor Giraldez, drums
Anthony Defeo-Gelman, tenor saxophone
(guest)

A warrior monk from a distant kingdom has been summoned by the revered Autarch of Odonata, “Empress Dragonfly”. – Alexander Hussain

André Bruni

Cactus

soloists: Jett Gonzalez, tenor saxophone
Domas Žeromskas, piano
Aviana Gedler, Mina Nystad, voice (guest)

Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra

Woodwinds:

Joe Wagner, Teddy Goldman, Alexander Hussain,
Jett Gonzalez, Matthew Wessner

Trumpets:

Woody Pierre, Sammy Davies, Koki Renwick, Ben Kilpatrick

Trombones:

Joshua Gagnon, Cooper Malanowski, Julian Quinones, Alvin Ho

Piano:

Domas Žeromskas

Guitar:

Nadav Brenner, Niko Malinowski

Bass:

Hannah Marks

Drums:

Victor Giraldez

Guests:

Anthony Defeo-Gelman, tenor saxophone
Aviana Gedler, Mina Nystad, voice

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

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NEC Chamber Singers, Symphonic Winds, Navy Band Northeast

"Into the Holidays" (repeat) - Audio streamed on [wicn](https://www.wicn.org)

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 12:00 noon, Mechanics Hall, Worcester

Liederabend LXXV, Cameron Stowe and Tanya Blaich, curators

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Philharmonia, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Schoenberg *Begleitungsmusik zu einer Lichtspielszene (Accompaniment to a Film Scene)*

Bartók *Piano Concerto No. 3*, Evren Ozel '25 AD, piano; Mahler *Symphony No. 4*,

Jingdan Zhang '26 AD, soprano

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Lab Orchestra

Timothy Ren '25 MM, Jherrard Hardeman '25 GD, and Clancy Ellis '26 GD,

conductors - Esmail *Teen Murti*; Montgomery *Starburst*; Haydn *Symphony No 86 in D Major*; Mendelssohn *Symphony No. 5 in D Major, "Reformation"*

Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

Sonata Class Recital, Vivian Hornik Weilerstein, faculty

Friday, December 13, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Williams Hall

Borromeo String Quartet Bartók Seminar Recital

Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m, Brown Hall

NEC Conductor's Choir

Bailee Green '25 MM, Lena Wong '25 MM, Henri Youmans '25 MM

and Honghao Zheng '25 MM, conductors

Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m, Burnes Hall

Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC

all programs subject to change

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Daeun Hong, *viola* (BM '24)

Student of Nicholas Cords

Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall

Abigail Hope-Hull Michaels, *oboe* (MM)

Student of John Ferrillo

Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

KeXin Tian, *piano* (BM '24)

Student of Randall Hodgkinson

Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Lily Stern, *cello* (BM)

Student of Yeesun Kim

Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 12:00 noon, Pierce Hall

Daniel Slatch, *double bass* (BM '24)

Student of Donald Palma

Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Felicia He, *piano* (MM)

Student of Wha Kyung Byun and Alessio Bax

Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Luther Warren, *viola* (DMA)

Student of Kim Kashkashian

Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall

Sepehr Davalloukhounghar, *collaborative piano*, EM grant project

"Persian Vocal Music"

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

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and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.
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Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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