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Guest Recital, PEN Trio, April 4, 2016

Lawrence University

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Guest Recital: PEN Trio

Nora Lewis, oboe

Phillip O. Paglialonga, clarinet

Eric Van der Veer Varner, bassoon

Monday, April 4, 2016

8:00 p.m.

Harper Hall

Suite pour Trio D'Anches (1949)

Dialogue
Scherzino
Aria
Finale

Alexandre Tansman
(1897-1986)

Quatre Madrigaux (1938)

Allegro moderato
Lento
Poco allegretto
Poco allegro

Bohuslav Martinů
(1890-1959)

INTERMISSION

Blue Fountains, Red Flames (2016)

World Premiere

Wendy Wan-Ki Lee
(b. 1977)

Trio d'Anches (1945)

Allegro moderato
Poco adagio
Allegro giocoso

Witold Lutosławski
(1913-1994)

The **PEN Trio** bridges performance and scholarship to explore and expand the repertoire for the traditional *trio d'anches*. The ensemble regularly tours throughout North America and abroad and has become known for the quality and energy of their performances. The **PEN Trio** has visited dozens of universities and has performed at numerous academic conferences, chamber music series, and private functions. Recent highlights include performances in China, Hong Kong, and Trinidad, as well as appearances at the annual conferences of the International Double Reed Society, College Music Society and National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors, as well as performances on Michigan and Alabama Public Radio.

This season the trio will premiere works by distinguished Chinese composer Wendy Wan-Ki Lee as well as by South Carolina Music Teachers Association composer of the year Jon Grier. The **PEN Trio** recently recorded their debut album, "Found Objects" in New York City with Boston-based Soundmirror. The album will include new works, written expressly for the ensemble, by William Bradbury, Jenni Brandon, M. Shawn Hundley and Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn with an anticipated commercial release in 2017.

The members of the **PEN Trio** are passionate about performance, education and scholarship, and the group is dedicated to expanding the scope of the traditional *trio d'anches* as well as to bring the intimate yet intense sound of this unique instrumentation to a wider audience. The term *trio d'anches* was coined by bassoonist Fernand Oubradous in 1927 to describe the now legendary Trio d'Anches de Paris. This celebrated group featured the three reed instruments commonly found in the orchestra: oboe, clarinet and bassoon.

The **PEN Trio** was formed, in many ways, to continue the work that the Trio d'Anches de Paris began nearly one hundred years ago. Since 2010 the **PEN Trio** has premiered works by William Bradbury, Jenni Brandon, Allen Cohen, Jon Grier, M. Shawn Hundley, Peter James Learn and Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, and has promoted these works in concert around the world. In 2013, the **PEN Trio** partnered with Trevor Cramer and TrevCo-Publishing to create the **PEN Trio Collection**.

More information about the **PEN Trio** is available online at www.PENtrio.com

Nora Lewis is Associate Director and Associate Professor at Kansas State University's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, where she administers the music program, teaches oboe, coaches chamber music, and is oboist in the Konza Winds faculty quintet. Lewis has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Lyric Opera, Camerata Chicago, and International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). She was a founding member of Chicago-based *Ensemble Dal Niente* and held orchestral positions with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra and the Plymouth Philharmonic. She has performed live recital broadcasts on Blue Lake Public Radio, WMUK Kalamazoo's "In Concert" series, and "Live from Studio B" at WFMT in Chicago.

Lewis has performed or presented at the Midwest Clinic, eight International Double Reed Society conferences including Birmingham, United Kingdom and Tokyo, Japan, the College Music Society's (CMS) National and International Conferences in South Korea, Sweden, and Finland, state Music Educator's Association conferences, St. Paul's Church Covent Garden in London, and on the Cranbrook Music Guild artist series.

As a scholar, Lewis has presented papers on topics such as, the confluence of Asian traditions and Western innovations in 20th century works for oboe, chamber music by Ronald Roseman, Afro-Latin elements in music by Heitor Villa-Lobos, Trio d'Anches and concentric Parisian compositional circles, and the Swedish invasion of popular music.

Honors include a Big-12 Faculty Fellowship, honorary membership in Sigma Alpha Iota as a National Arts Associate, and a Yale Alumni Ventures Grant to support her work with music programs in Haiti. She has given master classes in the United Kingdom, Haiti, Trinidad, Canada, and at leading universities across the nation.

Lewis received a doctor of music degree from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, a master of music degree from Yale University, and a Bachelor of Music degree in performance and a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Lawrence University. Her principal teachers include Michael Henschel, Grover Schiltz, Richard Killmer, Ronald Roseman, and Howard Niblock.

In the fall of 2016 Lewis will join the faculty at Western Michigan University as Associate Professor of oboe and director of the Bullock Performance Institute.

Clarinetist **Phillip O. Paglialonga** has quickly emerged as one of the leading performers and pedagogues of his generation. His new book, *Squeak Big: Practical Fundamentals for the Successful Clarinetist* was released in August 2015 by Imagine Music Publishing and has garnered significant praise from leading clarinetist including prominent members of the orchestras in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia and San Francisco, as well as stellar reviews in several major publications.

As a performer he has appeared on four continents and regularly appears throughout North America and abroad. His performances have been heard on National Public Radio, the CBC in Canada, as well as several other regional radio and television stations. He has visited dozens of universities to present recitals and classes, and is regularly invited to perform at venues around the world. Recent highlights include performances at Bellas Artes Guatapé, ClarinetFest, College Music Society, ClariBogotá, Cranbrook Concert Series, International Double Reed Society, Society for Electro-Acoustic Music, Tutti New Music Festival as well as concerts in Colombia, Spain, Thailand, and Trinidad.

As an orchestral musician he has been a member of the Haddonfield Symphony, Sarasota Opera Orchestra and the Walt Disney World Orchestra. He has also appeared with numerous other orchestras including the: Charleston Symphony (SC), Chicago Civic Orchestra, Concertante di Chicago, Florida Orchestra, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Kalamazoo Symphony, New World Symphony, Orlando Philharmonic, Sarasota Orchestra, and Windsor Symphony (Ontario). He has also participated in numerous summer festivals including the National Repertory Orchestra, the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, and the Lake George Opera in Saratoga, New York.

Dr. Paglialonga is on the faculty of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. During the summer months he is on faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Michigan where he frequently performs both with the Festival Orchestra and in various chamber music groups. He also serves as the Editor for the International Clarinet Association's *E-Newsletter*. Dr.

Paglialonga is a Gonzalez artist and performs exclusively on Gonzalez GD reeds.

Bassoonist **Eric Van der Veer Varner** has enjoyed a particularly rich and varied musical career. He was principal bassoon with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra from 2004 through 2015, appearing as a soloist with the orchestra on numerous occasions, where his playing was critically hailed as that “of ineffable liquid beauty”. He previously held positions with the Ann Arbor Symphony, The Michigan Opera Theater, the Sarasota Opera, and the Mannheim Chamber Orchestra in Germany. He performs in numerous summer festivals, including the Bellingham Festival of Music, the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, and the Interlochen Arts Festival.

Currently the professor of bassoon and woodwind department chair at the Lynn Conservatory, Dr. Varner has previously held faculty appointments at Miami (Ohio) University, Heidelberg University, and the University of Windsor. He also spent fourteen summers working at the Interlochen Arts Camp, where he was the Assistant Director of the High Schools Boys Division.

Dr. Varner is the owner of TrevCo-Varner Music, “the world’s foremost purveyor of fine sheet music for double reeds”. TrevCo-Varner Music is the largest company in the world dedicated solely to double reed music, with over 12,000 titles in stock from publishers all over the world. In his capacity as owner, he is at the forefront of the new music scene, commissioning new works, creating new editions of forgotten gems, and striving to make double reeds more accessible to the public.

Dr. Varner holds the Doctor of Musical Arts (2004) from the University of Michigan, where he also earned a Master of Music (2002) and a Bachelor of Music (1996) degree. He also holds a degree in Artistic Education (1998) from the Mannheim-Heidelberg Conservatory in Mannheim, Germany. His primary teachers were Richard Beene, Alfred Rinderspacher, Hugh Cooper and Michael Dicker.

