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Guest Recital, Joseph Connor '15, Saxophone, January 30, 2020

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Guest Recital

Joseph Connor '15, saxophone

Neil Krzeski '19, piano

Thursday, January 30, 2020

8:00 p.m.

Harper Hall

Four Impromptus (1983) Paul Cooper
(1926-1996)
Presto e misterioso
Andante e espressivo
Animato e giocoso
Largo cantabile
Joseph Connor, saxophone
Neil Krzeski, piano

The Vast Unknowable (2017) Joanne Metcalf
(b. 1958)

In Freundschaft (1977) Karlheinz Stockhausen
(1928-2007)

Migrations (2019) Nebal Maysaud '17
(b. 1995)
Joseph Connor, saxophone

Sonata (1984) William Albright
(1944-1998)
Two-Part Invention
La follia nuova: a lament for George Cacioppo
Scherzo "Will o' the wisp"
Recitative and Dance
Joseph Connor, saxophone
Neil Krzeski, piano

Saxophonist **Joseph Connor** is active as a soloist, chamber musician, improviser, and educator. Joseph was the third place prizewinner of the 2018 North American Saxophone Alliance Collegiate Solo Competition and a finalist for the 2019 MTNA Chamber Winds category as a member of the Fuse Quartet. Joseph has performed in solo, chamber, and ensemble settings in venues across the US and abroad including Shanghai Symphony Orchestra Hall, Carnegie Hall, Forbidden City Concert Hall, Tsuen Wan Town Hall, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Park West, and Studio Z, among others. Joseph has worked closely with composers Nebal Maysaud '17, Joanne Metcalf, Noah Jenkins, Ben

Zucker, David Werfelmann '06, John Mayrose, Neil Quigley, JP Merz '14, Ilan Blanck '16, and others to create new works exploring the complex and malleable characteristics of the saxophone in various settings.

As a soloist and orchestral player, Joseph has appeared with the Northwestern University, Lawrence University, La Crosse, Fox Valley, Green Bay Civic, and Oshkosh Symphony Orchestras. During 2017-2019, Joseph performed extensively as principal saxophonist with the Northwestern Symphonic Wind Ensemble under the direction of conductor Mallory Thompson and with the Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Victor Yampolsky for the orchestra's 2018 tour of China.

Recent featured concerts with Fuse Quartet have included a performance of Gavin Bryars' *The Fifth Century* with conductor Donald Nally and the Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble and a performance of *Short Stories* by recent Nemmers Prize winner Jennifer Higdon during the composer's residency. Additionally, Joseph is a founding member of Slipstream, a new music ensemble devoted to commissioning and composing new music for saxophone, guitar, percussion, and piano. Slipstream's recent projects include improvisation centered on the interpretation of graphic scores, live processing, and conduction. Slipstream released its debut, self-produced album *Northland* in 2016.

Joseph is currently completing doctoral studies in saxophone performance with Taimur Sullivan at Northwestern University where he serves as the teaching assistant to the saxophone studio. Joseph holds a MM in saxophone performance from Northwestern University and a BM in saxophone performance and instrumental music education from Lawrence University. His primary teachers are Taimur Sullivan, Steven Jordheim, José Encarnación, and Sara Kind '05.

Neil Krzeski is a master's student at Northwestern University where he studies piano with José Ramón Mendez. As a member of Northwestern's Contemporary Music Ensemble, his recent performances include Timo Andres' *Checked Shade*, Missy Mazzoli's *In Spite of All This*, and the Chicago premiere of David T. Little's opera *Dog Days*. Neil has appeared as a soloist with the Lawrence University Orchestra and the Concord Chamber Orchestra and has won several competitions around Wisconsin including the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs Student/Collegiate Biennial Competition and the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association Badger Collegiate Performance Competition. Also a jazz pianist, he was

part of the Lawrence University Jazz Ensemble which was named undergraduate college winner in *DownBeat Magazine's* Annual Student Music Awards Competition in 2018 and 2019. Recent festival appearances include the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Gijón International Piano Festival, and the Brevard Jazz Institute. A two-time recipient of Lawrence University's Marjory Irvin Prize for excellence in piano performance, Neil graduated from Lawrence magna cum laude with a minor in psychology. His principal teachers include Michael Mizrahi (classical) and Bill Carrothers (jazz).

Nebal Maysaud is an award-winning queer Lebanese Druze composer based in the Washington D.C. metro area. A recipient of the first Kluge Young Composer's Competition and the James Ming Prize in Composition at Lawrence University, Maysaud converges Western and Middle Eastern classical music styles to explore questions of faith, identity, and power. Their music has been performed by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Juventas New Music Ensemble, and Lawrence University Wind Ensemble and Opera Department; and also featured in Art Song Lab 2016 and the District New Music Conference 2018. They have contributed articles about diversity and classical music to NewMusicBox and convened community music workshops at YallaPunk 2019. Maysaud studied with composer Mark Camphouse before entering the studios of John Benson, Andrew Cole, Dirk D'Ase, Joanne Metcalf, and Asha Srinivasan. They hold a B.M. in Music Composition from Lawrence University.

The music of **Joanne Metcalf**, critically acclaimed as "music of great beauty" (*Klassik-Heute*) and "extraordinarily beautiful" (*International Record Review*), is known for its evocative lyricism, rhythmic extravagance, and "beautiful use of vocal colours and texture" (*Glasgow Herald*). Ms. Metcalf has received commissions from the Hilliard Ensemble; Singer Pur, Germany's preeminent vocal ensemble; Cappella Nova; and Canty, Scotland's premiere vocal quartet. Her choral compositions have been performed by the Gothic Voices, The Crossing, and the Dresden Chamber Choir. A former Fulbright fellow, she has also received awards from the North Carolina Arts Council, Copland House, the McDowell Colony, and the Netherland-America Foundation. Ms. Metcalf holds a Ph.D. from Duke University. Her compositions are recorded on the Linn Records, Oehms Classics, and ECM New Series labels.