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Photo credit: Owen Zhou.

Senior Oboe Recital

Luka Vezmar

With:

Dr. Suyeon Kim - Piano
Nikhila Narayana - Clarinet
Corva Graham – Flute
Nathan Bonin – French Horn
David Guy - Bassoon

November 9th, 7:30pm

Grusin Music Hall

PROGRAM

Down A River Of Time

Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

- I. ... past hopes and dreams
- II. ... and sorrows
- III. ... and memories of tomorrow

Luka Vezmar, Oboe

Dr. Suyeon Kim, Piano

Four Personalities

Alyssa Morris (b. 1984)

- I. Yellow
- II. White
- III. Blue
- IV. Red

Luka Vezmar, Oboe

Dr. Suyeon Kim, Piano

— Intermission — (~ 5 Minutes)

Quintet for Winds No. 3

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

I. Slow, Moderate

III. Very Fast

Corva Graham, Flute

Luka Vezmar, Oboe

Nikhila Narayana, Clarinet

Nathan Bonin, Horn

David Guy, Bassoon

You Never Know the Last Time ... (*Premeire*)

Luka Vezmar (b. 2004)

Luka Vezmar, Oboe

Dr. Suyeon Kim, Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Down A River Of Time

Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

The composer writes: The piece, which is a contemplative journey through life, was composed as an aria with string orchestra. The oboe emulates the voice as it expresses intense emotional and personal feelings, orchestrating the importance of life's dreams. Since the oboe is the ultimate expressive instrument – like the human voice – it speaks passionately.

Furthermore, the great range of tonal colors and articulation available to the oboist have the ability to dramatically transform the feelings explored. The work captures the cycle of life in a very virtuosic manner. Each of the movement titles, with their progression – “Past Hopes and Dreams . . . and Sorrows . . . and Memories of Tomorrow” – present imagery of traveling down the river of life with its ebb and flow

Four Personalities

Alyssa Morris (b. 1984)

This piece is a four-movement work based on the Hartman personality test. Yellow: Yellow is fun-loving. The joy that comes from doing something just for the sake of doing it is what motivates and drives yellow. White; White is a peacekeeper. White is kind, adaptable, and a good listener. Though motivated by peace, white struggles with indecisiveness. Blue: Blue brings great gifts of service, loyalty, sincerity, and thoughtfulness. Intimacy, creating relationships, and having purpose is what motivates and drives blue. Red: Motivated by power, red is aggressive and assertive. Red is visionary confident, and proactive. Highly creative, tuneful, and inventive writing. The first movement alone, written in a jazzy style, will win you over! A wonderful addition to the oboe repertoire of the 21st century.

Quintet for Winds No. 3

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

The composer writes: In recent years I have developed an abiding interest in the Bach Chorales, singing and playing them daily as warm-up for my composing time, and making my own four-part settings in the old style. The chorales now regularly find their way into my music, and have become a significant “leaping off” point for me. The first movement of Quintet No. 3 opens with the chorale “Ihr Gestim ihr hohlen Lufte” (“Your stars, your cavernous sky”). The movement is a “continuous play” kind of piece. After the chorale there is a sharply contrasting first theme, which works its way

over time into a second theme, and this becomes the subject of a short and very pushy set of variations. There is a restatement of the first theme, and the movement ends with a blunt presentation of a new chorale: “Christe, der du bist Tag und Licht” (Christ, you are day and light”). The third movement is exceptionally demanding for the performers because of its speed and length. It is something of a sonata form. However, the second theme, which sounds like a chorale melody, becomes the subject of a set of variations. The movement finishes with a partial recapitulation and an extended coda.

You Never Know the Last Time ...

Luka Vezmar (b. 2004)

From the composer: You know that old saying “You never know the last time you pick up your child.”? Well, I started thinking about other things that you never know the last time you will do. The last time you’ll step foot in your high school, the last time you drive down that road, the last time you see your friend, the last time you say goodbye. I wrote this in the last year of my undergraduate degree, when so much in my life, that used to be constant, was now in a stage of change. My older friends going off to grad school, my high school friends coming back home less and less, my future up the air with school ending, etc ... This piece captures all the feelings you go through when you’re experiencing uncertainty like this. I try and capture a range of emotions, from love and safety, to anger and despair, ending with nostalgia and that feeling that You Never Know the Last Time ...

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*Photos: On this page, University Chorus, Fall 2024.
Photo credit: Erika O'Connor; On the cover, Cross-
Genre Ensemble, 2025. Photo credit: Owen Zhou.*

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*The Drowsy Chaperone (2023).
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