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# Faculty Recital: Nancy Van De Vate 85th Birthday Concert

School of Music  
*Illinois State University*

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Illinois State University  
College of Fine Arts  
School of Music

Charles W. Bolen Faculty Recital Series

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NANCY VAN DE VATE  
85<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CONCERT

~ World Premiere ~  
Cleopatra and the Plastic Surgeon

~Canadian Premiere ~  
University of Toronto  
January 20, 2016

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University Galleries  
January 16, 2016  
Saturday Evening  
8:00 p.m.

This is the ninety-first program of the 2015-2016 season.

## Program

Please turn off all electronic devices for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Suite for Marimba  
Movements I, II, III, IV

Nancy Van de Vate

Mallory Konstans, *marimba*

Youthful Age  
To the East and to the West  
Death Is the Chilly Night

Nancy Van de Vate

Annie Sturtewagen, *soprano*

Cocaine Lil

Nancy Van de Vate

Michelle Vought, *soprano*

### **Jazz Singers**

Kevin Alleman

Annie Martin

Destiny Przytulski

Annie Sturtewagen

from *Twelve Pieces for Piano on One to Twelve Notes, Vol. III (2005)*

Nancy Van de Vate

I. [A]

II. Fast [A-sharp B]

V. Andante espressivo [E F G B C]

VI. Prestissimo [F E D-flat C A A-flat]

VII. Adagio, tempo rubato [D E F G A-flat A B]

XI. Flowing [All notes except G-sharp (A-flat)]

XII. Lento

Carlyn Morenus, *piano*

~ **Intermission** ~

~ **WORLD PREMIERE** ~

Cleopatra and the Plastic Surgeon

Nancy Van de Vate

Libretto by Nancy Steele Brokaw

### **Text:**

How many,  
Oh, how many reincarnations led me to this park by the Chicago River,  
Outside the plastic surgeon's office?

Well, Plastic Surgeon, Doctor Shiny,  
Did you not hear my command?  
Bow! Bow before me, for I am Cleopatra,  
Queen of Egypt, Ruler of the Nile.  
My beauty is beyond the ages, Doctor Shiny,  
And yet you hand me this brochure,  
Filled with paintings of like-faced, wheat-haired women of a certain age.

Age. Age! Age?

“Age cannot wither nor custom stale her infinite variety.”  
That’s what William Shakespeare said about me, Doctor Shiny.

In Egypt, they built temples at my command,  
Defying gravity.  
Yet gravity defies me now.  
My twin Egypts, my twin Egypts fall.  
My chin tumbles, my neck wanders.  
The lines to my eyes run deep as tributaries, tributaries to the Delta.

You say you can rebuild me with your gleaming scalpel, Doctor Shiny?  
Undergird my breasts, tuck point my chin, re-almondize my eyes?  
My eyes, re-almondize my eyes?

Oh Antony, my love,  
You could not hold your visible shape.  
Yet here I am on the Chicago River,  
My shape, my shape growing more visible by the moment.

But what matter?  
I am forgotten,  
The bright day is done  
And we are for dark.

Come friend, come poisonous asp,  
Take me away from this Chicago River, where the sirens are not muses  
And the black and white cars with flashing lights make lines across the roads.

See asp? A crowd gathers,  
With their shiny rectangular talking devices,  
Sending my image over the bending world.  
Record me this way, in the dying light.

That was as a lover’s pinch.  
Bite again!  
What? Are you out? Empty?

Perhaps you shouldn’t have bitten Doctor Shiny so many times.  
And how he gasped before he died, remember?  
With his ladies in waiting,  
Wailing the strange death knell of this land –  
“Dial 911.”

Oh asp, you disappoint.  
And yet, see how my skin plumps around your bite.  
How it swells and blooms,  
Like a desert flower after the rain.  
Record this, for the ages.

Dear asp, it was enough.  
I am fire and air.  
My other elements I give to baser life.  
As sweet as balm, as soft as air,  
I go, I go.  
Farewell, farewell.  
Look after my snake.  
I go.  
Farewell, farewell.  
This time, farewell.

Inside the Composer's Studio: Discussion with the Composer

**A special thank you to Barry Blinderman and Gabe Johnson at the University Galleries for hosting this special event.**

Please join us for a birthday cake reception after the concert sponsored by the Friends of the Arts.

### **About the Artists . . . .**

#### **NANCY VAN DE VATE .....**

Born in the United States and now living permanently in Vienna, Austria, Nancy Van de Vate is known worldwide for her *music in the large forms*.

She currently teaches music composition at the Institute for European Studies in Vienna. Nancy Van de Vate has also been a faculty member at eleven colleges and universities in the United States and at the Jakarta Conservatory (Yayasan Pendidikan Musik) in Indonesia.

Her full-length opera, *All Quiet on the Western Front (Im Western nichts Neues)* premiered in Osnabrück, Germany in 2003 and was performed there ten times to great critical acclaim. The same work was included in May 2003 by the New York City Opera in its VOX 2003: Showcasing American Opera series, again to critical acclaim.

In January 2005 her new chamber opera, *Where the Cross Is Made*, based on the play by Eugene O'Neill, was selected by the National Opera Association (USA) as the winner of its international biennial competition for new chamber operas. A shortened version was introduced in New York City, with a full production following in January 2006 at the 51st annual convention of the National Opera Association in Ann Arbor MI.

The web site [www.eoneill.com](http://www.eoneill.com), devoted to the works of the playwright Eugene O'Neill, includes a complete video of the premiere of the one-act opera, "Where the Cross Is Made" and other important information relating to past and possible future performances of the work. [www.eoneill.com](http://www.eoneill.com)

Her 26 orchestral works include the well-known *Chernobyl*, which has been performed in Vienna, Hamburg, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and in the United States at the Chautauqua Festival and by the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra. A special performance on February 25, 2006 by the Yale Symphony Orchestra, Toshiyuki Shimada, conductor, marked the 20th anniversary of the world's most famous nuclear accident.

*Chernobyl* has been widely broadcast worldwide since its first appearance on compact disc in 1987.

The composer has also created a large body of solo and chamber music for a wide variety of instruments and ensembles. Among her newest chamber works are *String Quartet No. 2*, commissioned by the Vienna Mozart Year 2006, and *Brass Quintet No. 2: Variations on the "Streets of Laredo,"* commissioned by the University of Mississippi for an October 2005 festival of her music. *Journeys Through the Life and Music of Nancy Van de Vate*, a complete biography and extensive analysis of her music, written by Laurdella Foulkes-Levy and Burt Levy, was published in 2004 by Scarecrow Press.

The composer's works and all related biographical and professional materials are being archived in the Music Collection (Musiksammlung) of the Austrian National Library, one of the world's most distinguished research collections. [www.onb.ac.at](http://www.onb.ac.at)

A much sought-after speaker, she participated in the World Music Council meeting in Los Angeles in October 2005. Also widely respected as a juror, she has been a Nominator for the Kyoto Prize in Music since its inception almost thirty years ago. She serves as President and Artistic Director of the international recording company, *Vienna Modern Masters*, which she founded in 1990 with her late husband, Clyde Smith.

Founder of the International League of Women Composers in 1975, she steadfastly continues her advocacy of women composers with the Nancy Van de Vate International Composition Prize for Opera and through the inclusion of many works by women composers on the Vienna Modern Masters label.

**NANCY STEELE BROKAW** is an established playwright/journalist/writer.

In May 2014, Fort Worth Opera Frontiers showcased *Fertile Ground*, an original opera for which she wrote the libretto, collaborating with composer David Vayo. It tells the story of a contemporary Illinois farm family. *Opera Plus* called it "thorough and complex" and said it "immediately portrayed a gripping story."

Brokaw has written five children's operas. Among them are *The Sky Is Falling And I'm Not Even Kidding! Who Stole B-Flat?* and *W.O.O.S.H! (Web of Opera Super Heroes)!* They have toured to tens of thousands of school children with Prairie Fire Theatre over the last five years. University of California-Merced has also presented her children's operas to thousands of grade school students for the last four years and will do so again this spring.

*There's a Martian in the Opera House!* a new children's opera for Prairie Fire Theatre, is set to tour to 40 schools in May 2016. Brokaw's *Shake, Shake, Shake Your Shakespeare* played throughout the 2014 Illinois Shakespeare Festival season. Her *Double Trouble* and *The Ballad of Macbeth and Other Campfire Tales* was presented during the ISF 2013 season.

She wrote *Down Home Divas* for Michelle Vought and Connie DeVeer, presented at ISU. Brokaw is a longtime contributor to *The Pantagraph* and *Illinois Wesleyan Magazine*, as

well as the author of the award winning middle-grade novel *Leaving Emma*, (Clarion/Houghton Mifflin).

The McLean County Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission hired Brokaw to co-author *Lincoln's in Town!* A DVD of the show was produced by State Farm Insurance Foundation and was distributed to schools, universities, and museums for research and archival purposes. For 14 years, Brokaw has been resident playwright for Holiday Spectacular, Inc., writing two or more shows a year for them.

She has served as dramaturge for many Illinois Wesleyan University opera productions. She wrote grade school adaptations of Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* for IWU. Brokaw and her husband Tom live in Bloomington, Illinois. They have two grown children.

Website: [nancysteelbrokaw.com](http://nancysteelbrokaw.com)

**J. MICHELLE VOUGHT** has earned an excellent reputation throughout the world as a performer in a variety of venues from the opera house to the concert hall to the cabaret. This unique singer brings a fresh sincerity and captivating vitality to every performance, endearing herself to any audience. In early 2015, Dr. Vought's book entitled *The Theatrical Vocal Music of Nancy Van de Vate, Volume I* was published. The soprano travelled to the Czech Republic where she did the role of Ophelia in the world premiere recording of the opera *Hamlet* with the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra. She was one of three American singers in the recording studio for the new work by Austrian composer Nancy Van de Vate which was released in 2012 on the international Vienna Modern Masters label.

In the opera world, Vought has performed with many opera companies including Cincinnati Opera, West Coast Opera, Kentucky Opera, Whitewater Opera, Charlottesville Opera, Brevard Opera, Sorg Opera, and the Northern Kentucky Opera. Some of her roles include the Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Micaela (*Carmen*), Violetta (*La Traviata*), Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*), Flora (*The Knot Garden*), Armida (*Rinaldo*), Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), First Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), and Nannetta (*Falstaff*). She has also performed extensively in the operetta and musical theater genres bringing such roles to life as Josephine (*HMS Pinafore*), Yum Yum (*Mikado*), Gianetta (*Gondoliers*), Maria (*The Sound of Music*), Laurey (*Oklahoma*), Carrie (*Carousel*), Tuptim (*The King and I*), and Maisie (*The Boyfriend*).

Equally comfortable on the concert stage, the soprano has concertized in Europe, as well as in the United States performing in the operatic and oratorio genres with such orchestras as: the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Asheville Symphony, the York Symphony, the Gettysburg Festival Orchestra, the Pueblo Symphony, the Czech Janacek Academy of Music Orchestra, and the Slovak Radio Orchestra. Ms. Vought was featured as a soloist on a tour of Italy and Switzerland where she sang the Faure *Requiem* and the Mozart *Missa Brevis in F Major* with the Orchestra of Brno, Czech Republic. In the spring of 2014, the soprano has been invited to return to Vienna, Austria for another concert tour after which she will travel to Brno in the Czech Republic to perform and give a master class.

A specialist in contemporary music, Dr. Vought has performed widely in the repertoire both at the national and international levels. She is recognized for her expertise in the

genre and has been invited to perform and lecture at various conferences throughout the United States and in Limerick, Ireland, Toronto, Canada, and Newfoundland, Canada. In addition, she has done twelve recordings for the International Vienna Modern Masters label, a recording company which specializes in contemporary music. The soprano produced and starred in the world premiere of Nancy Van de Vate's opera *Where the Cross Is Made* in which she created the role of Sue Bartlett. She is also featured on the world premiere recording of the opera which was released in the summer of 2006 on the international Vienna Modern Masters label.

During the spring of 2007, the soprano performed a concert tour across Austria and Slovakia, the highlight of which was a televised concert at the home of the American ambassador to Slovakia. In July 2008, the soprano returned to Europe to serve as a master teacher at the Orvieto Musica, a music festival set in Orvieto, Italy.

A cancer survivor, Dr. Vought is especially proud of her cancer benefit concerts from which she has generated over \$10,500 for cancer patients. With an undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College (Pennsylvania) and a master's degree from Converse College (South Carolina), she completed her doctorate at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Vought lives in Normal, Illinois where she holds the rank of Full Professor of Voice at Illinois State University.

Website: [michellevought.com](http://michellevought.com)



## Upcoming Events

Tuesday - 19, January 2016

Charles W. Bolen Faculty Recital: Tuyen Tonnu, piano

7 PM

University Galleries

Thursday - 21, January 2016

String Project Honors Recital

7 PM

Kemp Recital Hall

Sunday - 24, January 2016

Trumpet Studio Recital

3 PM

Kemp Recital Hall

Monday - 25, January 2016

Jury Recognition Recital

8 PM

Kemp Recital Hall

Tuesday - 26, January 2016

U.S. Navy Brass Ambassadors

7:30 PM

Kemp Recital Hall

Wednesday - 27, January 2016

Concerto Aria Orchestra Competition

7 PM

Center for the Performing Arts (CPA)

Monday - 01, February 2016

Guest Artist Recital: Adam Briggs, saxophone

7:30 PM

Kemp Recital Hall

Sunday - 05, February 2016

Illinois State University Wind Symphony & Symphonic Winds Concert

3 PM

Center for the Performing Arts (CPA)

**Visit the School of Music website for more upcoming events:**

<http://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/events/>