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Guest Artist Series: Joseph Lulloff, Soprano & Alto Saxophones Gwen Burgett Thrasher, Percussion

Joseph Lulloff Soprano/Alto Saxophone
Illinois State University

Gwen Burgett Thrasher Percussion

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Illinois State University
College of Fine Arts
School of Music

Guest Artist Series:

Joseph Lulloff, *Soprano & Alto Saxophones*
Gwen Burgett Thrasher, *Percussion*

Kemp Recital Hall
March 2, 2008
Sunday Afternoon
5:00 p.m.

This is the one hundred and eleventh program of the 2007-2008 season.

Program

Please turn off cell phones and pagers for the duration of the concert. Thank You

Divertimento (1976)

Akira Yuyama
(born 1932)

Tre pezzi (1956)

Giacinto Scuderi
(1905-1988)

from *Cello Suite No. 5 in C Minor*, BWV 1011
Prelude

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Khan Variations (2001)

Alejandro Viñao
(born 1968)

~ Intermission ~

Shadowed (2006)

Nicholas Scherzing
(born 1968)

Histoire du Tango (1991)

Cafe 1900

Cafe 1930

Cafe 1960

Concert d'aujourd

Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)

Oblivion

Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)

About the Artists

Gwendolyn Burgett Thrasher is currently assistant professor of percussion at the Michigan State University College of Music.

She began her musical career very early, studying piano and violin at the age of two. As a percussionist, Thrasher has maintained a career as an active solo, chamber, and orchestral musician. She has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the Solisti New York Orchestra, the Grand Rapids Symphony and the Lansing Symphony. She was also a member of the Eastman Wind Ensemble during its last tour of Japan and Taiwan, under the direction of Donald Hunsburger. Thrasher has also performed numerous solo recitals throughout the United States and Japan.

Thrasher was the winner of the Keiko Abe Prize at the second World Marimba competition in Okaya, Japan, and the top prize winner at the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts ARTS competition. She was awarded the performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music and has also been the recipient of the Outstanding Young Musician award from the Peabody Conservatory and the Yale Alumni Award.

Thrasher released her first CD in October of 2007 entitled "Marimba Suites: Gwendolyn Burgett Thrasher plays her transcriptions of the six *Bach Cello Suites*." Thrasher has studied with world-renowned professors Robert van Sice, Keiko Abe, and John Beck. She holds degrees from the Interlochen Arts Academy, Eastman School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, and the Yale School of Music.

Saxophonist **Joseph Lulloff** is one of today's most sought-after performers and clinicians. Acclaimed internationally for his innovative style and unparalleled virtuosity, Mr. Lulloff has been described by Branford Marsalis as "a marvelous musician" whose "knowledge of music, along with his ability to embrace music normally considered outside the sphere, makes him a joy to listen to." Mr. Lulloff performs regularly with symphony orchestras throughout the United States and as soloist in many of the most prestigious concert venues in the Americas, Europe, Southeast Asia and Japan.

He received the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Michigan State University. He has taught at the University of Illinois, and is currently Distinguished Professor of Saxophone Performance Studies at Michigan State University.

Joseph Lulloff has been a member of the summer artist faculty at the Brevard Music Center since 1999. Mr. Lulloff's honors include a Pro Musicis International Music Award, the Teacher/Scholar Award and the Distinguished Faculty Award from Michigan State University. As winner of the annual Concert Artists Guild and the Pro Musicis International Competitions, he has presented solo recitals at New York's Weill Recital Hall and major concert halls throughout the United States. New York Times critic Alan Hughes commented, "Mr. Lulloff's artistry showed fine instincts for phrasing in both brilliant and pensive music."

Mr. Lulloff has appeared as guest soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Brevard Music Center Orchestra, Jackson Symphony, Springfield Symphony and Champaign - Urbana Symphony Orchestras. Commenting on Mr. Lulloff's recent solo performances of the Ingolf Dahl Saxophone Concerto with the Cleveland Orchestra, Dan Rosenberg wrote in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, "Lulloff was amazing. He traversed the instrument with seamless agility, filled out phrases for all their expressive worth and achieved dynamics from inaudible purrs to penetrating howls." The Akron Beacon Journal noted that "Joseph Lulloff played with all the finesse of a top-notch concert violinist." And the New York Times commented that, "...Mr. Lulloff demonstrated considerable virtuosity as a soloist."

As soprano saxophonist with the Capitol Quartet, Mr. Lulloff performs concerts and educational residence with this critically acclaimed saxophone quartet throughout the United States. He has also appeared with the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra with CQ. He has collaborated as a member of the wind sections of the Cleveland, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Minnesota, Lansing, Grand Rapids and the Brevard Music Center Symphony Orchestras.

Mr. Lulloff is active in the premiering and commissioning of new works, including those of Zack Browning, Michael Colgrass, David Cutler, Don Freund, Perry Goldstein, John Harbison, Jere Hutchenson, John Anthony Lennon, David Maslanka, Ronald Newman, David Ott, Gunther Schuller, Charles Ruggiero, Scott Wyatt, and Paul Martin Zonn.

Equally adept with both classical and jazz repertoire, Mr. Lulloff is featured both as a soloist and ensemble member in numerous recordings on the Arabesque, Albany, AUR, Channel Classics, RCA, Sony, and Veriatza labels.

This year's concert schedule includes a tour to Russia to perform at the Moscow Autumn Festival with the Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble, and present recitals and Master Classes in the Moscow Conservatory as well as universities throughout the United States.

Mr. Lulloff is a Yamaha Performing Artist and resides in Okemos, Michigan, with his wife Janet and son Jordan.

Upcoming Events

| March | | | |
|-------|------------|-----|--|
| 02 | 7:00 p.m. | CPA | Brass Ensemble Concert |
| 03 | 1:00 p.m. | KRH | Master Class: Duo Athena* Valerie Hartzell, <i>guitar</i> & Sandra Johnson, <i>soprano</i> |
| 03 | 7:30 p.m. | KRH | Guest Artist, Duo Athena Valerie Hartzell, <i>guitar</i> & Sandra Johnson, <i>soprano</i> |
| 04 | 11:00 a.m. | KRH | Convocation Recital* |
| 04 | 8:00 p.m. | CPA | Charles W. Bolen Faculty Recital Series: Faculty Jazz Ensemble |
| 05 | 6:00 p.m. | KRH | Graduate Recital, Emily Morgan, <i>violin</i> * |
| 05 | 7:30 p.m. | KRH | Graduate Recital, Tad O'Brien, <i>guitar</i> * |
| 05 | 8:00 p.m. | CPA | "Music for One Piano and Four Hands" Guest Artists: Maria Bannino & Valentina De Lis, <i>piano</i> |
| 06 | 7:00 p.m. | KRH | Charles W. Bolen Faculty Recital Series: Katherine Lewis, <i>viola</i> * |
| 9-16 | | | Spring Break |
| 15 | 6:00 p.m. | KRH | Graduate Recital, Emily Morgan, <i>violin</i> * |
| 17-20 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | 2008 New Music Festival* |
| 17 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Guest Artist, David Russell, <i>cello</i> : Works by Boston and California based composers* |

* - Free Admission

KRH - Kemp Recital Hall

CPA - Center for Performing Arts