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## Guest Artist Recital Series: Trio des Éléments: Sarah Manasreh-Decker, Clarinet; Zachary Preucil, Cello; Katherine Petersen, Piano; March 22, 2024

Sarah Manasreh-Decker  
*Illinois State University*

Zachary Preucil  
*Illinois State University*

Katherine Petersen  
*Illinois State University*

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Illinois State University  
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts  
School of Music

## Guest Artist Recital Series

### Trio des Éléments

Sarah Manasreh-Decker, *Clarinet*  
Zachary Preucil, *Cello*  
Katherine Petersen, *Piano*

Kemp Recital Hall  
March 22, 2024  
Friday Evening  
7:30 p.m.

This is the one hundred and twenty-eighth program of the 2023-2024 season.

## Program

Please silence all electronics for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Some Kinda Happy Overture (2019)	Larkin Sanders (born 1987)
Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 11	Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)
I: Allegro con brio II: Adagio III: Theme and Variations on <i>Pria ch'io l'impegno</i>	

### ~Intermission~

Fantasy Trio, Op. 26	Robert Muczynski (1929–2010)
Craftsbury Trio	Gwyneth Walker (born 1947)
Salem Reel	Gwyneth Walker

### ***About the Trio***

Trio des Éléments, featuring Sarah Manasreh-Decker, clarinet, Zachary Preucil, cello, and Katherine Petersen, piano, began working together in 2022. Described as “Fresh as a summer garden,” with performances that are “exciting” and “tightly controlled,” “they have performed for audiences all over the Midwest including the International Music Foundation’s Rush Hour Concert Series, and Mackinac Arts Council summer series. Trio des Éléments’ repertoire choices are diverse – breathing new life into the past, exploring music of the present, and looking to the future by engaging in collaborations and highlighting new compositions.

### ***About the Musicians***

From giving her debut solo recital of a mostly Chopin program at the age of twelve to performing some of George Crumb’s most monumental works at the 2020 Crumb Festival, a 90th birthday celebration of the famed composer, **Dr. Katherine Petersen’s** performances have been described as having “captured the sense of wonder” (Howard Reich, *Chicago Tribune*), and are equally matched with “great technical skill” (George Grella, *New York Classical Review*). Petersen believes in the ability of chamber music to foster more meaningful performances in the way that it reflects the delicate intricacies of conversation, and the subtle art of listening. This aspect of verbal exchange is most present in duo playing, which inspired her to found Duo FAE with friend and violinist Charlene Kluegel in 2013. In the past, she has served as pianist of Fifth House ensemble and currently she collaborates with Duo FAE, Trio des Elements, The Way Out, and the Silver Spruce Trio. At seventeen, she made her Carnegie Hall debut with her piano trio as winners of the Chamber Music Foundation of New England Competition, a performance which was described by Edith Eisler of Strings Magazine as “real music-making—concentrated and deeply felt.” Appearances as guest artist have led her to give masterclasses and presentations at institutions such as the Eastman School of Music, the Curtis Institute of Music, and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. She has previously taught at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, the Conservatory of Music at McGill University, and the Fresh Inc Festival. Currently, she is a full-time faculty member of piano and chamber music at the Music Institute of Chicago and teaches at the Chicago Duo Piano Festival in the summers. Petersen completed her early musical training at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, her Bachelor of Music degree at the New England Conservatory of Music, and her Master and Doctor of Music degrees at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University where she was a recipient of the Harold Helm Fellowship and a Schulich Scholar. Her principal teachers were Jonathan Bass, Vivian Weilerstein, Stephane Lemelin, and Sara Laimon.

**Dr. Zachary Preucil** is currently serving as Interim Artist/Teacher of Cello at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. He also serves as principal cellist of the La Crosse Symphony and co-principal cellist of the Central Wisconsin Symphony and is a founding member of Trio des Éléments. Additionally, Dr. Preucil maintains a private cello studio for all ages in Madison, Wisconsin and online at the Virtu Academy program, and is active as a performer and guest clinician throughout the Midwest. Previously, he served on the faculties of Carroll University, the Music Institute of Chicago, the Kanack School of Musical Artistry, Music for Youth of Arlington Heights, and the UW-Madison Community Music School. Since summer 2021, he has taught at the International Cello Institute in Northfield, Minnesota and directs its iConnect Program for middle school-aged cellists. Dr. Preucil holds a D.M.A. in Cello Performance with a minor in Arts Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an M.M. in Cello Performance and Arts Leadership Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, and B.M. in Cello Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. His primary cello teachers have included Uri Vardi, David Ying, Yeeseun Kim, and Walter Preucil; he also has registered training in the Suzuki Cello Method with Dr. Tanya Carey, Jean Dexter and Rick Mooney, and completed teacher trainer certification in the Creative Ability Development improvisation method with Alice Kanack.

**Dr. Sarah Manasreh-Decker** is a Palestinian-American clarinetist, scholar, activist, and educator. Currently she is the Assistant Professor of Clarinet and Music Theory at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and principal clarinet of the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra and Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra. Sarah is active with the International Clarinet Association serving as the editor for The Clarinet [Online] and chair for ICA the Social Media Committee. She is a Backun artist, performing exclusively on Lumiere clarinets, and a D’Addario Artist, performing exclusively on Reserve Classic Reeds. Sarah’s playing has been described as “powerful, rich, and virtuosic.” As a chamber musician, she performs with Trio des Éléments, PoCo Duo, The Kindred Duo, and The Way Out, a unique group that combines classical musicians with the accessibility of bar music. Equity, diversity, and inclusivity in music is a driving force behind Sarah’s teaching and performance. In 2020, she established The Student Coalition for Equity in Music, a student directed group that leads conversations about disparities in the Western Classical Tradition and experiments with accessibility in performance practice. Sarah completed her Doctor of Musical Arts at Michigan State University under the tutelage of Dr. Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr. She earned her Master of Music Performance from the Royal Northern College of Music and her Bachelor of Music Performance from Florida State University. Her primary teachers include Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr, Chris Swann, Deborah Bish, Frank Kowalsky, and Lori Lovato.