

Program Notes by James Ginsburg

The letter on which *My Dearest Ruth* is based was my father's last written statement. My parents celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary in my father's room at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore on Wednesday, June 23, 2010. The following day, my mother called to say Dad had taken a turn for the worse. I flew to Baltimore the next morning (Friday) and met Mom at Dad's room. The doctors came in and told us there was nothing more they could do — the cancer had progressed too far. All this time, Dad kept repeating one word: "Home." So we made arrangements to bring him back to our apartment in Washington, D.C. While collecting his belongings from the hospital room, Mom pulled open the drawer next to Dad's bed and discovered a yellow legal pad on which Dad had written this a week earlier:

6/17/10

My Dearest Ruth –

You are the only person I have loved in my life, setting aside, a bit, parents and kids and their kids, and I have admired and loved you almost since the day we first met at Cornell some 56 years ago.

What a treat it has been to watch you progress to the very top of the legal world!!

I will be in JH Medical Center until Friday, June 25, I believe, and between then and now I shall think hard on my remaining health and life, and whether on balance the time has come for me to tough it out or to take leave of life because the loss of quality now simply overwhelms. I hope you will support where I come out, but I understand you may not. I will not love you a jot less.

Marty



Claire Uselding, saxophone

with
Natia Shioshvili, piano
Luke McIlhon, saxophone

Program

Six Barefoot Dances.....John David Lamb
(b.1935)

- I. Firm
- II. Swinging
- III. Walking
- IV. Lively
- V. Jaunty
- VI. Brisk

with Luke McIlhon, saxophone

Escapades.....John Williams
(b.1932)

- I. Closing In
- II. Reflections
- III. Joy Ride

– BRIEF INTERMISSION –

*My Dearest Ruth**.....Stacy Garrop
(b.1969)

Croquembouches.....Claude Delvincourt
(1888-1954)
(arr. Jean-Marie Londeix)

- Plum Pudding
- Puits d'Amour
- Negre de Chemise
- Linzer Tart
- Grenadine
- Rahat Loukhoun

with Natia Shioshvili, piano

About the Artist

Claire Uselding is pursuing a degree in Music Education: Jazz/General. She has studied classical saxophone with Dr. Ann Bradfield, and jazz saxophone with Mr. Chris Merz. Through her time at UNI, Claire has been a member of Wind Ensemble, Jazz Bands One, Two, and Three, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, The Panther Marching Band, jazz combo, and various chamber ensembles. In the spring of 2024, Claire was a finalist for the Emerging Artist Competition and the winner of the Myron and Ruth Russell Award.

Claire has been teaching private saxophone lessons through the UNI Community Music School since January 2023. She has also been instructing the New Horizons Band saxophone section throughout her time at UNI. This semester, she is the student conductor for the New Horizons Band in collaboration with Diana Blake and will conduct Nubia Jaime-Donjuan's *Monarch Migration* for their concert in May. Claire's future plans include student teaching this fall in the Des Moines area.

*Please see program notes for "My Dearest Ruth" on the back page.