

Upcoming Events

Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals

Tuesday Oct 28th @7:30PM

UNI New Music Festival

Thursday October 30th and Friday October 31st

Senior Student Recital, Abigail Holschlag: Trumpet

Thursday October 30th @7:30PM

UNI Student Composers Concert

Wednesday November 5th @8PM

Non Degree Student Recital, Aidan Anderson: Composer

Friday November 7th @6PM

PMB Live!

Monday November 10th @7:30PM

Senior Student Recital, Martin Paulin: Flute

Friday November 14th @8PM



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Grace O'Keefe and Abby Wendland

**with
Serena Hou, piano**

Program

Flute Concerto No. 7 in E Minor.....Francois Devienne
(1759-1803)

- I. *Allegro*
- II. *Adagio*
- III. *Rondo*

Grace O'Keefe, flute, Serena Hou, piano

Night Music.....Vanraj Bhatia
(1927-2021)

- I. *Night Music*
- II. *Song*
- III. *Dance*
- IV. *Night Music II*

Abby Wendland, flute

Sonatina for Two Flutes.....Shulamit Ran
(b. 1949)

- I. *Allegretto*
- II. *Adagio*
- III. *Vivo*

Grace O'Keefe and Abby Wendland, flute

Aubade for Solo Flute.....Libby Larsen
(b. 1950)

Grace O'Keefe, flute

Fantasie.....Carl Frühling
(1868-1937)

Abby Wendland, flute, Serena Hou, piano

About the Artists

Grace O'Keefe, a flutist from the Chicago suburbs, is currently a senior in Dr Occena's flute studio at UNI. During her time at UNI studying music education, she has been involved in many ensembles including the UNI Symphonic Band, the UNI Panther Marching Band, and the UNI Flute Choir. Outside of the School of Music, she serves as the Liturgical Music Associate and Choir Director at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center. When she isn't making music, she can often be found getting coffee with friends, hanging out at St Stephen's, or playing with little kids. This spring she is excited to return to the Chicago suburbs to complete her student teaching.

The winner of the 2025 UNI Emerging Artist Competition, **Abby Wendland** is a senior instrumental music education major at the University of Northern Iowa. Throughout her tenure at UNI, she has served in the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Flute Choir, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, and the Panther Marching Band. Abby has been actively involved in several leadership opportunities, including acting as the Head Music Director for the Spectrum Project and Vice President, Ritual for the Alpha Upsilon chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota. She is currently President of UNI Ballroom/Swing and a drum major for the Panther Marching Band. Abby is a Presidential Scholar who has received several awards. She has been honored with the Pi Kappa Lambda Outstanding Sophomore award, the Tau Beta Sigma Outstanding Musical Performer award, the Sigma Alpha Iota Sword of Honor, and is currently a Presser Scholar nominee.

Fantasie, Carl Frühling

Carl Frühling (1868-1937) was a Jewish pianist and composer born in Lemberg, Austria (now Lviv, Ukraine) in 1868. Toward the end of his lifetime, however, he routinely claimed to have been born in Vienna to protect himself from being known as Jewish. Evidence of this is prolific in his scores, with the composer note for this work claiming “I was born in Vienna, the son of a merchant.” Frühling’s Fantasie for Flute and Piano was originally written for flute and orchestra, though the orchestral score was lost and only the piano reduction survived—likely due to attempts by the Nazis to eradicate all Jewish literature and history. The work was premiered in 1929 by Friedrich Schönfeld, who was the solo flute for the Vienna orchestra at the time. The only other composition for flute written by Frühling was Duettino for Two Flutes (op. 57), which has proven even more difficult to find than the Fantasie. Due to the Jewish persecution in Vienna around the time of this composition, as well as the time around his death, very little is known about this composer. The last years of Frühling’s life were spent in extreme poverty, and most that is known about him now is from records salvaged from a single library in Vienna.

Program Notes

Flute Concerto No. 7 in E Minor, Francois Devienne

Flute Concerto No. 7 in E Minor is one of Devienne’s twelve flute concertos. It has many unique touches for a concerto including the flute entering earlier than normal and a cadenza in the slow movement as opposed to the fast movement. Overall, Devienne keeps the piece interesting and unpredictable with many themes, gradually growing more virtuosic. Devienne held many orchestral and chamber music positions as a flutist and bassoonist, and his skill allowed him to perform as a soloist on his own concertos and those written by others.

Night Music, Vanraj Bhatia

Vanraj Bhatia (1927-2021) was born in Bombay, India, in 1927. He was trained in Hindustani Classical music, but fell in love with Western music after hearing Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto no. 1. He was commissioned to write Night Music by Carleton Sprague Smith, a flutist and musicologist from New York City. It is presumed that Smith was also the one who premiered this piece in 1964. Night Music is the only piece Bhatia composed entirely in America, and it draws on Hindustani musical traditions, Indian folk music traditions, and some Western influences. The second movement of the piece, Song, is based on an Indian folk song (see lyrics). Despite the heavy influences of Indian culture, to Bhatia’s knowledge the work has never been performed in India. Bhatia held several different positions over the course of his life, some he enjoyed (such as writing several thousand jingles for Indian commercials), and some he hated (once taking a job as a musicologist and stating, “I hated it – anybody who is a bad musician becomes a musicologist.”). Bhatia was most famous for his advertisement jingles and film scores, and Night Music was the only piece he ever wrote for solo flute.

Cool water, white moonlit night
- A streamlet hidden in the leaves -
Water I shall drink from your hands alone,
fair one;
Have the pitcher cleaned

In others' gardens, flowers bloom;
In mine grow only bananas
This very night, meet me if you must, for
the chance
Shall not be again.

In others' gardens, flowers bloom;
In mine grow only cabbages.
Bargain is not in my mind, fair one,
just greedy,
For you are my eyes.

Shulamit Ran was born in Israel and began composing music to Hebrew poetry when she was only seven years old. At the time of writing the *Sonatina for Two Flutes*, Ran was 12 years old and had been studying with influential composers and musicians for several years. She moved to the United States just two years later to study at the Mannes College of Music in New York. This piece was the first composition that Ran could not play or sing herself. It became popular quickly, and was made famous by Hanoeh and Sharona Tel-Oren of what is now known as the Jerusalem Symphony. Though the work was well known, Ran later rescinded it from publication because of the stylistic differences between her early compositions and later works. She was convinced by flutist Mary Stolper to re-release the piece after adding it to a recording project and playing it on a concert— adding it to an album released in 1996. Not only was this work re-released, many of Ran's other compositions written pre-1960 were also put back into publication because of the persuasiveness of Stolper. Ran started teaching at the University of Chicago in 1976, where she taught for over forty years before her retirement. She has been awarded most major honors for composers in the U.S., including the Pulitzer Prize in 1991, and her music has been performed by most major orchestras.

The word Aubade is drawn from several sources, Auba meaning dawn, the Spanish word Alborada, and Albus meaning white. The word means morning music. This piece is a morning love song and depicts a song or poem to greet the dawn- the morning sunrise. Libby Larsen is a Grammy award winning artist and one of America's most performed living composers. Her compositions include everything from solo works to vocal music to chamber music to orchestral works.