

Faculty Recital

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Concerto in G (1946)

Claude Arrieu (Louise Marie Simone)
(1903-1990)

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Andante
- III. Presto

Hannah Porter Occeña, flute
Sean Botkin, piano

Pathways of Desire (2024)

Reena Esmail
(b. 1983)

- I. Unfurl
- II. Elyse
- III. Surge

Hannah Porter Occeña, flute

Sonata for flute and piano (1961)

Robert Muczynski
(1929-2010)

- I. Allegro deciso
- II. Scherzo
- III. Andante
- IV. Allegro con moto

Hannah Porter Occeña, flute
Sean Botkin, piano

Artist Bios:

Hailed by the New York Times as possessing “rich tone and deft technique,” **Hannah Porter Occeña** is Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Northern Iowa and Principal Flutist of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra (Topeka, KS) and Colorado MahlerFest Orchestra (Boulder, CO). The 2021 Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition Winner, Dr. Occeña has performed as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and clinician throughout the US and abroad.

Committed to the rich heritage and new horizons of the repertoire, Dr. Occeña strives to make classical works accessible and engaging to diverse audiences. Between her performance schedule and collegiate teaching responsibilities, Dr. Occeña participates in outreach concerts and programs at schools and community centers. Some of her most meaningful musical experiences have taken place during performances at special needs schools and concerts in association with Autism Speaks.

As a chamber musician and collaborator, Dr. Occeña has worked to bring works by living composers to life. She is a commissioning member of the Flute New Music Consortium and has co-premiered works by Zhou Long (*Confluence*, 2015) Carter Pann (*Giantess*, 2018), Valerie Coleman (*Amazonia*, 2020), Samuel Zyman (*Intuition*, 2022), and Reena Esmail (*Pathways of Desire*, 2024). She has also privately commissioned and premiered several new works, including *Shenandoah Variations* for flute and orchestra by Joseph Kern and *the whirring dusk* by Lisa Bost-Sandberg.

A dedicated scholar, Dr. Occeña has presented at the National Flute Association conventions in Orlando, Salt Lake City, Chicago, and Phoenix, as well as the Rochester Flute Fair. She has collaborated on new editions of the *Sonata in B minor* by Amanda Maier and the *Sonata op. 94* by Sergei Prokofiev and is completing editions of *Three Pieces* by Undine Smith Moore and *Moods* by Gertrude Rivers Robinson.

Dr. Occeña is a DMA graduate of Stony Brook University, where she studied with Carol Wincenc; she holds a Master of Music Dip.RAM from the Royal Academy of Music London and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. When not performing, Dr. Occeña enjoys long-distance running and spending time outdoors with her family. She can be heard on the albums *Confluence* and *Discovering Her Voice*, available on major streaming platforms. Dr. Occeña is a Miyazawa Artist and plays on a Miyazawa Elite.

Pianist **Sean Botkin** began studying the piano at age five with his mother, making his first orchestral appearance four years later with the Honolulu Symphony. He went on to study privately with Neal O’Doan at the University of Washington and, under his direction, performed with the Seattle Symphony, Spokane Symphony, and Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra. Sean has garnered prizes in an impressive list of international piano competitions and has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, Central and South America, Asia, and Russia. Concerto and recital performances include Kazan and St. Petersburg, Russia; Tbilisi and Kutaisi, Georgia; Salzburg Festival, Ravenna Festival, Stresa Festival, Ruhr Klavier Festival, Gilmore Festival, London, Cagliari, Rome, Florence, Bologna, Palermo, Lisbon, Tokyo, Seoul, Bogotá, and San José (Costa Rica). He made his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall in 1993 performing Bartók’s Concerto No. 2 with the Juilliard Symphony, conducted by Carl St. Clair. In 2009, he made a CD recording of Rachmaninoff’s Piano Sonata No. 1 in D minor and performed a series of concerts in Europe sponsored by Alexander Rachmaninoff and the Rachmaninoff Foundation. In 2012, also sponsored by the Rachmaninoff Foundation, he performed Rachmaninoff’s 4th Piano Concerto with the Chicago Symphony at Ravinia, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda, and in 2013 with the Orchestra of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and guest conductor, Alexander Sladkovsky. Sean recently performed in a Rachmaninoff marathon concert as part of the Toradze International Music Festival in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Equally active in chamber music, Sean performs frequently with violinist Nash Ryder as part of the Mesa Duo. Reactions to Sean’s performances typically are expressed with phrases such as “multidimensional talents,” “superb musicianship,” and “beautiful and rare musical experience.”

A graduate of Stanford University, the Juilliard School, and Indiana University at South Bend, Sean has studied with eminent artists Adolph Baller, Martin Canin, and Alexander Toradze. Sean is currently Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Northern Iowa.
