

# UPCOMING EVENTS

NORTHERN IOWA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
TUESDAY, APRIL 23 AT 7:30 P.M.  
GREAT HALL, GBPAC

STUDENT CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 AT 8 P.M.  
DAVIS HALL, GBPAC

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC CALENDAR OF EVENTS IS  
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [MUSIC.UNI.EDU/EVENTS](https://music.uni.edu/events).

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In consideration of the performers and other members of the audience, please enter or leave a performance at the end of a composition. Cameras and recording equipment are **not permitted**. Please turn off all electronic devices, and be sure that all emergency contact cell phones and pagers are set to silent or vibrate. In the event of an emergency, please use the exit nearest to you. Please contact the usher staff if you need assistance.

This event is **free** to all UNI students, courtesy of the Panther Pass Program.

The University of Northern Iowa honors the ancestral stewards of the land on which our university rests. Through the work we do every day to live our mission, the University of Northern Iowa aspires for you to see a community that: honors Native and Indigenous People and culture, lives the 7th Generation Principle, does good for the people and communities we serve, and embraces stewardship of our mission and land. Please see our full stewardship statement at [president.uni.edu/stewardship-statement](https://president.uni.edu/stewardship-statement).

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# SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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- SPOTLIGHT SERIES -

## UNI SYMPHONIC BAND

JUSTIN J. MERTZ, CONDUCTOR

WITH  
ANN BRADFIELD, SAXOPHONE

# PROGRAM

*Neon Nights* (2023) ..... Katahji Copley  
(b. 1998, USA)

*dream of ember dream of star* (2021) ... David Biedenbender  
(b. 1984, USA)

*Spirited Away* (2001/2010) . . . . . Joe Hisaishi and Yumi Kimura  
(b. 1950, Japan) and (b. ~1964, Japan)  
arr. Kazuhiro Morita

## BRIEF INTERMISSION

*In Dreams* (2018) ..... Cait Nishimura  
(b. 1991, Canada)

*I Dream Awake* (2022) . . . . . Giovanni Santos  
I. Morning Cafecito (b. 1980, Puerto Rico)  
II. Buddy's Fandango  
III. A farmer and his daughter  
IV. Of a mighty lion

Ann Bradfield, saxophone

# UNI SYMPHONIC BAND

## Flute

Katie Flaherty  
Zoe Meyer  
Grace O'Keefe\*  
Bethany Winget

## Oboe

Kennedy Kisling

## Bassoon

Ian Burrack  
Grace Rosin\*

## Clarinet

Nolan Balk  
Daniel Bennett  
McKinley Boyd\*  
Maddy Cristof  
Annika Dagel  
Gabriel Jesse  
Shyla Merkes  
Maddie Santman  
Lance Schmitt

## Saxophone

Zach Iiams  
Keaton Kruse  
Charlotte Ottemoeller  
Taylor Stogdill\*  
Kate Wilken\*

## Trumpet

John Broulik  
Jetta Colsch  
Alyssa Dougherty  
Lucas Garretson-O'Neil\*  
Josh Neas  
Eadie Suhr  
Eric Torneton

## Horn

Benjamin Lumley\*  
Mitchell Stevens

## Trombone

Seth Anderson  
Jackson Elliott\*  
Jack Hannon  
Sam Hoffman (bass)  
James Landeros  
Brody Schoon  
Maddy White

## Euphonium

June Forcier

## Tuba

Nathan Fornal  
Logan Lubahn\*

## Percussion

Olivia Crum\*  
Jenna Gerdes  
Ethan Labby  
Zac Moore  
Nicholas Perry  
Jackson Toma  
Justin Weber

## String Bass

Martin Hachmann

## Piano

Vakhtang Kodanashvili+

## Harp

Sheila Benson

## Librarian

Zoe Meyer

\* Section Leader  
+ Faculty Artist

# PROGRAM NOTES

**Neon Nights** a captivating journey through the vibrant and exhilarating world of nighttime revelry. I wanted to immerse the listener in a sonic landscape pulsating with Afro-Latin rhythms and harmonies, evoking the bustling energy of urban nightlife.

As the piece progresses, it weaves its way through a tapestry of diverse rhythms and scenarios, much like the ever-changing facets of a bustling nightlife. The music takes the listener on a journey through a spectrum of emotions and atmospheres, vividly illustrating the various elements of a vibrant urban evening. At one moment, the music builds a lush, kaleidoscopic glow of a light show, as the ensemble's harmonies shimmer and sparkles, casting a mesmerizing spell. In contrast, the music also transports us to the heart of a heat-filled dance floor, where infectious rhythms and spirited melodies inspire movement and celebration. *Neon Nights* paints a vivid picture of neon signs and dazzling visual displays that transform the cityscape into a luminous wonderland.

- Program Note by composer

It felt like it took a long time to write ***dream of ember, dream of star***. I first started work on it in 2019, but as the 2020 premiere approached, the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the premiere, and I stepped away from writing for a while. It was rescheduled for 2021 and then canceled again, and I found myself in the strange position of having unfinished material that I had written in what felt like a lifetime ago. Each piece I write is a snapshot of who I am and what I am feeling at that particular moment in my life, and so many things had happened in those long months that I felt different, changed. I found that I could not finish the piece I had started writing almost two years earlier. I restarted.

*dream of ember, dream of star* is not what I set out to write two years ago, and it comes from a place emotionally that I do not know how to adequately describe with words. There has been so much fear, so much loss, so much change, so much division, so many different challenges and experiences -- for some I imagine it must seem like an entire lifetime's worth of loss has been compressed into relatively a short time span. But this experience has also brought some things into clearer focus -- a nascent hope and joy emerging from the pause -- the silence -- helping us to discover what is truly important. My hope is that this piece might create a space to reflect. For me, I have been drawn to a recurring image of fire and stars -- the warm glow of a campfire under a cold, deep blue sky and twinkling stars -- both emanating light but separated by billions of miles and many years, felt and warm and visible to me right here and now.

- Program Note by composer

This is an arrangement of Ghibli's anime film, ***Spirited Away***. It consists of six themes including *No-Face*, *One Summer Day*, *The Bottomless Pit*, *Yubaba's Panic*, *Always with Me*, and *Reprise*. I also added an alternate introduction using *The Dragon Boy*. The *No-Face* opener is somewhat avant-garde. The arrangement concept was created by Mr. Tomoki Ubata of Ina Gakuen Senior High School. His wonderfully crafted ideas always impress me. Especially, in the arrangement, mallet percussion and piano are effectively used to sound like a music box and the lyrical melody of *Reprise* is superimposed. This scene is the best part of the entire arrangement and is very emotional. All these fine melodies from the film transport both audience and performers to the fantastic world of anime.

- Program Note by arranger

***In Dreams*** explores the powerful and surreal experience for the crossover between dreams and reality. With subtle shifts in colour and texture, tender and soaring memories, and driving ostinatos, the piece introduces intermediate to advanced bands to elements of minimalism and provides musical

challenges for all sections of the ensemble. *In Dreams* takes players and listeners on an emotional and music journey full of hope and yearning, from deep sleep to a world of dreams and back.

The piece was commissioned by a consortium of 38 ensembles across Canada and the United States. The consortium was organized by Dr. Patrick Murphy at the University of Portland.

- *Program Note from score*

Growing up in close proximity to my Cuban grandparents, I as bound to hear the poetic brilliance of José Martí. One of his most read poems is ***I Dream Awake***. Although the poem itself is quite thought provoking, I have always been struck with the title. As a young boy growing up in Puerto Rico, my imagination got me into trouble. I imagined and dreamed of realities that were far out of my reach. I dreamed of flying next to the stars, I dreamed of flying through the beautiful jungles surrounding my city. I continue to dream today, for things I believe to be within our reach, FREEDOM.

Although I consider this work to be absolute in nature, there is a ringing idea of the dreamer.

- I. Morning Cafecito: We wake up, we dream, we achieve
- II. Buddy's Fandango: Buddy is my dog. He's a 13 year old Golden Retriever and our son. Because of his age he frequently walks with a bit of a limp, like a  $\frac{3}{4}$  fandango (with s a skip).
- III. A Farmer and his daughter: This past June I was struck by a photograph of an immigrant family and their daughter in the farm they worked in. The daughter was wearing her college graduation regalia.
- IV. Of a mighty lion: Again, I use words taken from this poem. The work represents strength, courage, and resilience.

- *Program Note from composer*

## ABOUT OUR SOLOIST

**Ann Bradfield** is Associate Professor of Saxophone at the University of Northern Iowa. An advocate for new music, she commissions and premieres new works for saxophone, including works by Jonathan Schwabe, Franklin Piland, and Mark Ford. As a soloist, she has performed across the United States, Canada, England and Australia, and her solo CD, *Variations*, is available on Mark Records. In the Lone Star Wind Orchestra and the University of North Texas Wind Symphony under the direction of Eugene Corporon, Bradfield performed and recorded as principal saxophonist on projects including the educational series, "Teaching Music through Performance in Band." She has also been featured in performance at the World Saxophone Congress, North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Convention, and North American Saxophone Alliance Region 2, 3, and 4 Conventions.

Dr. Bradfield completed her doctorate in saxophone performance at the University of North Texas, and her dissertation *An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Music for Saxophone by Charles Ruggiero with an Analysis of Interplay for Soprano Saxophone and Piano* has since been published. At UNT, she also earned a Master of Music in saxophone performance and Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies, and had the opportunity to work with artists including Maria Schneider, Michael Brecker, and Bob Brookmeyer. Prior to her appointment at UNI, Dr. Bradfield served on the faculty of Eastern New Mexico University, Cameron University, Oklahoma State University, and Oklahoma Christian University.

