

Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center

Davis Hall

November 11, 2021

8:00 pm

Alexander Pershounin, double bass

Natia Shioshvili, piano

Michael Conrad, piano

Program

Sonata in C minor.....George Frideric Handel

I. Adagio (1685-1759)

II. Allegro

III. Adagio

IV. Allegro

Cello Suite No. 1 in G-major, BWV 1007.....Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

I. Prelude

II. Sarabande

III. Gigue

Melodie, Op. 47, no. 3.....Edvard Grieg

(1843-1907)

Sicilienne, Op. 78.....Gabriel Faure

(1845-1924)

Nocturne in D-minor, Op. 19, no. 4.....Pyotr Tchaikovsky

(1840-1893)

Valse Sentimentale, Op. 51, no. 6

Natia Shioshvili, piano

Upon A Time.....Alexander Pershounin

Michael Conrad, piano

About the artists

Dr. Alexander Pershounin has performed extensively throughout Europe and United States in both classical and jazz settings and has been featured as a performer and composer on such internationally recognized music events as Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, Pori Jazz Festival in Finland, Europe's Jazz Contest in Belgium, and New Orleans Jazz Fest, among many others. His performing credits include collaboration projects and appearances with world-class artists ranging from Bob Berg, Mulgrew Miller, Conrad Herwig, and Benny Golson to Itzhac Perlman, Yo Yo Ma, and Ray Charles, to name just a few. He also has recorded several commercially released compact disc albums and music to four full-length motion pictures. He holds DMA and MFA degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and MFA and BM degrees from Russia's most prestigious music institution: Gnessins' State Academy of Music in Moscow. Before arriving to UNI as a bass studio and liberal arts core instructor Dr. Pershounin had taught at Columbus State University, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Westfield State College, University of Southern Mississippi, and various music institutions in Russia. His students won national and international competitions, were accepted in most prestigious music institutions, and successfully developed their own professional music careers.

Natia Shioshvili, native of Tbilisi, Georgia began studying piano at the age of seven. She continued her education at Z. Paliashvili Special Music School and later at Tbilisi State Conservatory. In 2000 Natia joined the Toradze Piano Studio at Indiana University South Bend. While in school she regularly performed in studio concerts, gave solo recitals and appeared as soloist with IUSB Philharmonic. In 2001 Natia won the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Young Artist Competition and performed with the Philharmonic later that year. Natia has

been an active collaborator in the Michiana area. Natia Shioshvili holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University South Bend.

Dr. Mike Conrad joined the UNI Faculty in the Fall of 2018. He has been recognized for his arranging and composing with four ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards and seven DownBeat Awards, as well as awards and commissions from organizations like the Bundesjazzorchester of Germany, the West Point Jazz Knights, and the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers. Conrad's arrangements have been performed all around the world, including a 2014 premiere at Carnegie Hall, and a performance at the US Presidential Inauguration in 2013. Recently, Conrad was selected to participate in the 2017 Metropole Orchestra Arrangers Workshop with Vince Mendoza and was chosen as a finalist for the "Spheres Of A Genius" composition competition through the Vienna Radio Symphony.

As a performer, Dr. Conrad has toured China, played at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy, and appeared at various jazz festivals and venues all over the United States. He has enjoyed playing piano in ensembles like the Alexa Tarantino Quintet, Dave Chisholm's Calligraphy, and Christopher's Very Happy. Band. (a quartet led by UNI Director of Jazz Studies Chris Merz). Equally accomplished on both trombone and piano, Conrad truly loves collaborating with other musicians, and always brings his creativity and expressiveness to every performance he gives and every composition that he writes.

From 2013 to 2015, Conrad was the Head Band Director at West High School in Waterloo, Iowa where he directed the Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensembles and taught Music Theory and Jazz Improvisation. He has also led his own large jazz ensemble called COLOSSUS and released an album of original music featuring Alex Sipiagin with his 15-piece group, the All Angles Orchestra. Dr. Conrad is in high demand as a clinician and guest director for jazz bands, and he continues to come up with fresh and exciting works for a wide variety of ensembles. Many of his compositions and arrangements are published by UNC Jazz Press, ejazzlines, and his own website, www.mconradmusic.com.

Dr. Conrad earned degrees from the University Northern Iowa (BM and BME), the Eastman School of Music (MM), and the University of Northern Colorado (DA).