

UPCOMING EVENTS

GUEST ARTIST: DANIEL ADAM MALTZ, FORTEPIANO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 AT 6 P.M.
DAVIS HALL, GBPAC

UNI SAXOPHONE STUDIO RECITAL
FRIDAY, MARCH 29 AT 6 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).

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.

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC

NEW THIRD STREAM QUARTET

RICK VANMATRE, SOPRANO SAXOPHONE
JAMES BUNTE, ALTO SAXOPHONE
PETER SOMMER, TENOR SAXOPHONE
JAMES ROMAIN, BARITONE SAXOPHONE

PROGRAM

Program to be selected from:

Three Vibes for Four Vibrationists Robert Washut
I. Uptight Vibe
II. Meditative Vibe
III Jazzy Vibe

After Again Rick VanMatre

Concinnity for Sax Quartet Kimothy Pensyl
I. Mellifluous
II. Attunement
III. Euphony
IV. Concord

Breathless Peter Sommer

Motions for Saxophone Quartet Joe Duran
I. Swell
II. Flow

All works commissioned by NTSQ

PROGRAM NOTES BY THE COMPOSERS

Three Vibes for Four Vibrationists was commissioned in 2020 by the New Third Stream Quartet. Each movement explores a different stylistic/emotional realm (or “vibe”) through the organic integration of improvisation and composition. **Robert Washut** is

Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Northern Iowa where he retired in 2018. He served as Director of Jazz Studies from 1980-2002. An accomplished jazz composer and arranger, Washut is widely published and has received numerous commissions from collegiate and high school jazz ensembles, professional jazz artists, and symphony orchestras. He also has served as jazz composer-in-residence at several universities around the country. His most recent recording, *Journey to Knowhere*, was released in 2018 and features his original compositions for jazz dodecitet. Washut is also an active jazz pianist.

After Again begins with introspective sounds, both sweet and dissonant, suggesting reminiscences, some calm and satisfying, others perhaps uneasy and questioning. Just after reaching acceptance, the second section represents the realization that life is inevitably cyclical. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. **Rick VanMatre** (see bio below)

Concinnity for Sax Quartet consists of four movements with the culminating goal for Peace and Harmony. Concinnity brings four musicians together displaying their own musical personalities to play skillfully and harmoniously with each other while touching the hearts of the listener. Beauty pours out from the soaring melody of the first movement Mellifluous. Attunement showcases how music can draw the listener in with thoughtful phrases. The cascading melodic shape of Euphony brings a pleasing quality to the ear. Concord is the

summation wherein there is harmony in agreement within the group and with the listener. Society might be better served with more Concinnity between people. This composition is a wish of Peace and Harmony. **Kimothy Pensyl** is a prolific jazz recording artist, composer, arranger, and producer who has twice been named one of Billboard's Top-20 Contemporary Jazz Artists of the Year. A pianist and trumpeter, he has had four Top-10 albums on Billboard's Contemporary Jazz chart. He has more than 150 published works recorded and over 200 compositions and arrangements in his catalog of jazz, pop, and classical works with multiple commissions. He also has an extensive career in producing, audio engineering, editing, mixing, and mastering. Pensyl is currently Professor of Music at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati where he is Director of the Commercial Music Production Program and Division Head for General Studies.

Breathless is inspired by Jean-Luc Godard's groundbreaking film of the same name. The theme is organized around short "jump cuts" to create a driving chromatic melody, that is eventually accompanied by a new contrapuntal melody played by the upper saxophones. To pay tribute to the film's original jazz influenced score, the frenetic energy releases into a medium-up blues and groovy pedal point before eventually returning to the original theme through a series of chromatic hemiolas. Improvisation is heavily featured in the swinging section in the center of the piece. **Peter Sommer** (see bio below)

Motions for Saxophone Quartet navigates emotional and kinetic terrains across two movements. The opener, "Swell," blooms from introspective solos to a vibrant climax, traversing a spectrum of thematic variations. "Flow," the subsequent movement, musically captures a state of profound focus and fulfillment, juxtaposing lively syncopations with tranquil melodies. The composition signifies a key phase in my artistic journey, wherein I integrated diverse influences, from Pat Metheny to Elliot Carter to John Coltrane. This transformative approach results in a piece that serves as a testament to

personal evolution and artistic liberation. **Joe Duran**, a distinguished jazz composer and saxophonist based in Cincinnati, intertwines diverse musical traditions with jazz. His innovative compositions have graced platforms from the Spoleto Music Festival to the American Composers Orchestra in NYC Jeju International Wind Ensemble Festival in South Korea, and reached international stages in China with his unique jazz/classical hybrid, "Concerto for Saxophone with Saxophone Ensemble (Window Flowers)." A past Composer-in-Residence with the Cincinnati Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, Duran's work reflects his mastery in both composition and jazz performance, fostered through his academic journey at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

ABOUT OUR GUEST ARTISTS

The **New Third Stream Quartet** was formed in the interest of combining the rhythmic and improvisatory language of contemporary jazz with elements of modern chamber composition. Performances focus on the creative energy of progressive jazz as well as the precision and communication found in traditional saxophone quartets. The flexibility of jazz improvisation is balanced with the rich harmonic and timbral colors of 21st century classical music. The quartet's repertoire consists primarily of commissioned works and the ensemble is dedicated to encouraging composers to unite jazz and classical styles. The NTSQ gave its first performances at the World Saxophone Congresses in Bangkok, Thailand, St. Andrews, Scotland, and Strasbourg, France, at numerous North American Saxophone Alliance conferences, and in frequent recitals across the US. The ensemble was featured at the Jeju International Wind Ensemble Festival in South Korea. The NTSQ's latest CD **Flow** features compositions by Duran, Pensyl, Sommer, Washut, and VanMatre.

Rick VanMatre has presented exploratory solo recitals and jazz performances throughout the US, Europe, Israel, Brazil, and Asia. In addition to recording original music with his quintet, he

has recorded with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony, and PsychoAcoustic Orchestra, and performed with such diverse artists as the Duke Ellington and Woody Herman orchestras, Roland Vazquez, John McNeil, Tim Hagans, and concert:nova. He is the regular saxophonist and featured soloist with the Cincinnati Pops. He has commissioned five jazz/classical concerti and performed them with the New York Repertory Orchestra, Sichuan Symphony Orchestra (China), JeJu Orchestra (South Korea), Illinois Philharmonic, and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. He is Adjunct Professor Emeritus of Saxophone and Jazz at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where he was Director of Jazz Studies from 1983-2010, conducted the Jazz Ensemble, and established the Master's degree in Jazz Studies and Doctorate in Saxophone. VanMatre is an endorsing artist for Selmer Saxophones and D'Addario Reeds.

Dr. James Bunte is an active recitalist, giving concerts and master classes throughout the United States, France, Thailand, Scotland, Japan, and Taiwan. He is the regular saxophonist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and has recorded nine compact discs with the Cincinnati Symphony and Cincinnati Pops. He has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, Lyrique en Mer Orchestra (France), Louisville Philharmonic, Dayton Philharmonic, Eugene Symphony, Charleston Symphony, Richmond Symphony (IN), Kentucky Symphony, Springfield Symphony (OH) and the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra. He is also an experienced jazz musician, having toured with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. He is Professor of Saxophone, Division Head of Performance Studies, and Interim Co-Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. He is a Yamaha and D'Addario endorsing artist.

Peter Sommer, since establishing himself among the Denver area's elite jazz musicians, has contributed his energetic and graceful playing and creative spirit to a wide variety of musical projects ranging from mainstream bebop to classic

and contemporary concert music to to avant-garde improvisations at venues across the nation and around the world. He has performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, and the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, has been a featured jazz soloist at NASA Biennial Conferences, and has performed at IAJE Conferences and World Saxophone Congresses. He has released six projects as a leader, all featuring his original arrangements and compositions. His most recent projects, Happy-Go-Lucky Locals and Soulful Songs and Spirits feature his working septet with fellow jazz stalwarts from the Colorado Front Range. He is Professor of Saxophone and Jazz at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He is a D'Addario endorsing artist.

Dr. James Romain is active regionally, nationally, and internationally as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral saxophonist, recitalist, clinician, and jazz/commercial performer, embracing diverse genres of music. As an orchestral saxophonist, Romain performs regularly with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra and has toured with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony. He is the baritone saxophonist with the Hinotori Quartet, tenor saxophonist with the Turner Center Jazz Orchestra, and has been the lead alto saxophonist of the Des Moines Big Band since 2004. He can be heard on fifteen recordings, including In Friendship (Centaur), Oasis Quartet (Innova), and Howl (Innova). He serves as Professor of Saxophone at Drake University in Des Moines, IA, where he is also the chair of the music department. He is a proud endorsing artist for Selmer Paris, Conn-Selmer, and D'Addario.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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