

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JEFFREY FUNDERBURK & SANDY NORDAHL,  
ELECTRONIC MUSIC  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 7:30 P.M.  
BENGTSON AUDITORIUM, RUSSELL HALL

CAYLA BELLAMY, BASSOON  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 6 P.M.  
DAVIS HALL, GBPAC

“SKIN & BONES” - ANDREINI & WILLIAMS  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 8 P.M.  
DAVIS HALL, GBPAC

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC CALENDAR OF EVENTS IS  
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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.

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

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## A TRIBUTE TO KENNY WHEELER

UNI SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACULTY,  
ALUMNI AND GUEST RECITAL



## BOB WASHUT DODECTET

# PROGRAM

(order to be announced from stage)

*3/4 in the Afternoon* . . . . . Arranged by Paul McKee

*Deer Wan* . . . . . Arranged by David Caffey

*Everybody's Song But My Own* . . . . . Arranged by Mike Conrad

*Foxy Trot* . . . . . Arranged by Asuka Kakitani

*Mark Time* . . . . . Arranged by Chris Merz

Featuring Bob Dunn\*, guitar

*Phrase One* . . . . . Arranged by Bret Zvacek

*Smatter* . . . . . Arranged by Bob Washut

## THE DODECTET

Robert Espe+ - soprano & alto saxes

Chris Merz\* - soprano & tenor saxes

Nolan Schroeder+ - tenor sax & bass clarinet

Ann Bradfield\* - baritone & alto saxes

Chris Van Leeuwen+ - trumpet & flugelhorn

Randy Grabowski\* - trumpet & flugelhorn

Dave Rezek+ - trumpet & flugelhorn

Chris Buckholz^ - trombone

Anthony Williams\* - trombone

Bob Washut\* - piano & coordinator

Alexander Pershounin\* - bass

Dave Tiede+ - drums

\* faculty

+ alumni

^ former faculty

*Special thanks to Dorothy and the late Richard Francis  
for making this concert possible.*

## ABOUT KENNY WHEELER

**Kenneth Vincent John Wheeler** (14 January 1930 – 18 September 2014) was a Canadian composer and trumpet and flugelhorn player, based in the U.K. from the 1950s onwards. Most of his performances were rooted in jazz, but he was also active in free improvisation and occasionally contributed to rock music recordings. Wheeler wrote over one hundred compositions and was a skilled arranger for small groups and larger ensembles.

Mr. Wheeler was, Nate Chinen noted in a 2011 concert review in *The New York Times*, a "quietly influential" artist whose music "doesn't really clamor for attention." He himself did not do much clamoring: Famously self-effacing — he once referred to his compositions as "soppy romantic melodies with a bit of chaos" — he spent much of the early part of his career as an anonymous session player in the recording studios of London and did not reach a wide international audience until he was in his mid-40s.

The album that belatedly thrust him into the spotlight was "Gnu High," recorded in 1975 for the ECM label with an all-star supporting cast of Keith Jarrett on piano, Dave Holland on bass and Jack DeJohnette on drums. By the time he recorded "Gnu High," Mr. Wheeler had been working for several years with Anthony Braxton and was best known in jazz circles as an exponent of free improvisation. "Gnu High" was the first showcase for his work as a composer since 1968, when the John Dankworth big band recorded his "Windmill Tilter," a collection of pieces inspired by "Don Quixote." (The character of Don Quixote appealed to him, Mr. Wheeler said, because "he seemed to be one of the great losers to me.")

Critics hailed the ingenuity of Mr. Wheeler's compositions, which were unfailingly melodic but often veered in unexpected directions, and the understated grace of his playing, which was characterized by the jazz scholar Barry Kernfeld as "clear, relaxed and lyrical, and marked by a wide-ranging harmonic and rhythmic imagination." He recorded prolifically for ECM, both as a leader and as a member of the collective trio Azimuth with the pianist John Taylor and the vocalist Norma Winstone.

Most of his records featured small groups, but he also had the occasional opportunity to write for a broader instrumental palette on albums like "Music for Large and Small Ensembles" (1990), displaying as much of a debt to composers like Paul Hindemith as to the conventions of big-band jazz.

Mr. Wheeler was a member of Mr. Holland's quintet from 1982 to 1987 and also performed or recorded with the Globe Unity Orchestra, the Spontaneous Music Ensemble and other groups. Among his most acclaimed albums was "Angel Song" (1996), recorded with the saxophonist Lee Konitz, the guitarist Bill Frisell and Mr. Holland. His most recent album, "Six for Six," was released in 2013.

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The program tonight will feature the premieres of seven brand new arrangements of Kenny Wheeler's music by prominent jazz composers and arrangers from around the country: Dave Caffey (University of Northern Colorado), Paul McKee (UNI alum and professor of jazz trombone at UC-Boulder), Asuka Kakitani (New York City), Mike Conrad (UNI alum and doctoral student at UNC-Greeley), Bret Zvacek (SUNY-Potsdam), as well as Bob Washut and Chris Merz (UNI jazz faculty).