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Senior Recital - Emily Brewer

St. Norbert College Music Department

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Senior Recital

Emily Brewer, Saxophone

Elaine Moss, piano

Sunday, April 15, 2018

1:00 p.m.

Birder Hall

~ Program ~

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble.....David Maslanka (1943-2017)

I. Song: "Fire in the Earth"

Histoire du Tango.....Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

III. Nightclub 1960

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano.....Erland von Koch (1910-2009)

I. Allegro moderato

II. Andante moderato

III. Molto vivace

INTERMISSION

Sax Sounds III: Diminishing Returns.....Steven Galante (Unknown)

Broderick Lemke, Alto Saxophone

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano.....Paul Creston (1906-1985)

I. With vigor

II. With tranquillity

III. With gaiety

~ Program Notes ~

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble

David Maslanka was an American composer who has over 150 works to his name. His most renowned compositions were for wind ensemble, in which he had over fifty. Maslanka studied composition in the United States and Austria. He served on the faculty of many universities throughout the state of New York, such as New York University and Sarah Lawrence College. From 1990 until his death in 2017, he was a freelance composer in Montana. Most of his works were composed in a refined, lyrical, and elegant style. Written in 1999, *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble* contains simple, elegant, and emotive melodies. This first movement, of five, brings to life three images that Maslanka saw in rapid succession: “fire in the earth, snow in the heavens, and new green grass in the middle of November”. Maslanka starts with a simple, quiet tune that quickly evolves into a rapid succession of sixteenth note melodies. The quick passages come to a sudden halt and the simple melody returns. This tune gradually becomes more emotive and passionate as the end approaches, but it slowly fades away into nothing, just as it was in the beginning. I felt it was important to include this piece on the program because of Maslanka’s recent passing. He will be greatly missed.

Histoire du Tango

Astor Piazzolla, an Argentine tango composer, was a bandoneon player and arranger. He was known for revolutionizing the tango by adding jazz and classical elements. Piazzolla regularly performed his own compositions on bandoneon, an accordion-like instrument, as well. He studied in France, Argentina, and throughout the United States. He composed over 750 works throughout his lifetime. Most of his compositions were for quintet or orchestra. He was famous for inventing new counterpoint and harmonies and influencing a new generation of tango composers. *Histoire du Tango* was written in 1986 and includes four movements. The original work was composed for flute and guitar. This work attempts to convey the history and evolution of the tango. This particular movement displays a time when audiences would rush to a nightclub to hear a tango. This can be heard with the quick, articulated melody, displaying the rapid movement of people rushing toward a nightclub. The counter-melody is rubato and emotive, displaying the tango itself.

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano (von Koch)

A Swedish composer, Erland von Koch was known for his symphonies, ballets, and film music. He studied composition at the Stockholm Conservatory and lived in Germany and France throughout his lifetime. von Koch lived to be ninety-nine years of age and composed until his death. He was known for his motto, “keep the melody”, which can be heard throughout this piece. Written in 1985, *Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano* has three contrasting movements. The *Allegro moderato* has a theme and variation. The main, lyrical melody is introduced and embellished throughout the movement. A more buoyant counter-melody is introduced as well. Both of these themes develop throughout the movement and meet together at the vigorous

conclusion. The *Andante moderato* starts with a sweet, lyrical melody that grows throughout the movement. Again, a faster, buoyant counter-melody is introduced. The two themes clash with each other and the lyrical melody ends the movement as it fades away into nothing. The *Molto vivace* is initially disjunct from the first two movements. It includes various extended techniques and altissimo. The lively theme is introduced and embellished throughout the movement. This becomes a cyclical piece because the theme from the first movement returns in the third movement.

Sax Sounds III: Diminishing Returns

Sax Sounds III is the third of five larger works by Steven Galante. This particular work is a duet for two alto saxophones and an electronic delay unit. The delay unit creates special effects throughout the piece to make it seem as if every small detail was amplified. This can be heard especially with the wind effects written in the score. Ultimately, this work explores amplifications and extended techniques. Some of these extended techniques include snake charms, human voice and throat sounds, bends, and altissimo. The purpose of this piece is to build excitement and bring a sense of discomfort to the listener. Sax Sounds III starts off with a sweet, lyrical melody that abruptly turns into a whirlwind of techniques and sounds. The chaos diminishes and the lyrical melody returns to bring comfort back to the listener.

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano (Creston)

Paul Creston was an Italian-American composer of classical music. His larger works include symphonies, concertos, and a number of chamber and solo works. Creston's music is known for having a strong rhythmic element to it. Many of his works were inspired by the poet, Walt Whitman. Creston was an educator, author, and composer throughout his lifetime. His *Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano* is considered a standard in the saxophone repertoire. It includes three contrasting movements. The first movement, *With vigor*, is ironically modest in a sense that it is not very technically challenging. The theme is furiously introduced and continues to build throughout the movement with scalar sixteenth note passages and loud dynamics. The second movement, *With tranquility*, is graceful and quiet, but a little uneasy feeling with the odd meter. The third movement, *With gaiety*, is upbeat and lively throughout and the sixteenth note passages return from the first movement.

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Music Performance degree. Emily Brewer is from the studio of Dr. John Salerno.

St. Norbert College Music Department Events

Spring 2018

April

- 20 Delaney Sieber, Clarinet & Bryce Daniels, Trumpet, Jr. Recital, Birder Hall, 4:00 p.m.*
- 20 Spring Band Concert, Walter Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Hannah Knutson, Sr. Vocal Recital, Birder Hall, 2:00 p.m.*
- 22 Ana Bakken, Sr. Vocal Recital, Birder Hall, 2:00 p.m.*
- 24 Fresh Ink Concert, Birder Hall, 7:30 p.m.*
- 26 Instrumental Jazz Concert, Walter Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Rylee Kramer & Megan Lau, Jr. Flute Recital, Birder Hall, 4:00 p.m.*
- 27 Spring Choral Concert, Walter Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Connor Klavekoske, Senior Piano Recital, Birder Hall, 7:00 p.m.*
- 29 *Organ Plus*, Collaborative Recital for Organ, Piano, Guitar and Voice, Dr. Yi-Lan Niu, soprano St. Norbert Abbey, 2:00 p.m.*

May

- 1 Honors Recital, Walter Theatre, 7:30 p.m.*

June

- 11-15 Summer Band Camp, Walter Theatre, concert on the 15th @ 7:30 p.m.*
Grades 5-9 welcome!
For info go to: www.snc.edu/music/camps

*Free Admission

