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Music

Spring 4-15-2023

Senior Recital: Ben Schaefers (2023)

St. Norbert College Music Department

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Program

Sonata for Eb Alto Saxophone and Piano, I. With Vigor.....Paul Creston
(1906-1985)

Performed on Alto Saxophone
Mrs. Elaine Moss, piano

Fuzzy Bird Sonata, II. Sing, Bird.....Takashi Yoshimatsu
(1953-present)

Performed on Bari Saxophone
Mrs. Elaine Moss, piano

Rhapsody.....Mark Watters
(1955-present)

Performed on Bari Saxophone
Mrs. Elaine Moss, piano

This recital of Ben Schaefer is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music Education Degree. Ben is in the studio of Nick Waroff.

Ben Schaefer is a senior music education major and is currently in the studio of Nick Waroff. He is also a member of the St. Norbert Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band where he plays the bari sax. Ben enjoys the broad abilities of the saxophone, with it being able to play both beautiful classical music as well as strange and interesting modern music. He also greatly enjoys pursuing the various extended techniques that the instrument is able to employ. The combination of these interests is what led him to create this recital program.

~Program Notes~

Sonata for Eb Alto Saxophone and Piano, I. With Vigor

Paul Creston was a self-taught Italian-American composer. He composed a variety of works for a variety of instruments and voices; one of those instruments is the saxophone. This piece, dedicated to Cecil Leeson, has been established as a staple in classical saxophone repertoire with it fusing the sounds and qualities of classical and jazz-like music together. The ever-turning sounds and rhythms of the piece drive it forward and create a waxing and waning feeling of tension that keeps the listener engaged throughout its entirety.

Fuzzy Bird Sonata, II. Sing, Bird

The music of Japanese composer Takashi Yoshimatsu, Born March 18th, 1953, draws heavy inspiration from the progressive rock music of Pink Floyd, Yes, and Emerson, Lake & Palmer as well as music from the Free Jazz era. This piece displays a combination of these concepts to create a sort of neo-classical sound that was unique for its time. Meant to depict the movements and sounds of many different species of birds, it creates a wave of sound that washes over the audience and lingers to create a chorus of bird-like melodies.

Rhapsody

Mark Watters is a six-time Emmy award-winning American composer, conductor, and arranger. He has experience working on various Disney productions and many other large-scale projects such as video game scores and arrangements for many popular artists. Rhapsody exhibits his heavy cinematic background with soaring melodies that display extreme highs and lows. While cycling through a myriad of different emotions and feelings, the listener can only attempt to guess where the piece will go next.