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Music

Fall 11-4-2023

Faculty Violin Recital: Dr. Taylor Giorgio (2023)

St. Norbert College Music Department

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~ *Program* ~

Sonata Representativa Heinrich Ignaz Biber
(1644–1704)

- “Nachtigal” (Nightingale)
- “CuCu” (Cuckoo)
- “Frosch” (Frog)
- “Die Henn” (The Hen)
- “Die Wachtel” (The Quail)
- “Die Katz” (The Cat)
- “Musquetir Mars” (Musketeer’s March)

Mrs. Elaine Moss, harpsichord

Baybirds for two violins Jaclyn Breeze
(b. 1999)

Dr. Luis Fernandez, violin

The Lark Ascending. Vaughan Williams
(1872–1958)

Mrs. Elaine Moss, piano

~ *Intermission* ~

Farewell Feathered Friends No. 2. Jacob TV
for solo violin and audio track (b. 1951)

“The Swan”. Camille Saint-Saëns
from *Carnival of the Animals* (1835–1921)

O Canto Do Cysne Negro. Heitor Villa-Lobos
(The Song of the Black Swan) (1887–1959)

The Hot Canary Paul Nero
(1917–1958)
arr. Florian Zabach
(1918–2006)

Mrs. Elaine Moss, piano



Dr. Taylor Giorgio

Visiting Assistant Professor of Strings and Music Education

A native of West Virginia, Dr. Taylor Giorgio is recognized as an imaginative performer and educator. She is currently the Visiting Assistant Professor of Strings and Music Education at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, where she serves as the string studio instructor and the Orchestra Director, and teaches courses in Music Education and Music History. An avid orchestral musician, she is the Concertmaster of the Civic Symphony of Green Bay, as well as a section violinist with the Weidner Philharmonic, Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra, and Sinfonia Gulf Coast. Taylor is the conductor of the String Orchestra for the Youth Orchestra Program at St. Norbert College and the 2nd violin sectional coach for the Fox Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra. In the summer season, she teaches and performs as Violin Faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, MI.

An in-demand pedagogue, she presented multiple sessions as the West Virginia Music Educators Association String Education Lecturer for the 2023 WV State Music Education Conference. She also presented a session at the 2020 American String Teachers Association (ASTA) National Conference, and was selected to present again this March at the 2024 ASTA Conference. Fostering her passion for community engagement, she created a violin class at Notre Dame of De Pere Middle School and formed a partnership with St. Norbert College as a Faculty Fellow for Community-Engaged Pedagogy. In 2021, Taylor collaborated with the Tallahassee Symphony and other local music educators to create a PBS video series called “Symphonic Safari” that explores the instruments of the orchestra through in-depth conversations with musicians. She also served as a violinist and teaching artist in Sinfonia Gulf Coast’s String Quartet-in-Residence from 2018-2020, where she created original and interactive quartet concerts for elementary-aged students.

An advocate for new music, Taylor is a founding member of two chamber ensembles - Virago Ensemble, a string ensemble, and Invicta Trio, a trio comprised of violin, trombone, and piano. She recently collaborated with the St. Norbert College composition studio to present a string quartet concert featuring music by student composers. In 2020, she released two premiere recordings, featuring works by Otto Luening and Elias Tanenbaum, for Shelter Recordings through the American Composers Alliance. Taylor has performed at prestigious music festivals including the Texas Music Festival, Nief-Norf Summer Festival, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Kinhaven Young Artist Seminar, Brevard Music Festival, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria.

Taylor holds both Doctor and Master of Music degrees in Violin Performance from Florida State University, and a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and Violin Performance from West Virginia University. Her principal teachers have included Corinne Stillwell, Mikylah Myers, and Ian Jessee. Taylor currently lives in Green Bay, WI with her husband, trombonist Kenneth Johnson, and their dog Suki.



~ *Program Notes* ~

One of the most famous violinists of the 17th century, Heinrich Ignaz Biber composed a wealth of unique music for the violin. **Sonata Representativa** was written in 1669 and most likely inspired by notated bird songs from scientist Athanasius Kircher's book, *Musurgia universalis* (1650). Employed as a court musician and composer, many of Biber's works are more serious in nature. However, this piece is extraordinarily humorous and imaginative for its time!

Baybirds is comprised of calls from birds that can be found in and around Green Bay and the Fox River in Wisconsin. The piece is divided into three sections, with light hummingbird themes to separate them. The opening lays out the calls as one might hear them near the water. Then the first hummingbird comes and whisks us away into a swirl of calls, where they are developed and extended with a few added birds. The next hummingbird transition is a dance between two hummingbirds, which releases us back into the clear-cut calls like the beginning. I commissioned this piece from composer, Jaclyn Breeze, for this recital, with the generous support of the SNC Norman Miller Center for Peace, Justice and Public Understanding. Today's performance will be the premiere.

The Lark Ascending

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) was an English composer who infused English folksong into his works. He spent years collecting English folk songs; wandering from village to village with paper and pencil in hand, hanging out at pubs and notating songs from locals. He was inspired to write *The Lark Ascending* after reading English poet George Meredith's work (of the same name), which vividly describes the English countryside, its people, and the flight of the lark. He inscribed the selected lines from the poem on the score:

He rises and begins to round,
He drops the silver chain of sound,
Of many links without a break,
In chirrup, whistle, slur, and shake.

For singing till his heaven fills,
'Tis love of earth that he instills,
And ever winging up and up,
Our valley is his golden cup,
And he the wine which overflows,
To lift us with him as he goes.

Till lost on his aerial rings,
In light, and then the fancy sings.

George Meredith (1828-1909)

Farewell Feathered Friends No.2, for solo violin and audio track, was written in the Fall of 2020, commissioned by Marcel en Tineke Creemers and dedicated to violinist Edwin Blankenstijn. The composition was inspired by a dialogue for solo violin and the call of seven different endangered birds in the Netherlands. Pitch, melody and rhythm of birdsong are the leitmotifs. The audio contains the seven bird songs blended with the sound of electronic and sampled instruments.

1. golden plover, *pluvialis apricaria*
2. ortolan, *emberiza hortulana*
3. great gray shrike, *lanius excubitor*
4. hop, *humulus lupulus*
5. eurasian wryneck, *jynx torquilla*
6. short-eared owl, *asio flammeus*
7. black-crowned night heron, *nycticorax nycticorax*

The Swan is the most famous movement from Camille Saint-Saëns' work for orchestra, *Carnival of the Animals*. Originally and famously written for cello, I'm offering a violin version of this graceful piece.

I'm pairing Saint-Saëns' work with Heitor Villa-Lobos' work, **The Song of the Black Swan**. This pairs a swirling piano gesture with a melody played completely on the G string of the violin, for a veiled and mysterious atmosphere.

The recital closes with the fun and zippy encore piece, **The Hot Canary**. Inspired by the Russian polka piece, "Le Canari," Paul Nero composed his version in 1948. Paul Nero (1917-1958) was an accomplished violinist, graduating from the Curtis Institute of Music and performing with the Pittsburgh Symphony, with a great interest in jazz as well. The most famous recording of *The Hot Canary* was in 1951 by violinist Florian ZaBach, which is the version I'm performing today.

