

collaborative music-making and creative programming at national conferences for both the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and the College Music Society (CMS), as well as in New York, Virginia, Michigan, and Ohio.

Cowden is a passionate advocate for new music, and has premiered many new chamber works as soloist and with colleagues around the country, and most recently in Thailand. Recent projects include the commissioning of the song cycle Vegetable Verselets from composer Daron Aric Hagen, and Confronting Inertia, a recording of new works for trumpet and piano with John Adler, released by Origin Classical. She was honored with the Albert L. Sturm Award for Excellence in the Creative Arts in 2014.

A Michigan native, Cowden has previously served as a faculty member at Ohio Wesleyan University, Kalamazoo College and Hope College. She received the D.M.A. and M.M. degrees in piano accompanying and chamber music from the Eastman School of Music, and a B.M. degree in piano performance from Western Michigan University.

**TABATHA EASLEY** is Assistant Professor of Flute at Virginia Commonwealth University and is also the Director of Richmond Flute Fest. Currently performing with the Richmond and Virginia Symphonies, Ms. Easley has also served as principal flutist of the Charlottesville Symphony, played regularly with the Buffalo Philharmonic and Lancaster Symphony Orchestras, and was a member of the Fairbanks Symphony and Arctic Chamber Orchestras in Alaska.

Having concertized and given masterclasses across the U.S., South America, Scandinavia and Japan, she has also been a soloist with the Fairbanks Symphony, Astoria Sinfonia in New York, the Cole Conservatory of Music Orchestra, Orange County High School for the Performing Arts Orchestra, Virginia Commonwealth University Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and the Orchestra "EAFIT" in Medellín, Colombia.

Active in several professional organizations, Ms. Easley is the competition coordinator for the National Flute Association's Collegiate Flute Choir Competition. College Music Society International Conferences have taken her to Finland, Sweden and Argentina. She has also performed at the Society of Composers Inc. National Conference, the International Double Reed Society Conference in Japan, and the National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors National Conference. Additionally, she serves on the Board of the Flute Society of Washington and was program chair for the MidAtlantic Flute Fair in 2009.

Ms. Easley holds a doctoral degree from the Eastman School of Music, the first Alaskan to do so. Other degrees include California State University at Long Beach (M.A.) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (B. Music Education and Performance). Former teachers include Bonita Boyd, Michael Parloff, Martha Aarons, Dr. John Barcellona, and Dorli McWayne. For more information, visit [tabathaeasley.com](http://tabathaeasley.com).

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## DEPARTMENT OF **MUSIC**

### FACULTY RECITAL

## **TABATHA EASLEY**

### FLUTE

## **TRACY COWDEN**

### PIANO

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 | 8 PM

Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall  
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts  
922 Park Avenue | Richmond, Virginia

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VCU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

## FACULTY RECITAL Tabatha Easley, flute

with Tracy Cowden, piano

Air de Ballet Op. 30.....Cecil Chaminade (1857-1944)

Narcissus for Solo Flute and Digital Delay.....Thea Musgrave (b. 1928)  
Justin Alexander, digital delay

The Dreams of Birds for Alto Flute and Piano.....Jenni Brandon (b.1977)

Sonata in A minor Op. 34 .....Amy Beach (1867-1944)  
Allegro moderato Trans. Alexa Still  
Scherzo

Bittersweet Music I.....Bun Ching Lam (b.1954)

Mountain and Mesa.....Katherine Hoover (b. 1939)  
Hungarian Lassu  
Dizi Dance

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### Narcissus Synopsis

Narcissus wanders through the forest, observing, enjoying...unselfconscious but self-absorbed. He sees a pool of water and then as he approaches notices his reflection in the water. He is intrigued and then jumps back in fright. Once more he approaches... it is still there.

Narcissus steps away from the pool to consider this phenomenon. Several times he approaches, the figure is always there watching him.

In the shimmering sunlight Narcissus seems to see this glorious and attractive being moving in the rippling water. He is dazzled and slowly holds out his arms. To his amazement the figure responds. In awe and wonder Narcissus approaches closer and closer. With a sudden change of mood Narcissus dances happily and playfully...the figure echoing him. But then Narcissus begins to question anxiously the lack of any independent response...is he being mocked? He gets more and more agitated and finally in a fury he rushes headlong into the water to grapple with the figure. The waves surge up and Narcissus is drowned.

There is a distant shimmering vision of Narcissus and his reflection. Then in the setting sun the vision disappears, the forest is empty and the pool lies undisturbed.

*Thea Musgrave*

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Tracy Cowden**, associate professor of piano and vocal coach at Virginia Tech, has appeared as soloist with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Southwest Virginia, the Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra, and the Virginia Tech Symphonic Wind Ensemble. As a collaborative pianist, Cowden frequently performs with a diverse array of soloists and chamber ensembles, including recent concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's principal flutist Mathieu Dufour, clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein, tenor Vinson Cole, and soprano Elizabeth Futral as well as performances at the 2012 College Music Society National Conference and at the 2012 International Trumpet Guild. Cowden has previously performed with The Great Noise Ensemble, the Cavani Quartet, the Audubon Quartet, and the Carpe Diem String Quartet, and is a frequent performer at the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival.

Cowden is the chair of the music program in the School of Performing Arts | Music | Theatre | Cinema at Virginia Tech, where she has been honored for her work as a teacher with a Certificate of Teaching Excellence from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Her students have been accepted into graduate programs at the Eastman School of Music, the University of South Carolina, and the University of North Carolina Greensboro, and current student Travis Whaley was accepted into the 2014 International Bach Competition in Leipzig, Germany. Also active as a clinician and lecturer, she has presented master classes and workshops on topics related to