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Concert recording 2021-10-21

Ronda Mains

Theresa Delaplain

Lia Uribe

Dominic K. Na

Robert Mueller 1958-

See next page for additional authors

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Performer(s)

Ronda Mains; Theresa Delaplain; Lia Uribe; Dominic K. Na; Robert Mueller 1958-; and University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Razorbones



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Fulbright College
of Arts & Sciences

ACCENT

FACULTY PERFORMANCE SERIES

CHAMBER MUSIC OF ROBERT K. MUELLER

Ronda Mains, flute
Theresa Delaplain, oboe
Lia Uribe, bassoon
Dominic K. Na, cello
Robert Mueller, piano

CONCERT PROGRAM

La Pointe au Portail (2002)

Theresa Delaplain, oboe
Dominic K. Na, cello
Robert Mueller, piano

Deserted Paths (2014)

1. ...to the hayfields
2. ... to the mountains
3. ...to the old cemetery

Ronda Mains, flute
Theresa Delaplain, oboe
Robert Mueller, piano

Mantra (1999)

Theresa Delaplain, oboe
Robert Mueller, piano

Rhapsodies and Interludes (2012)

Ronda Mains, flute
Theresa Delaplain, oboe
Lia Uribe, bassoon

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COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

ROBERT MUELLER conducts the University Symphony Orchestra and teaches music composition and music theory.

Dr. Mueller grew up in Michigan and attended Northern Michigan University, where he received the Outstanding Pianist Award upon graduation. He has also received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from NMU, and was invited back to be composer-in-residence in 2004. He earned the Master of Music in Composition degree from Bowling Green State University, where he studied composition with Marilyn Shrude. At Bowling Green, he also did extensive studies in orchestral conducting with Grzegorz Nowak, who is now the Principal Associate Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London. Dr. Mueller received a DMA in Composition at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where his teachers were Joel Hoffman, Allan Sapp, Jonathan Kramer, Frederic Rzewski, and Earle Brown.

Dr. Mueller been composer-in-residence for the Fort Smith Symphony three times, and his music has been

performed nationwide by several orchestra including the Cincinnati, Omaha, Fort Smith, Lansing, Arkansas, and North Arkansas Symphonies. He has received numerous commissions, has been widely published, and has produced a chamber music CD entitled "Time Labyrinths." He is also Pianist with the Fort Smith Symphony

A number of music festivals have programmed his music, including the Bowling Green New Music and Art Festival, the Music Festival of Arkansas, the Southwest Contemporary Music Festival, and conferences of the Society of Composers, International Double Reed Society, and College Music Society. He was selected to be composer-in-residence for Missouri State University's Annual Composition Festival in March 2009. Dr. Mueller has been the recipient of 25 consecutive awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. He has also been awarded an American Music Center grant, an individual artist grant from the Arkansas Arts Council, prizes from the Omaha, Lansing, Jackson and Cincinnati Symphonies, and numerous other awards.

PROGRAM NOTES

La Pointe au Portail tells a story of The Grand Portal (la pointe au portail) is a natural arch rock formation on the shore of Lake Superior within the great escarpment of the Pictured Rocks National Lake-shore. Before 1900, its span of over 100 feet was large enough to allow ships to sail underneath it. A mighty crash in 1900, which could be heard 100 miles away, limited the scope of the natural arch, but the formation maintains its grandeur. The music of this trio portrays the effects of wind and waves upon the Grand Portal, including a musical representation of a geological collapse.

Deserted Paths was commissioned by the Green Lake Trio, and was premiered at the 2014 National Flute Convention in Chicago. Each of the three movements represents hiking on a deserted path to different destinations. The first movement, entitled "...to the hayfield," opens with an extended flute solo. The second, "...to the mountains," features the oboe, while the finale, "...to the old cemetery," opens with just piano but soon continues with all three instruments on the path.

Mantra employs a repeating four note rising figure that permeates the entire piece. Thus the 'mantra' in this case is a primal sound, that serves as a building block to all that follows, melodically and harmonically. Spatial notation is utilized throughout, with some improvisatory passages included. The final result should be a peaceful stasis that evolves gradually into a sequence of emotional outbursts but that then subsides into an altered version of the opening mantra - a return to contentment with just a tinge of regret.

Rhapsodies and Interludes was commissioned by Lia Uribe. Composed in 2012, this trio for flute, oboe and bassoon incorporates a continuously evolving dreamlike figure that alternates with contrasting interludes. The three instruments provide a variety of textures: monophonic, homophonic and polyphonic, often morphing from one to another in rapid succession. At first, the contrasts between ideas are stark, but eventually the rhapsodies and the interludes merge into one idea, with the opening three note motive (C#, B, D) never far away.

ROBERT K. MUELLER ARTIST STATEMENT

I endeavor my music to be the expression of human emotion, from excitement to ecstasy, from sadness to shame, from joy to rejection, and a myriad of other feelings that are part of our human experience.

Writing almost exclusively in acoustic media, I am energized by the countless possibilities of structural, harmonic, melodic, timbral, and rhythmic sounds that can be utilized to reveal sentiments and passions (without pandering to the basest of emotions), but always with an ear to satisfying logical development and conclusion. Works that I have created for public performance include large orchestral or wind ensemble pieces, chamber music, and works for solo instruments.

It is my hope that the performers and listeners will connect with my music in a visceral way. Do they hear a melody and identify with its haunting quality? Does a chord progression "strike a chord" within their own hearts? Does a certain orchestration evince a particular mood? The great poet William Wordsworth said, "Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart." I strive through my music to communicate the essence of human expression, from the breathings of my own heart to those of the listener.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

OCTOBER

- THU 28 RAZORBONES Concert**
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public
- THU 28 University Chamber Orchestra**
7:30 pm, Pryor Center | 1 East Center Street
free tickets required
- Fri 29 Accent Faculty Performance Series**
Er-Gene Kahng (violin)
Hyun Kim (piano)
5:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public
- Sun 31 Guest Artist Concert**
Duo Trachoir
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public

NOVEMBER

- Mon 1 Halbert Horn Studio Recital**
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public
- Tue 2 UA Tuba Euphonium Quartets**
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public
- THU 4 Opera Theatre Presents**
Fri 5 "Speed Dating Tonight!"
7:30 pm, Faulkner Performing Arts Center
free tickets required
- Sun 7 Guest Artist Concert:**
Wild Prairie Winds
1:00 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public

*Ushering and stage management for this concert provided by
Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha.*

GIVING AND SUPPORT

Our musical offerings are supported by contributions from alumni, friends, and generous benefactors. If you enjoy our concerts, please consider giving to support our continued efforts. Giving is simple and can be made through the University system by visiting www.onlinegiving.uark.edu. Simply designate the Department of Music for your gift, choose an amount, and fill out the online submission or call Fulbright Development at (479) 575-4272. Your gifts will help the Department better our students through scholarships, performance, and the best in instruction.

The University of Arkansas, Department of Music is housed in the Billingsley Music Building and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Through generous support from alumni and friends, the Department of Music became an All-Steinway School in 2010. The University of Arkansas is the third SEC school to gain the distinction and one of only 150 universities worldwide with the honor.

Department faculty and students perform over 600 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center with intimate chamber and solo concerts primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall. Additionally, students and faculty perform throughout the region, including the Pryor Center for the Arkansas Oral and Visual History.

For more information, find us on social media or contact us at (479) 575-4701, email us at music@uark.edu, or visit music.uark.edu.