

The D'Angelo Department of Music
at
Mercyhurst University

presents

Faculty Recital

The Presque Isle Saxophone Quartet

Allen Zurcher – Soprano Saxophone

Joel Hunt – Alto Saxophone

Rebecca Wunch – Tenor Saxophone

Scott Meier- Baritone Saxophone

Walker Recital Hall

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

8:00pm



MERCYHURST
UNIVERSITY

D'ANGELO DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

www.mercyhurst.edu/music

PROGRAM

Afro-Cuban Concerto for woodwind quintet (2006) Valerie Coleman (b. 1970)
Adapted for saxophone quartet by Allen Zurcher

- I. Afro*
- II. Vocalise*
- III. Danza*

Libertango (1974)

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
Arr. for woodwind quartet by Jeff Scott
Arr. for saxophone quartet by Allen Zurcher

Peach (2012)

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

Wapango (1994)

Paquito D’Rivera (b. 1948)

Diffusion for Saxophone Quartet (2009)

Gordon Goodwin (b. 1954)

- I. Allegro*
- II. Waltz*
- III. Swing*
- IV. Hop Hop*

The use of recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please turn off and stow all electronic devices. Thank you.

Biographies

Joel Hunt is a music theorist, composer, and performer with interests ranging from jazz and pop to interactive electroacoustic and algorithmic computer music. Dr. Hunt's research interests include jazz & pop theory, history of electronic music, computational analysis, American modernism, and sketch studies. His scholarship focuses on the evolution of compositional process in the music of Henry Brant, incorporating analysis of Brant's sketches, text manuscripts, and correspondence. Dr. Hunt's recent creative output includes computer music, audio-visual installations, music for modular synthesizer, and interactive-electroacoustic music. Dr. Hunt is also an accomplished jazz saxophonist and band leader.

Scott Meier began his studies at the University of Wyoming, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in music education. After seven years of teaching instrumental and choral music in the Arizona public schools, he earned his Master of Music in woodwind doubling at the University of Redlands in Redlands, California where he studied saxophone and conducting with Eddie R. Smith. Later, during his doctoral work at The Florida State University he studied conducting with James Croft, Rodney Eichenberger, and Andre Thomas. Meier is currently an Associate Professor of Music Education in the D'Angelo Department of Music. He teaches applied saxophone, conducts the wind and jazz ensembles, teaches music education and technology courses, and is conducting research in multimedia education and the transfer of learning. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he serves as the coordinator for the annual Tri-State Music Festival and has served on the Board of Directors for JazzErie. Meier also plays professionally with several local ensembles including the Presque Isle Saxophone Quartet (as a founding member), the Misery Bay Big Band, the Presque Isle Jazz Orchestra, and The Cleveland Winds.

Originally from Erie, Pennsylvania, **Rebecca Wunch** received her undergraduate degree at Duquesne University where she studied clarinet performance with Ron Samuels, second chair of the Pittsburgh Symphony. At the same time, she studied piano with Sr. Carole Riley, Ph.D. and saxophone with world renowned performer, James Houlik. Subsequently, she received a dual Master's degree from Bowling Green University in Music Theory and Performance, and while attending graduate school had a teaching assistantship in Music Theory/Aural Skills. As a performer, she has played in various venues, such as the Nutcracker with the Toledo Ballet Company, a composer's series at Carnegie Hall, numerous performances with the woodwind trio Reed'm & Weep, and solo performances with the Mercyhurst Orchestra. As an educator, Rebecca developed the curriculum for the Perseus House Charter School of Excellence Middle School music program, where she previously taught. Currently, she serves as the Mary A. Spadafor Endowed Chair of Music in the D'Angelo Department of Music, where she teaches music theory, aural skills, and clarinet, while also coaching the clarinet choir and saxophone quartet. In

addition, she serves as the director of the Sullivan Conservatory of Music at Mercyhurst, which provides private music lessons to children and adults in the Erie area. In addition to Mercyhurst, Rebecca gives private lessons to area music students through the conservatory, plays for the Westminster Presbyterian church services and choir, and performs with the Misery Bay Big Band and Presque Isle Sax Quartet.

Allen Zurcher has a wide and varied musical experience in his more than thirty-five years as a professional musician, composer, arranger and educator; including holding teaching positions in saxophone and jazz studies at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA and Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA, where he was the program director for the Bill Evans jazz festival. Dr. Zurcher has been a saxophonist with the Erie Philharmonic and the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra as well as Music Dir. and bandleader for Premier and Princess Cruise Lines. He has performed with notable musicians and entertainers such as The Manhattan Transfer, Bryan Lynch, Conrad Herwig, Clark Terry, Don Menza, Vic Damone, and Diane Carroll. Allen can be heard on recordings *Waiting in the Alley* (2001) with Andy Nevala, *For the Last Time* (2001) with the University of Northern Colorado Jazz Lab I, and *Armed and Dangerous* (2008) with One World Tribe. In addition he maintains an active career as a performer and clinician in the PA, Ohio, and NY tristate area. Dr. Zurcher currently teaches jazz history, world music, and form and analysis at Mercyhurst University.

Upcoming Events Spring 2024

Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra

Sunday, March 24, 4 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Dr. Gary Viebranz, director

Dr. Nathan Hess, piano soloist, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*

Ticketed event: Adults: \$8.50 | MU Students, Employees, and 12 and under: \$5.00. Each ticket is subject to a \$1.50 service fee.

Faculty Recital Series

Wednesday, April 10, 8 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Amanda Sage, flute

Free and open to the public, livestreamed.

Roche Guest Artist Series

Monday, April 22, 8 p.m. (Masterclass, Tuesday, April 23, 12:45pm)

Kent Brass Quintet

Walker Recital Hall

Made possible by the generosity of the Terry and Margaret M. Roche Family.

Free and open to the public, livestreamed

For a full list of department performances, including links to livestreamed performances, visit our [Concerts and Events](http://www.mercyhurst.edu/music) page at www.mercyhurst.edu/music.