

The D'Angelo Department of Music
at
Mercyhurst University

Presents

Faculty Collage

Featuring

Hannah Bossinger, soprano
Albert Glinsky, composer
Nathan Hess, piano
Scott Meier, shakuhachi
Jonathan Nolan, guitar
Gary Viebranz, cimbasso

Walker Recital Hall
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
8:00pm



MERCYHURST
UNIVERSITY

D'ANGELO DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

www.mercyhurst.edu/music

PROGRAM

from *Suite populaire brésilienne* (1948-54)

Heitor Villa-Lobos
(1887-1959)

I. *Mazurka-Chôro*

II. *Schottisch-Chôro*

III. *Gavotta-Chôro*

Jonathan Nolan, guitar

An Improvisation in Response to a Haiku

Scott Meier
(b. 1966)

Dr. Scott Meier, shakuhachi

“In quelle trine morbide” from *Manon Lescaut*

Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

Hannah Bossinger, soprano

Dr. Nathan Hess, piano

Concerto for Contrabass Trombone (2021)
with digital accompaniment

Brian Sadler
(b. 1982)

Dr. Gary Viebranz, cimbasso

~~10-minute Intermission~~

Audiovisual Introduction by composer Dr. Albert Glinsky of his *Isla del Encanto*

Isla del Encanto (Four Pictures of Puerto Rico)

Albert Glinsky
(b. 1952)

I. Fortress of the Tradewinds

II. Ancestral Sands

III. El Coqui

IV. La Danza de Allegra

Dr. Nathan Hess, piano

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

NOTES

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) was an Italian composer celebrated as the foremost master of Italian opera following Verdi. Born on December 22, 1858, in Lucca, Italy, he came from a family deeply rooted in musical tradition, with five generations providing organists and composers to the city's Cathedral of San Martino. Puccini became one of opera's greatest proponents of realism, and his mature works include *La Bohème* (1896), *Tosca* (1900), *Madama Butterfly* (1904), and *Turandot*, which he left incomplete at his death. His operas are renowned for their emotional intensity, memorable melodies, and dramatic storytelling, making him one of the most frequently performed opera composers worldwide. Puccini died on November 29, 1924, leaving behind a legacy that effectively concluded the golden age of Italian opera.

"In quelle trine morbide" is a soprano aria from Puccini's opera *Manon Lescaut*, which premiered at the Teatro Regio in Turin on February 1, 1893, and was Puccini's third opera and his first great success. This poignant aria occurs in Act II when Manon reflects on her conflicted feelings about her luxurious new life with the wealthy Geronte. The piece expresses Manon's emotional turmoil as she contrasts the cold, silent opulence of her gilded surroundings with the warmth and passion of her humble past life with her true love, Des Grieux. The aria is a powerful moment of introspection that reveals the character's inner conflict between material comfort and genuine love. It remains one of the most beloved soprano arias in the operatic repertoire, showcasing Puccini's gift for creating deeply emotional and melodically beautiful music that captures complex human emotions.

The aria is characterized by its lyrical, flowing melodic line that perfectly captures Manon's wistful nostalgia and emotional vulnerability. Puccini employs his signature technique of matching music seamlessly to dramatic content—the vocal line mirrors the character's introspective mood with a sense of longing and melancholy. The orchestration is delicate and transparent, creating an intimate atmosphere that contrasts with the cold luxury Manon describes in her text. The harmonic language is rich and chromatic, typical of Puccini's style, with subtle dissonances that underscore the character's inner conflict.

The aria also reflects the transition between Romanticism and the verismo style that Puccini was helping to define. The emotional directness, focus on the character's psychological state, and the emphasis

on genuine human feeling over grand heroic gestures all point toward the realistic, emotionally immediate style that would define his mature works. The piece requires considerable vocal control and expressive nuance from the soprano, demanding both technical precision and profound emotional interpretation.

In quelle trine morbide ... nell'alcova dorata v'è un silenzio gelido, mortal, v'è un silenzio, un freddo che m'agghiaccia! Ed io che m'ero avvezza a una carezza voluttuosa di labbra ardenti e d'infuocate braccia or ho tutt'altra cosa! O mia dimora umile, tu mi ritorni innanzi gaia, isolata, bianca come un sogno gentile di pace e d'amor!	In those soft lace ... in the golden alcove there is a silence frosty, mortal, there is a silence, a cold that chills me! And I was used to it to a caress voluptuous of burning lips and fiery arms or I have another thing! O my humble home, you come back to me gay, isolated, white like a kind dream of peace and of love!
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Brian Sadler's *Concerto for Contrabass Trombone* is a single movement work in three sections. Written during the Covid-19 pandemic at the request of Eric High, Associate Professor of Music at St. Norbert College, the piece is one of several in Sadler's "quarantine collection." Owing to the isolation of that time, the piece is accompanied by a digitized orchestral soundtrack written in an epic, cinematic style. While conceived originally for the slide contrabass trombone, the work is equally suited to the cimbasso, a valved version of the instrument that has gained popularity and notoriety among film composers and low brass players in recent years.

The concerto is in D minor and is developed from two contrasting ideas presented in an expository section. The primary theme is diatonic and is characterized by a three note ascending figure that grows and transforms throughout the concerto. The contrasting motive is a powerful statement of half notes drawn from the harmonic vocabulary of the work. As the opening section of the piece draws to a close, these half notes gradually resolve to a single sustained note while the accompaniment continues in an unrelenting manner.

The B section, while not a development in the classical sense, is certainly developmental. The themes are intertwined and manipulated, in order to

showcase the versatility of both the performer and the instrument. The interplay between the soloist and the soundtrack offers a dark and intense tapestry of sound, capturing the imagination. Midway through this excursion, there is an unexpected shift to Bb minor. The piece becomes tumultuous, increasing in harmonic and rhythmic dissonance before finding its way back to a restatement of the opening theme in the new key. The section cadences solidly in Bb and fades to silence, setting the stage for a solo cadenza. At its conclusion, the digital orchestra enters subtly, almost imperceptibly, before the work erupts violently with a fortissimo statement of the original half note motive, the soloist joining in. This begins the coda and the piece makes its return to the original D minor, reiterating the finality with a series of pedal tones on the tonic, bringing the work to its conclusion.

Brian Sadler (b. 1982) is a Musician First Class and trombonist/arranger in the US Navy Fleet Bands. He graduated from Pocono Mountain High School in Swiftwater, PA in 2001 and a few months later enlisted in the US Navy as a musician. Currently, he is the Arranging Instructor at the Naval School of Music in Virginia Beach, VA. During his 19 years of Naval service, Brian has composed and arranged more than 200 pieces for concert band, brass ensemble, brass quintet, woodwind quintet, jazz big band, and marching band. After his first 5-year enlistment, Brian studied music composition at Arizona State University and returned to the Navy before he could graduate, later finishing his BA in music through Charter Oak State College.

BIOGRAPHIES

Hannah Bossinger holds dual bachelor's degrees in 2023 from Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania in Vocal Performance and Music Education in the studios of Dr. Anne Bentz, Susan Foster, and William Ambert. She went on to serve as the Director of Music Education at Butler Catholic School for two years. In this role she taught PreK-8 general music and directed the all-school musical each spring. After taking a year off from her personal schooling Bossinger continued her education at Youngstown State University, where she received a Master of Music in Music Education in 2025 in the studio of Dr. Charles Dugan. Bossinger is Instructor of Voice in the D'Angelo Department of Music at Mercyhurst University. She teaches voice lessons, vocal techniques, and opera workshop. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she serves on the show board for Musical Theater Guild, a community theater in Butler, Pennsylvania, and is the

lead singer of Big Bad Scary, touring Western Pennsylvania.

Albert Glinsky is Emeritus Professor of Music at Mercyhurst University. Currently he directs the Bachelor of Music in Composition degree program at the D'Angelo Department of Music and teaches private studio composition lessons and the Composers Workshop seminar class. His music has been heard at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, the Aspen Music Festival, Wolf Trapp, in Europe and the Far East, and has been commissioned and premiered by such organizations as the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, the Cavani, Oregon, and Biava String Quarters, the Boys Choir of Harlem, the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society, the Erie Philharmonic, and the conductors Walter Hendl, Eiji Oue, and Ignat Solzhenitsyn. His dance works have been showcased by companies across the US and in Canada, including a three-season international tour of his ballet, *Flights*, with the Joffrey II Company. His music is recorded on the RCA Red Seal, Koch International Classics, Centaur, BMG Catalyst, and Leonore labels, and is published by C.F. Peters, E.C. Schirmer, Hinshaw Press, and American Composers Edition.

Among his awards are grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is the author of two books: *Theremin: Ether Music and Espionage* (winner of the 2001 ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award), and *Switched On: Bob Moog and the Synthesizer Revolution*, with a foreword by Francis Ford Coppola. Dr. Glinsky has appear on the Discovery Channel, the A&E Network, CBS Sunday Morning, the Science Channel, History Detectives, National Public Radio, Canada's CBC network, and England's BBC Radio, among others. He has served on the faculty of Montclair State University, and was BMI Composer-in-Residence at Vanderbilt University. His principal composition studies were with Joan Tower and David Diamond, and he holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School, and a Ph.D. from New York University. He is a member of the American Composers Alliance, Broadcast Music Inc., and the Author's Guild.

Nathan Hess has soloed with the Manassas Symphony Orchestra, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Chamber Orchestra, Western New York Chamber Orchestra, and York Symphony Orchestra, among others. Recent guest recital appearances and masterclasses have included the American Liszt Society Festival; the Americas Society in New York City; College Music Society Northeast Regional Conference; the Second Sunday Recital

Series in Binghamton, NY; Southwest String Quartet in Tucson, AZ; Bowling Green State University; Duke University; University of Wisconsin Eau Claire; West Chester University; Morgan State University; Randolph College; Duquesne University; the Steinway Society of Western Pennsylvania; and the High School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Pittsburgh. Dr. Hess holds the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the Bachelor of Music degree from James Madison University, summa cum laude, where he was named a Presser Scholar. He has performed in chamber music settings with members of orchestras, such as the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, and Buffalo Philharmonic. Dr. Hess also acts as an orchestral pianist with the Erie Philharmonic. For five years, Dr. Hess chaired the Piano program at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts in Erie, teaching piano to some of the state's most talented pre-college students. He performed in and produced a set of recordings for the textbook *Harmony in Context*, published by McGraw-Hill and written by Miguel Roig-Francoli. In addition to teaching and performing, Dr. Hess is active in the Music Teachers National Association as president of the local Erie chapter, and he adjudicates frequently throughout the region and East Coast. Dr. Hess is a professor of piano in the D'Angelo Department of Music at Mercyhurst, where he coordinates the piano area, the Faculty Recital Series, and the Roche Guest Artists Series. In 2018, he received an award for excellence in faculty scholarship. For nine summers, he taught on the faculty at Rocky Ridge Music Center in Estes Park, Colorado. In Summer 2025, he taught on the faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp. He can be heard on the Centaur label in recordings with flutist Susan Royal and of Bach arias produced by the International Trumpet Guild.

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. 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.

Jonathan Nolan, a graduate of the D'Angelo Department of Music holds a degree in Music Education and a Master's in special education. Along with his passion for classical guitar, Jonathan has played across the country playing Irish folk music, rock, jazz and blues. Since graduating from Mercyhurst, Jonathan has been a music teacher in Erie's Public Schools for over 20 years. During this time, he has been recognized and received grants from PMEA, The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, Little Kids Rock, the D'Addario Foundation and the NAMM Foundation. Mr. Nolan was honored in 2019 with a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for his continuous work with the Wilson Middle School band program. That same year, he was awarded the Imagine Award from Erie Arts & Culture for his contributions to arts and culture education. Jonathan has also toured Irish festivals with The Mulligans for over fifteen years. Outside of music, Jonathan is an avid runner and cross-country coach.

Gary Viebranz is an adjunct faculty member in the D'Angelo School of Music where he conducts the Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra and teaches applied lessons in tuba & euphonium. He holds the honor of Teaching Professor Emeritus of Music at Penn State where he served as the Director of Instrumental Ensembles for twenty-five years at the Behrend campus in Erie.

Previously, Dr. Viebranz was on the faculty at Hiram College and taught music in the school districts of Brooklyn, OH and Wellington, OH. He has performed, taught, and conducted extensively throughout North America with various orchestras, brass ensembles, and other groups as wide-ranging as the Disneyland All-American Marching Band, the New Sousa Band, Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians, and the Keystone Bavarians. Dr. Viebranz remains active as a performer as a current member of the Bayfront Brass Quintet and the Bayfront Dixieland Band. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, the College Orchestra Directors Association, the College Band Directors National Association, the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Bandmasters Association, Chamber

Music America, and the American Federation of Musicians. He has conducted numerous honors ensembles nationwide at the district and regional level and has been a contributing writer to the journal *PMEA News*. He also serves as the local coordinator for Erie's Tuba Christmas celebration, held annually each December.

Dr. Viebranz was graduated from The Ohio State University with the Bachelor of Music Education degree, *cum laude*. He received the Master of Music degrees in tuba performance and conducting, as well as the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

Upcoming Events Fall 2025

MERCYHURST CIVIC ORCHESTRA*

Directed by Dr. Gary Viebranz

Sunday, Oct. 19, 4:00pm

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

This is a ticketed event. No livestream. See prices below.

ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES

Jay Villella, trumpet

Robert Frankenberg, piano

Performance: Monday, Oct. 20, 8:00pm

Masterclass: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 12:15-1:45pm (no livestream)

Walker Recital Hall

This event is livestreamed and free and open to the public.

JUNIOR RECITAL

Eden Dolanc, piano

Saturday, November 8, 4:00pm

Walker Recital Hall

This event is livestreamed and free and open to the public.

SENIOR RECITAL

Aidan Moore, clarinet

Sunday, November 16, 4:00pm

Walker Recital Hall

This event is livestreamed and free and open to the public.

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES

Performers TBA

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00pm

Walker Recital Hall

This event is livestreamed and free and open to the public.

D'ANGELO SMALL ENSEMBLES CONCERT

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00pm

Walker Recital Hall

This event is livestreamed and free and open to the public.

'TIS THE SEASON

Collaboration between the Jazz Ensemble and the Dance Department

Dr. Scott Meier, Jazz Ensemble, and Noelle Partusch, dance dept. chair

Friday, December 5, 7:00pm

Saturday, December 6, 11:00am and 7:00pm

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Ticketed event: please see miac.universitytickets.com

CHRISTMAS GALA*

Lessons and Carols

Concert Choir and Chamber Choir

Dr. Christopher Petit, Director of Choirs

Sunday, December 7, 3:00-4:00pm

Christ the King Chapel

Donations accepted at the Chapel door

Holiday Concert Celebration*

Wind Ensemble and Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra

Dr. Scott Meier, Wind Ensemble, and Dr. Gary Viebranz, MCO

Sunday, December 7, 4:30pm

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

*Adults: \$10; MU Students, Employees and 12 and under: \$5. Each order is subject to a \$2.50 per ticket processing fee, regardless of purchase or payment method.

For a full list of department performances, visit our **Concerts and Events page at www.mercyhurst.edu/music.**

THE D'ANGELO DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

provides an exceptional music education and is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. Through its dedicated faculty, the department provides students with long-lasting, professional mentorships that lead to unique, individual opportunities tailored to each individual's specific career goals. Hands-on experience is essential to being successful in any field, and all students gain abundant performance experience through large and small ensembles, a weekly student recital hour, and a solo recital as their Senior Capstone. The Department produces more than 60 student, faculty, and guest performances throughout each academic year.

The D'Angelo Department of Music offers five highly regarded music degrees: **BA in Music, BM in Music Education, BM in Performance, BM in Music Therapy, BM in Composition.**

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