

The D'Angelo Department of Music
at
Mercyhurst University

Presents

Faculty Collage

Featuring

Dr. Nathan Hess, piano
Dr. Scott Meier, saxophone
Kent Tucker, trombone
Rebecca Wunch, clarinet and saxophone

Walker Recital Hall
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
8:00pm



www.mercyhurst.edu/music

PROGRAM

Aria

Eugène Bozza (1905-1991)

Scott Meier, alto saxophone
Nathan Hess, piano

Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra, K. 622 W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

I. *Allegro*

Rebecca Wunch, clarinet
Nathan Hess, piano

Dialogue for Two Saxophones

Fisher Tull (1934-1994)

I. With freedom

II. Playfully

Rebecca Wunch, tenor saxophone
Scott Meier, alto saxophone

Sonata for Trombone and Piano

Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

I. *Allegro maestoso*

II. *Adagio*

III. *Allegro giocoso*

Kent Tucker, trombone
Nathan Hess, piano

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

BIOGRAPHIES

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. He currently teaches summers at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. 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.

Kent Tucker is an adjunct faculty member at Mercyhurst University, where he serves as the trombone instructor and director of the Brass Ensemble. He also teaches the courses *Music in Society* and *Brass Techniques*. Additionally, Kent serves as the trombone and euphonium instructor at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Along with the college level, Kent works extensively as a music educator at the elementary-high school level. He founded and directed a successful band program at Villa Maria Elementary in Erie for eighteen years. Currently he leads two instrumental band programs in the Erie Catholic School System. In addition, Kent serves as the Brass Coach for the Erie Junior Philharmonic. Low brass students from his private studio have earned many regional and state honors.

Kent performs frequently throughout the tri-state region as a professional trombonist. He has performed with the Erie Philharmonic, the Erie Chamber Orchestra, the Lake Erie Ballet Orchestra, the Bemus Bay Pops Orchestra, Presque Isle Pro Musica, 7th and Sass Brass, the trombone quartet *Let it Slide*, and numerous other ensembles. Kent performs often at churches as a soloist and brass ensemble musician.

As a jazz artist he has performed with the Misery Bay Big Band, the Dave Stevens Big Band, the Presque Isle Jazz Orchestra, the Dixie Doodlers, the Bayfront Dixieland Jazz Band, Sack of Bones, and many others. For several years, Kent served as a jazz coach at the Chautauqua

Summer Music Camp. He is a founding member of the horn section in the award-winning Erie band, The Groove.

Originally from Erie, Pennsylvania, **Rebecca L. Wunch** is a clarinetist, saxophonist, pianist, and music educator. She earned a Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance with minors in piano and saxophone from Duquesne University, where she studied clarinet with Ron Samuels of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, piano with Sr. Carole Riley, Ph.D., and saxophone with world-renowned performer James Houlik. She later received a Master of Music in Music Theory with a dual concentration in clarinet performance from Bowling Green State University, where she also served as a teaching assistant in Music Theory and Aural Skills.

Ms. Wunch currently serves as the Mary A. Spadafor Endowed Chair of Music and Department Chair in the D'Angelo Department of Music at Mercyhurst University. She teaches music theory, aural skills, and clarinet, and coaches the clarinet choir and saxophone quartet. She also directs the Sullivan Conservatory of Music at Mercyhurst, which provides private music instruction for children and adults in the Erie area. Earlier in her career, she developed the curriculum for the middle school music program at the Perseus House Charter School of Excellence.

An active performer, Ms. Wunch has appeared in a variety of ensembles and venues, including performances with the Erie Chamber Orchestra, the woodwind trio Reed'm & Weep, and as a featured soloist with the Mercyhurst Orchestra. She performs regularly with the Presque Isle Sax Quartet and the Misery Bay Big Band, and serves as pianist and organist for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Erie. Her performance work has also included orchestral and theater productions such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, the Broadway Production of *Chicago*, and *Cirque Musica*.

Upcoming Events Spring 2026

Civic Orchestra

Sunday, March 22, 4 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Dr. Gary Viebranz, director

Ticketed event:

Adults: \$10 | MU Students, Employees, and 12 and under: \$5.00. Each ticket is subject to a \$2.50 service fee

Roche Guest Artists Series

Monday, March 23, 8 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Singularity Saxophone Quartet

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

Free and open to the public, livestreamed

Roche Guest Artists Masterclass

Tuesday, March 24, 12:45-1:45 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Singularity Saxophone Quartet

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

Free and open to the public, no livestream.

Faculty Recital Series

Wednesday, April 8, 8 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Dr. Scott Meier, saxophone, and Saxophone Alumni

Free and open to the public, livestreamed

Jazz Ensemble

Saturday, April 25, 7 p.m.

Taylor Little Theatre

Dr. Scott Meier, director

Ticketed event:

Adults: \$10 | MU Students, Employees, and 12 and under: \$5.00. Each ticket is subject to a \$2.50 service fee

Roche Guest Artists Series

Monday, April 27, 8 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Katherine Jolly, soprano; Erika Switzer, piano

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

Free and open to the public, livestreamed

Roche Artists Masterclass

Tuesday, April 28, 12:45-1:45 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Katherine Jolly, soprano

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

Free and open to the public, no livestream

Concert Choir

Friday, May 1, 7 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Dr. Christopher Petit, director

Ticketed event:

Adults: \$10 | MU Students, Employees, and 12 and under: \$5.00. Each ticket is subject to a \$2.50 service fee.

Composers Concert

Sunday, May 3, 4 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Dr. Albert Glinsky, director

Free and open to the public, livestreamed

Small Ensembles Concert

Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

Free and open to the public, livestreamed

Wind Ensemble

Saturday, May 9, 7 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Dr. Scott Meier, director

Ticketed event:

Adults: \$10 | MU Students, Employees, and 12 and under: \$5.00. Each ticket is subject to a \$2.50 service fee

Civic Orchestra, Concerto/Aria Winners Concert

Sunday, May 10, 4 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Dr. Gary Viebranz, director

Ticketed event:

Adults: \$10 | MU Students, Employees, and 12 and under: \$5.00. Each ticket is subject to a \$2.50 service fee

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

THE D'ANGELO DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

provides an exceptional music education at the undergraduate level. 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. Mercyhurst University is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

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, and BM in Composition.**

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