

The D'Angelo Department of Music
at
Mercyhurst University

Presents

Faculty Recital Series:
Chamber Music Featuring Recent
Alumni

Maria Caram '19, soprano
Paul Caram '22, piano
Aidan Moore '26, clarinet
Kirk Morrison '23, trumpet
and
Rebecca Wunch, clarinet
Dr. Nathan Hess, piano

Walker Recital Hall
Wednesday, October 14, 2026
8:00pm



www.mercyhurst.edu/music

PROGRAM

Concerto for Trumpet in E-flat Major Johann Nepomuk Hummel
(1778-1837)

I. *Allegro con spirito*

Kirk Morrison, trumpet
Nathan Hess, piano

Sonata for Two Clarinets

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

I. *Presto*

II. *Andante*

III. *Vif*

Rebecca Wunch, clarinet I
Aidan Moore, clarinet II

from Billy the Kid, excerpts from the ballet

Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

II. In a Frontier Town

a. Cowboys with Lassos

b. Mexican Dance and Finale

III. Billy and His Sweetheart

Paul Caram, piano I
Nathan Hess, piano II

Concerto for Trumpet in F Minor, Op. 18

Oskar Böhme
(1870-1938)

II. *Adagio festivo*

Kirk Morrison, trumpet
Nathan Hess, piano

Into the Night

Clara Edwards
(1880-1974)

Home from *Phantom*

Maury Yeston
(b. 1945)

Maria Caram, soprano
Paul Caram, piano

Views of the Blues

Gordon Lewin
(1921-2008)

I. Slow Blues Tempo

II. Slow Blues Tempo

III. Introduction—Slow Blues Tempo; Fast Swing Tempo

Rebecca Wunch, clarinet I
Aidan Moore, clarinet II

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

BIOGRAPHIES

Maria Caram is a performer, vocalist, and voice teacher with a passion for music, theater, dance, and storytelling. She graduated from Mercyhurst University in 2019 with a unique degree in Creative Writing for Entertainment, a program that combined vocal performance with English and creative writing.

During her time at Mercyhurst, Maria was an active member of the D'Angelo Opera Theater, where she performed the roles of the Doll in *The Tales of Hoffmann* and Monica in *The Medium*. With more than 17 years of experience in dance, she choreographed many pieces in the operas and theater program. In 2019, Maria won the Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Following graduation, Maria pursued a professional performance career at Walt Disney World, where she was honored with first place in Disney's Night of Stars. She now shares her passion for music as a vocal coach at Accurate Performance School of Music, where she works with over twenty individual students. She also serves as a cantor at St. Francis

Xavier Church over the past five years and continues to support the theater and dance departments at Mercyhurst Preparatory School. She is especially excited to continue this next chapter of her life as a newlywed and to share the stage with her husband and college sweetheart.

Paul Caram is an accomplished pianist, vocalist, and music educator based in the Erie area. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Mercyhurst University, where he spent four years as the accompanist for both the Chamber and Concert Choirs. With over twenty years of experience at the piano, he was awarded first place in the senior division of the Erie Music Teachers Association competition in 2019 and won the Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra Concerto Competition in 2020. More recently, he accompanied for a masterclass led by Broadway star Ashley Brown.

As a collaborative artist, Paul has served as a staff accompanist for the Erie Philharmonic's Junior Chorus since its founding in 2019. He frequently accompanies PMEA festivals and the Gannon University Choir, and regularly plays organ and piano at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. Equally versatile as a vocalist, Paul has competed at both the state and national levels, including performing backup vocals for Broadway legends Patti LuPone and Kristin Chenoweth.

Passionate about music education, Paul directs the instrumental music program at Strong Vincent Middle School, where he has successfully grown the band program to over 120 students. Outside of his musical endeavors, he is an avid traveler who has accomplished the rare goal of visiting all 50 states. In his free time he enjoys skiing, swimming, and playing board games. Paul is enjoying being newly married to his wife Maria.

Aidan Moore is a graduate of Mercyhurst University holding a Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a concentration in clarinet. He is currently working as a full-time substitute teacher at Grandview Elementary School teaching general music, chorus, and band. While at Mercyhurst, Aidan studied clarinet with department chair, Rebecca Wunch. He also served as Mercyhurst's NAFME chapter president for two years, leading and organizing multiple events during his tenure. In 2025, Aidan received second place in the Mercyhurst Concerto and Aria Competition, performing the first movement of Carl Maria Von Weber's *Clarinet Concerto No.2 Op. 74*.

Aidan was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, where he currently resides. He enjoys playing in a variety of ensembles including the Gem City Jazz Band, Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra, and in the band Hidden Treasures, a tribute to Earth, Wind, and Fire. Aidan has also played freelance gigs with a number of groups including The Groove and the Misery Bay Big Band. In his spare time, Aidan enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and playing video games.

Kirk Morrison is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he earned a Master of Music degree in Trumpet Performance & Literature with a Performer's Certificate in 2025. Before attending Eastman, he earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree from Mercyhurst University in 2023. His primary teachers include Andrew McCandless, Wes Nance, Micah Wilkinson, and Jacob Malec.

Kirk currently serves as Principal Trumpet of the Canton Symphony Orchestra in Canton, Ohio. Following a successful audition, he will join the trumpet section of the West Point Band in 2027, one of the U.S. military's eleven premier ensembles. He has also performed with ensembles including the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, New World Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Syracuse Orchestra, and Erie Philharmonic.

Kirk resides in Buffalo, NY, with his partner, Willow, a fellow graduate of Mercyhurst University's music program, and their dog, Kooper. Outside of music, he enjoys coffee, dining out, spending time with friends and family, and running marathons.

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, and currently he teaches summers at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. He is the organist/pianist at Fairview Presbyterian Church in Fairview, PA. Dr. Hess can be heard on the Centaur label in recordings with flutist Susan Royal and of Bach arias produced by the International Trumpet Guild.

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 Fall 2026

ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES

Kevin Sun Lee, piano

Wallis Lucas, soprano

Maddie Kolenc, alto flute

Performance: Monday, Oct. 19, 8:00pm (livestream)

Masterclass: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 12:45-1:45pm (no livestream)

Walker Recital Hall

ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES

PA250: Our Jazz Story

Performance: Sunday, Nov. 1, 6 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Masterclass: Monday, Nov. 2, 10:00am, Marchant Ensemble Room

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

Celebrating jazz and Pennsylvania's role in American history. Presented by the PA Jazz Alliance Inc. in partnership with Pennsylvania, Creative Industries, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Roche Guest Artists Series. Performed by the Keystone Jazz Orchestra; directed by Maestro Marko Marcinko.

SENIOR RECITALS

Saturday, Nov. 14 1 p.m., Eden Dolanc, piano

Sunday, Nov. 15 1 p.m., Susan Vera, voice

Walker Recital Hall

These events are livestreamed and free and open to the public.

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES

Saxophone quartet: Dr. Meier, saxophone, and Alumni Saxophonists:
Caden Gilson, Rebekah Peyton, and Dennis Whalen
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 8 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall

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

SENIOR RECITALS

Saturday, Nov. 21 4 p.m., Zachary Yeager, voice

7 p.m., Mckenzie Rowland, voice

Sunday, Nov. 22 4 p.m., Matthew Lenehan, French horn

7 p.m., Shane Dexter, voice

Walker Recital Hall

These events are livestreamed and free and open to the public.

D'ANGELO SMALL ENSEMBLES CONCERT

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7:00pm

Walker Recital Hall

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

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

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