

The D'Angelo Department of Music
at
Mercyhurst University

presents

Faculty Recital

Sarah Steranka, flute
Sarah Kahl, piano
Gary Viebranz, tuba

Walker Recital Hall

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
8:00pm



www.mercyhurst.edu/music

PROGRAM

La Flûte de Pan, Op. 15
I. Pan et les bergers
II. Pan et les oiseaux
III. Pan et les nymphes

Jules Mouquet (1867-1946)

Sequenza I for flute solo

Luciano Berio (1925-2003)

The Elephant and the Fly, Op. 520

Henri Kling (1842-1918)

Featuring Gary Viebranz, tuba

-- Intermission --

Concertino for Flute and Piano, Op. 107 Cecile Chaminade (1857-1944)

Sonata No.1 for Flute and Piano
I. Allegro assai
II. Lento e molto espressivo
III. Presto

Samuel Zyman (b.1956)

Sarah Steranka, flute
Sarah Kahl, piano

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

NOTES

Winner of the 1896 Prix de Rome, **Jules Mouquet** was both a student and, later in his career, a professor at Paris Conservatory. His work ***La Flute de Pan*** paints three pastorate portraits of Pan, the Greek god of shepherds, hunters, and wilds. Mouquet utilizes short poems as inspiration for each movement.

The first movement shows us Pan living in the mountains with shepherds, and is preceded by the following short poem: *Oh Pan living in the mountain, for us with your sweet lips sing a song, sing it for us accompanied by the shepherd's pipe.*

The second movement depicts Pan playing the flute amongst the birds: *Seated in the shade of this lonely wood, oh Pan, how can you draw from your pipe such lovely sounds?*

Preceding the third movement is a quotation from Plato: *Silence, shady oaken glades! Silence, fountains sprouting from the rocks! Silence, sheep bleating near your young! Pan himself sings with his harmonious pipe, he has placed his moist lips on the set of reeds. Lightly treading around him, the water Nymphs and wood Nymphs dance together.*

Luciano Berio's *Sequenza for Solo Flute* was the first of fourteen compositions written by the composer for solo instruments over the course of his life. Written in 1958 for flutist Severino Gazzelloni, Berio utilizes this composition to explore and push the boundaries of the flute and flutist's technical virtuosity. It was a groundbreaking twentieth-century work which explores the instrument's full potential.

Henri Kling's musical career was quite varied. A hornist and an educator of French nationality, Kling was also a conductor, organist, academic writer, as well as a composer. He worked as a solo hornist in Geneva for two decades, following which he resigned from the orchestra to dedicate more time to composition, writing, and instructional work at the Geneva Conservatoire. ***The Elephant and the Fly*** combines an unlikely combination of instruments in what is perhaps Kling's most whimsical work.

Cecile Chaminade was born in 1857 to a musical family. Georges Bizet was a family friend who encouraged her early in her development as a pianist and composer, saying to her parents that she should be allowed to attend the Paris Conservatory. Her father was vehemently opposed; however, she did study privately with many of the institution's professors, most notably M.G.A. Savard, Felix Le Couppey, and Benjamin Godard. She became a prolific composer of piano repertoire and art song and a lauded concert pianist across Europe and the United States, going on to become the first female recipient of the Legion d'Honneur in 1913.

Chaminade composed her **Concertino for Flute and Piano** in 1902 as an examination piece for the students of Paul Taffanel at the Paris Conservatory and dedicated it to him. The work opens with a descending scale in the piano and a lyrical, expansive melody in the flute, quickly allowing the opportunity for both players to showcase technical mastery of Chaminade's many runs. A flute cadenza precedes the final statement of the theme, and an animated coda ends the work.

Mexican-born composer **Samuel Zyman** has been on faculty at the Juilliard School since 1987, and his works have been performed all over the world. He wrote his **Sonata No. 1 for Flute and Piano** in 1993 for flutist Marisa Canales and pianist Ana Maria Tradatti who premiered it Mexico City. The US premiere later took place in Chicago at the NFA National Flute Convention.

The first movement is marked by an intense and restless motive, charging ahead amidst contrapuntal interaction between the flute and piano. The second movement contrasts with an introspective calm, beginning with flute alone playing a theme inspired by Gregorian chant. Zyman describes the last movement of his work as "a nearly reckless run forward", interrupted only briefly by a restatement of the second movement's opening motif.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sarah Steranka enjoys a multifaceted career as a recitalist, chamber musician, and advocate for new and experimental music. She has presented programs of new music at numerous conferences, both as a soloist and as a member of the internationally recognized new music collective SydeBoob Duo. Her most recent performances include the 2023 SPLICE Festival V, the 2021 SCI National Student Conference, the 2020 Mid-Atlantic Flute Festival, and Music on the Edge's *Beyond Microtonal Music Festival*. Her recordings of solo and chamber works have been published by Sound Silence Thought and Albany Records.

In addition to maintaining a private studio of 30+ students through the Steranka Flute Studio LLC, Steranka maintains faculty positions at Carnegie Mellon and Mercyhurst Universities. She has also appeared as a guest artist and lecturer at Lawrence University, Penn State University, Duke University, West Virginia University's International Flute Symposium, and Columbus State University. Steranka's instructional work has also included teaching actors to play the flute for film roles.

Steranka holds a master's degree from Duquesne University and a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University. Her principal teachers were Jennifer Steele, Alberto Almarza, and Jeanne Baxtresser.

Sarah Kahl is the accompanist for the Erie Philharmonic Chorus (EPC), Erie Junior Philharmonic Chorus (EJPC) and Erie Philharmonic Youth Chorale (EPYC). She also serves as the group piano instructor for both the EJPC and EPYC. Kahl has extensive background in piano pedagogy and has taught piano and multi-level classes in the group piano setting at universities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Pennsylvania. She also serves as a collaborative pianist at Mercyhurst University. Kahl is an active performer in the Erie area where she performs with established musicians and students alike. In addition to her performance roles, she is the Music Coordinator at Church of the Cross in Fairview, PA, and operates a private piano studio.

Kahl received her DMA in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Kansas where she studied with Jack Winerock. She received her Master's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Nebraska where she studied with Paul Barnes and pedagogy with Brenda Wristen. She received her Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota and studied under David Worth.

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

ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES

Ron Samuels, clarinet

Rodrigo Ojeda, piano

Marylene Gingras-Roy, viola

Monday, Sept. 15, 8:00pm, performance

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 12:45-1:45pm, public masterclass (no livestream)

Walker Recital Hall

The performance is livestreamed and free and open to the public.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE*

Directed by Dr. Scott Meier

Saturday, September 27, 7:00pm

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

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

WIND ENSEMBLE*

Directed by Dr. Scott Meier

Sunday, Oct. 5, 4:00pm

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

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

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES

Faculty Collage

Wednesday, October 15, 8:00pm

Walker Recital Hall

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

MERCYHURST CIVIC ORCHESTRA*

Directed by Dr. Gary Vievbranz

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

Performer(s) TBA

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.

*General admission \$8.50; Mercyhurst students, faculty, & 12 & under \$5.
Each ticket is subject to a \$1.50 service fee.

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.**

www.mercyhurst.edu/music dangelomusic@mercyhurst.edu 814-824-2394

You can help the D'Angelo Department of Music fund equipment purchases and touring opportunities for our ensembles by scanning the QR code here.

