

36<sup>th</sup> SEASON

THE ROCHE  
**GUEST  
ARTISTS**  
series



## Singularity

Chris Sacco, soprano & alto saxophones

Nicholas Childs, alto saxophone

Scott Phillips, tenor saxophone

Bryan McNamara, baritone saxophone

Monday, Mar. 23, 2026 • 8 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall



**MERCYHURST**  
UNIVERSITY

D'ANGELO DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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Quartette (Allegro de Concert)

Caryl Florio (1843-1920)

Premier Quatour, Op. 53

Jean-Baptiste Singelée (1812-1875)

*Andante / Allegro*

*Adagio sostenuto*

*Allegro vivace*

*Allegretto*

extended circular music no. 7

Jürg Frey (b. 1953)

ChuckKim

Kadisha Onalbayeva (b. 1972)

Chris Sacco, alto saxophone

Saxophone Quartet

Philip Glass (b. 1937)

♪ = 116

♪ = 144

♪ = 104

♪ = 144

# Tonight's Program

Our program this evening juxtaposes old and new, or at least new-ish. We begin with two early gems of the saxophone quartet repertoire. Caryl Florio, the pseudonymous name of the English-born American composer William James Robjohn, penned a joyful and light piece in his *Quartette* from 1879. The Belgian composer Jean-Baptiste Singelée was a dear friend of our instrument's inventor and namesake Adolphe Sax. Singelée's four movement chamber piece from 1857 is acknowledged as one of the earliest-known compositions for this instrumentation, composed just over a decade after Sax patented his most famous creation.

We pivot to modernity on Jürg Frey's subdued and meditative composition extended circular music no. 7, written in 2014. Frey, a member of the Wandelweiser collective, establishes an atmosphere of spontaneity and serendipity by inviting the performers to recite and repeat their very quiet lines independent of each other. Our soprano saxophonist Chris Sacco will switch to alto for his rendition of *ChucKim* by the Kazakhstani composer Kadisha Onalbayeva. We close our program with the titanic and beloved quartet by Philip Glass. This minimalist masterwork explores both the homogeneity and soloistic capabilities of our four voices. We offer this performance in tribute to the intrepid Raschèr Saxophone Quartet, commissioners and dedicatees of this and so many more amazing compositions for our medium. And finally, thank you so much for sharing in this experience with us this evening.

# About the Musicians

**Singularity** is a saxophone quartet dedicated to building relationships through live performance, combining thoughtful interpretation with an honest presentation of the close friendship these four share. The quartet frequently collaborates with MERGE Art Collective, performing alongside deaf visual poet Douglas Ridloff at venues throughout New York, including the Whitney Museum, the Jewish Museum, and Nuyorican Poet's Cafe. Singularity is currently developing DRIFT / LOOP, a 24-hour performance and recording project with Metropolis Ensemble and composer Paula Matthusen.

Singularity has been presented by Metropolis Ensemble, Nonesuch Records, and New Amsterdam Records (Brooklyn), Florida State University (Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall), Title Pending (Spectrum NYC), Music at St. Patrick (Palm Beach Gardens), Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Ethos New Music Society (SUNY Fredonia), and the Roche Guest Artist Series (Mercyhurst University). The quartet has performed in opera pits with New York City Opera and The Princeton Festival, and has led educational presentations throughout the U.S. Singularity is a proud member of the Silverstein Works Pro Team. Singularity is the grateful recipient of two Ensemble Forward grants from Chamber Music America. The first, earned in 2020, allowed them to develop projects and programs with guidance from the brilliant clarinetist David Krakauer. The second, conveyed in 2022, contributed to an EP recording produced by Grammy-winner Ryan Truesdell and engineered by the amazing team at Oktaven Audio. CMA's Ensemble Forward program is made possible with generous support from the New York Community Trust.

Singularity is proud to be joined by Dr. Nicholas Childs on alto saxophone for this evening's performance.

Photo credit: Cole Belt, 2019



Welcome to the 36<sup>th</sup> season of the  
Roche Guest Artists Series!

# THE ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES

Since its founding in 1988, the Roche Guest Artists Series has introduced local audiences to a unique mix of acclaimed traditional soloists and chamber ensembles, along with specialized performers and lecturers in areas of contemporary music, jazz, Renaissance, Baroque, and world music. From international artists to young, emerging ensembles, the hallmark of the Series has always been the residency component in which each artist or ensemble augments their recital performance with an in-depth workshop relating to their area of specialization. I hope you will join me in meeting the artists and journeying into their interpretive world as they share some of the secrets of their art through master classes and presentations.



The Roche Series once again offers these great presentations FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, thanks to the GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE TERRY AND MARGARET M. ROCHE FAMILY.

Please join us tomorrow, Tuesday, March 24, for a masterclass, 12:45-1:45 p.m., in the Walker Recital Hall with Singularity. Our final Roche Series event of this academic year is soprano Katherine Jolly from Oberlin College Conservatory and pianist Erika Switzer on Monday, April 27, at 8 p.m.

For now, please sit back and relax, as we enjoy a fabulous evening of music with Singularity!

With best wishes,  
Dr. Nathan Hess  
Professor of Piano  
Director, Roche Guest Artists Series

The Roche Guest Artists Series is supported in part by a generous endowment from the Terry and Margaret M. Roche family. For more information on the endowment or to make a contribution to support the series, please contact Meaghan Hubert, Director of Annual Giving & Stewardship at **814-824-2379** or **[mhubert2@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:mhubert2@mercyhurst.edu)**.

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A special THANK YOU to all of those who have assisted in making the ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES, and tonight's concert, possible:

Dean Jodi Staniunas Hopper  
Lauren Esper  
Emily Hauff

Dr. Albert Glinsky  
Addie Sedelmyer  
Lynn Simile

Rebecca Wunch  
Patrick Magill

The D'Angelo Department of Music presents

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2026

## **ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS MASTERCLASS**

Tuesday, Mar. 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, Apr. 8, 8 p.m.  
Walker Recital Hall  
Dr. Scott Meier, saxophone, and Saxophone Alumni  
*Free and open to the public, livestreamed*

## **JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

Saturday, Apr. 25, 7 p.m.  
Taylor Little Theatre  
Dr. Scott Meier, director  
Ticketed event: see [miac.universitytickets.com](http://miac.universitytickets.com)  
Ticket Pricing\*

## **ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES**

Monday, Apr. 27, 8 p.m.  
Walker Recital Hall  
Katherine Jolly, soprano; Erika Switzer, piano  
Made possible by the generosity of the Terry and Margaret M. Roche Family  
*Free and open to the public, livestreamed*

## **ROCHE ARTISTS MASTERCLASS**

Tuesday, Apr. 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: see [miac.universitytickets.com](http://miac.universitytickets.com)  
Ticket Pricing\*

## **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: see [miac.universitytickets.com](http://miac.universitytickets.com)  
Ticket Pricing\*

## **CIVIC ORCHESTRA, CONCERTO/ARIA WINNERS CONCERT**

Sunday, May 10, 4 p.m.  
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center  
Dr. Gary Viebranz, director  
Ticketed event: see [miac.universitytickets.com](http://miac.universitytickets.com)  
Ticket Pricing\*

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

To purchase tickets please visit: [miac.universitytickets.com](http://miac.universitytickets.com).

For the most updated list of events please visit: [mercyhurst.edu/academics/music/concerts-events](http://mercyhurst.edu/academics/music/concerts-events).

\* 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 [\*\*mercyhurst.edu/music\*\*](https://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 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: **B.A. in Music, B.M. in Music Education, B.M. in Performance, B.M. in Music Therapy, B.M. in Composition.**

Contact us:

[\*\*mercyhurst.edu/music\*\*](https://mercyhurst.edu/music)

[\*\*dangelomusic@mercyhurst.edu\*\*](mailto: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 below.





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