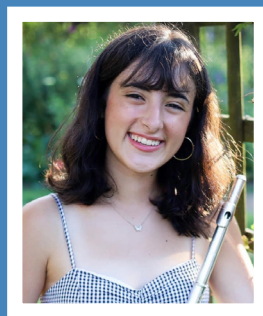
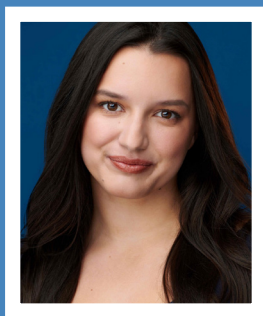
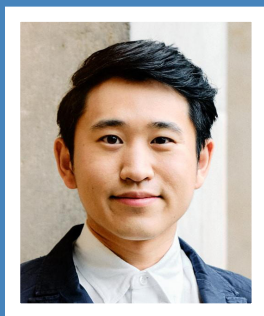


37th SEASON

THE ROCHE
**GUEST
ARTISTS**
series



Dr. Kevin Lee Sun, piano
Wallis Lucas, soprano
Madeline Kolenc, alto flute

Monday, October 19, 2026 • 8 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall



MERCYHURST
UNIVERSITY

D'ANGELO DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

PROGRAM

Death Poems (2025)

Daniel De Togni

for alto flute and piano

(1993–)

Madeline Kolenc, alto flute

Kevin Lee Sun, piano

Rain Study (1999)

Hyo-shin Na

for solo piano

(1959–)

Autumn Study (2023)

Hyo-shin Na

for solo piano

Kevin Lee Sun, piano

Songs of Becoming (2024) ^

Daniel De Togni

for soprano and piano

- I. As we grow, we bend
- II. I remember dreams of flying
- III. The lives of others
- IV. In between
- V. Something has been lost
- VI. Look to this day

Wallis Lucas, soprano

Kevin Lee Sun, piano

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

PROGRAM NOTES

This is a program centered around the difficulty, ephemerality, and cherishment of life. It presents the music of two living composers, Hyo-shin Na and Daniel De Togni, who are my friends and long-time collaborators. Over the years, both of them have been interested in concepts related to impermanence, and they have been inspired by poems and folk songs from a variety of cultures—Japanese, Korean, ancient Sanskrit, and Polish. Tonight's multicultural program, made possible by the artistry of my wonderful collaborators Maddie Kolenc and Wallis Lucas, allows us to reflect on the one inevitability of life—that it will end—and to feel the preciousness of each day. -Kevin Lee Sun

Daniel De Togni: Death Poems (2025)- This piece is inspired by poems concerning death. More specifically, Japanese haikus that act as *memento mori*, objects that remind us that we will

one day die. These poems contain images such as birds, flowers, mountains, and seasons, each reflecting the impermanence and ephemerality of our lives in different and yet profound ways. Throughout this piece, I seek to depict these images through sound, through percussive attacks, air being blown into an instrument and resonance. This piece was commissioned by Kevin Lee Sun, sponsored by Duquesne University. -Daniel De Togni

Hyo-shin Na: Rain Study (1999)- "When I was writing *Rain Study*, we had a solarium at the back of the house with glass walls and roof and, even though there was no heat, I used to sit there during winter rainstorms and listen to the rain sweeping over the room, amplified by the glass!"

In 1997, Hyo-shin Na began writing a series of studies for solo piano. *Rain Study (1999)* is the second of that series. The musical material

is based on a Korean folk song “Sanyombul,” whose words state: “The sun that sets will rise again tomorrow. A life that passes will never return.” In this study, Na focused on composing complex layers of music from the “Sanyombul” melody. The layering is most evident from the seeming independence of each hand, and from the frequent assignment of one hand to white keys and the other to black, requiring the pianist to superimpose the hands. These sometimes alternating, sometimes tightly juxtaposed, and sometimes concurring melodic materials and tone colors, unique to each hand, create the complex result.

For the pianist to execute the study’s first half, Na found standard musical notation lacking. She instead used “spacial” notation: as she explains, “where the pianist determines where each note should be played not by counting out beats, but by relating the spacing and flow of the sounding notes to their graphic appearance.” It is a daunting responsibility: anyone learning the piece must decide when and how to play the notes based on even just one millimeter of difference in note placement on the page. But this also provides flexibility. Na additionally writes, “in the first half of Rain Study, the pianist decides the dynamics. So each performance of the piece by a particular pianist can be different, and the piece will sound very different in the hands of different pianists.” -Kevin Lee Sun & Hyo-shin Na

Hyo-shin Na: Autumn Study (2023) Hyo-shin Na’s Autumn Study for piano solo was inspired by Anna Kamieńska’s poem *A Prayer That Will Be Answered*; also by the autumnal weather and light when she wrote the piece in the fall of 2023.

A Prayer That Will Be Answered by Anna Kamieńska

Lord let me suffer much
and then die

Let me walk through silence
and leave nothing behind not even fear

Make the world continue
let the ocean kiss the sand just as before

Let the grass stay green
so that the frogs can hide in it

So that someone can bury his face in it
and sob out his love

Make the day rise brightly
as if there were no more pain

And let my poem stand clear as a windowpane
bumped by a bumblebee’s head

Daniel De Togni: Songs of Becoming (2024)-

I began writing the text to this song cycle several years ago, as a way to engage with creativity outside of music. The text for most of these songs comes from fragmented poems that I have written over the years, a sort of stream-of-consciousness to parse out thoughts and feelings. These fragments discuss emotional issues such as burn out and depression (movements three, four and five).

Other topics in this cycle are reactions to things that I have witnessed in the past several years, living in places in the West Coast such as San Francisco. The desperate homelessness and how society deems those as underneath it is a tragedy. Some pieces, while not narratively about this specific topic, are inspired by it, such as movements three and four. These movements aim to depict those who remain in the public eye but are unseen and unheard, and yet yearn for it desperately: “Look at me... listen to me... in between compassion and violence we are touched” (IV. In between). Perhaps there is something in these sentiments that we can all, at some level, relate to: the desire to be heard, seen, felt and understood.

Other themes addressed in this cycle include personal growth (movement one) and how it can be a difficult and painful process, as well as the motif of dreams (movements two and three). Dreams are discussed in a literal way, noticing occurrences in dreams that remind us that we are dreaming, but also as a way to escape the present through images/fantasies in our minds (daydreaming).

Ultimately, this song cycle is about growth and transformation. This is the one through-line of our lives, and how one changes as a person in response to the myriad of our own experiences, both positive and negative.

This cycle ends with a musical setting of the poem *Look to this day*, an ancient Sanskrit poem. This song was composed before the other movements. The poems selected from my own collection, and the music accompanying them, were cultivated in direction to this final movement. This poem offers a remedy to the many issues addressed in previous movements: to look to the present and find solace in the now, an understanding that our lives are short and should be cherished. -Daniel De Togni

About the Musicians

Dr. Kevin Lee Sun is Assistant Professor of Piano and Keyboard Area Coordinator at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. With “probing seriousness” (*Performing Arts Monterey Bay*) and “a stunningly beautiful palette of colors” (*Peninsula Reviews*), Sun interprets music old and new.

In 2011, Sun won the Silver Medal at the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition in California for his performances of the classical canon. In 2021, he was the sole pianist to be named Finalist of the Berlin Prize for Young Artists in Germany. His debut solo album *Rzewski: The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* was released in 2024 by the Navona Records label.

In Fall 2026, throughout the United States, Sun performs *LOOK TO THIS DAY*, a concert program contemplating the difficulty, ephemerality, and cherishment of life. The program presents music by living composers Hyo-shin Na and Daniel De Togni—solo piano works, and collaborative works for shakuhachi or soprano and piano.

A California native, Sun holds degrees from Stanford University, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and the Eastman School of Music. He also attended Stanford Medical School for three years. With his diverse educational background, Sun has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles about psychiatry, student mentorship, and Platonic philosophy.

Sun is a devoted pedagogue. His students at Duquesne have achieved numerous successes in international competitions, festival appearances, conference acceptances, and job placements.

Wallis Lucas is a dynamic soprano and passionate advocate for new works. Recent workshop and premiere credits include performances with Pittsburgh Opera (*Time to Act*), the New Hazlett Theatre (*Agnus Teaches Acting*), the Banff Centre for Performing Arts (*RUR: a torrent of light; The Book of Tales*), as well as Jordan Holloway’s *Chamber Symphony no. 1* and Ryan Onestak’s *Incarnation Suite* with the CMU Philharmonic.

As her career has begun to unfold, Wallis’s path is underscored by her passion for both historically-informed baroque performance and development of new music and theatre. While studying and performing the works of Händel, Vivaldi, and Bach internationally, she also completed an Advanced Studies certificate at Carnegie Mellon University, where she worked with voice, orchestra, and composition faculty to develop and premiere new chamber and orchestral pieces.

Over the past two seasons, Wallis has appeared with Pittsburgh Opera, Resonance Works, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Opera Project Columbus, Opera de Metro, Thousand Bridges Opera, and Stafford Opera Troupe. Recent roles performed include The Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*), Marietta DuBois (*Naughty Marietta*) Albina (*La donna del lago*), Elle (*La voix humaine*), Lucy (*The Telephone*), Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Barbarina (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Last season, she received an Encouragement Award at the district level of the Metropolitan Opera Competition.

Wallis holds a Bachelor of Music from Furman University and a Master’s from Carnegie Mellon University. A Georgia native, Wallis was a state champion 2-baton twirler three years in a row.

Madeline Kolenc is a flutist based in Pittsburgh, PA. She is a current sophomore at Duquesne University studying music performance under Pittsburgh Symphony flutist Jennifer Steele.

Maddie is an active orchestral, chamber, and freelance musician in the Pittsburgh area. She is a member of the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra, Duquesne Wind Symphony, and the Duquesne flute choir. She has also performed in many masterclasses for a variety of artists, including Amanda Harberg, Alberto Almarza, Naomi Seidman, Soo-Kyung Park, and Marina Piccinini.

Outside of performing, Maddie is an advocate for young orchestral musicians and is a current assistant manager for the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra.

Welcome to the 37th 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, October 20, for a masterclass, 12:45-1:45pm, in the Walker Recital Hall with Dr. Kevin Lee Sun and Wallis Lucas. Admission is free and open to the public.

For now, please sit back and relax, as we enjoy a fabulous evening of music with Kevin Lee Sun, Wallis Lucas, and Madeline Kolenc.

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.

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
Lynn Simile

Rebecca Wunch
Patrick Magill

The D'Angelo Department of Music presents

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall 2026

ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES

Kevin Sun Lee, piano
Wallis Lucas, soprano
Maddie Kolenc, alto flute
Masterclass: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 12:45 p.m.
(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

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 RECITAL

Eden Dolanc, piano
Saturday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall
This event is livestreamed and free and open to the public.

Susan Vera, voice
Sunday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall
This event is 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 Lenahan, 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 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall
This event is livestreamed and free and open to the public.

THE NUTCRACKER with the Jazz Ensemble and Dance Department

Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
Collaboration of the D'Angelo Jazz Ensemble; Dr. Scott Meier, director; and the Mercyhurst Dance Department, Noelle Partusch, chair.
This is a ticketed event.

CHRISTMAS GALA

Concert Choir
Sunday, Dec. 6, 3-4 p.m.
Lessons and Carols
Christ the King Chapel
Directed by Dr. Christopher Petit
Donations accepted at the Chapel door

Wind Ensemble and Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra

Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
Directed by Dr. Scott Meier and Dr. Michael Dolan.
This is a ticketed event.

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

To purchase tickets please visit: miac.mercyhurst.edu

For the most updated list of events please visit: mhur.st/concert/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.**

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 Composition.**

Contact us:

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 below.





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