

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents the

**43rd Contemporary Music Festival
Concert III**

Jessie Montgomery, *guest composer*

featuring

Richard Shuster, *guest pianist*

**The Madison Singers
Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director***

**JMU Wind Symphony
Christopher Cicconi, *director***

Tuesday, October 15, 2024
7:30 pm
Concert Hall



There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Program

from Symphony for Winds (2022)

Jonathan Leshnoff

1. Fast and Intense

JMU Wind Symphony

Christopher Cicconi, *director*

Lola Zaza (2019)

Casey Cangelosi

Casey Cangelosi, *percussion*

Study No. 1 (2023)

Jessie Montgomery

Olivia Miller, Jonathan Ramirez,
Grayson Creekmore, Casey Cangelosi, *percussion*

Dear Camerado (2023)

Daniel Curtis
Text by Walt Whitman

Mac Creswick, *tenor*

World Première

Winner of the 2023 JMU Choral Composition Competition

The Field of Dreams (2023)

Ingrid Stölzel
Poetry by J. van der Vat-Chromy

The Madison Singers

Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*

15-Minute Intermission

Program - *continued*

Disappearing Act (2024)

Margaret Brouwer

I. Allegro

II. Adagio

Susan Barber, *bassoon*

Diane Phoenix-Neal, *viola*

The Ice at the End of the World (2023)

Jason Haney

concerto for piano and orchestra (version for two pianos)

1. The Persistence of Water
2. Crystalline Aurora
3. Waking the Giant

Richard Shuster, Jason Haney, *piano*

Program Notes

To read the program notes, scan the QR code below:



This festival is made possible with the support of the JMU African, African American and Diaspora Center, College of Arts and Letters, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts Cultural Connections Residency Program.

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Biographies

Jessie Montgomery

Jessie Montgomery, Musical America's 2023 Composer of the Year, is a GRAMMY-winning, acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator whose music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of twenty-first century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as "turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life" (The Washington Post) and are performed regularly by leading orchestras and ensembles around the world. In July 2021, she began a three-year appointment as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Mead Composer-in-Residence.

Her growing body of work includes solo, chamber, vocal, and orchestral works, as well as collaborations with distinguished choreographers and dance companies. Recent highlights include *Hymn for Everyone* (2021), her first commission as Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, co-commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra and Music Academy of the West; *Five Freedom Songs*, a song cycle conceived with and written for Soprano Julia Bullock, for Sun Valley and Grand Teton Music Festivals, San Francisco, Kansas City, Boston and New Haven Symphony Orchestras, and the Virginia Arts Festival (2021); *I was waiting for the echo of a better day*, a site-specific collaboration with Bard SummerScape and Pam Tanowitz Dance (2021); *Shift, Change, Turn* (2019) commissioned by Orpheus and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; and *Banner* (2014), written to mark the 200th anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner" for The Sphinx Organization and the Joyce Foundation, and presented in its UK premiere at the 2021 BBC Proms.

Montgomery's impressive range of recent premieres also includes multiple concerti – *DIVIDED* (2022) for cellist Thomas Mesa and Sphinx Virtuosi, *Rounds* for pianist Awadagin Pratt (2021), and *L.E.S. Characters* for violist Masumi Per Rostad (2020); *BECAUSE* (2021), a theatrical work for the National Symphony Orchestra adapted from the book by Mo Willems and arranged by Jannina Norpoth; *I Have Something To Say* (2019), for chorus, children's chorus and orchestra with text by activist playwright Robbie McCauley for Cathedral Choral Society and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; and *Passacaglia* (2021), a flute quartet for The National Flute Association's 49th annual convention.

Highlights of her 2022-2023 season include the world premieres of orchestral works for violinist Joshua Bell; the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; a consortium led by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for New Music USA's Amplifying Voices program; a violin duo co-commissioned by CSO MusicNOW and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; and new settings of orchestral works by distinguished choreographer Donald Byrd for Nashville Ballet.

Future projects include a contribution to Alisa Weilerstein's *FRAGMENTS* project, a percussion quartet, an orchestral work for the New York Philharmonic, and her final commissions as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Mead Composer-in-Residence.

Montgomery has been recognized with many prestigious awards and fellowships, including the Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation. She is currently Artist in Residence at the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music, Composer in Residence at Bard College, and Professor of Violin and Composition at The New School, and, since 1999, has been affiliated with the Sphinx Organization in a variety of roles including

Biographies - *continued*

composer-in-residence for Sphinx Virtuosi, its professional touring ensemble. A founding member of PUBLIQuartet and a former member of the Catalyst Quartet, Montgomery holds degrees from the Juilliard School and New York University and is currently a doctoral candidate in music composition at Princeton University.

Richard Shuster

Richard Shuster is a versatile pianist and a dedicated pedagogue and mentor to a diverse class of piano students majoring in piano performance, piano pedagogy, music therapy, music education and liberal arts-music. His student-centered teaching integrates a natural approach to technique and focuses on injury prevention, sound/color production, and musical style. In addition to applied piano, Shuster teaches piano literature courses, chamber music, accompanying, and class piano. He also directs Hungarian Music, a 2-week study-abroad course in Budapest, Hungary. Shuster was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Grant to teach piano literature courses at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary in 2019.

Shuster is in demand as a guest teacher and adjudicator, and he is an active performer of a wide range of solo and chamber repertoire. He has performed the piano music of Gabriel Fauré extensively in the U.S. and abroad and was a featured performer at the Focus on Piano Literature: Gabriel Fauré conference at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. In addition to performing solo repertoire, Shuster is an accomplished chamber music performer and regularly collaborates on works large and small with accomplished musicians in the North Texas region. He has performed with a number of local established groups including Mount Vernon Music's Orchard Ensemble and with musicians of the Fort Worth Symphony on the Spectrum Chamber Music Society concert series.

He has served as guest teacher and adjudicator at a variety of institutions in the United States and abroad including the week-long Seattle Young Artists Music Festival. He spent one month teaching, performing, and leading curriculum development activities at St. Paul University Manila, Philippines as a Fulbright Specialist. He presented a session on the online pedagogy practicum of his hybrid piano pedagogy class at the Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum (GP3) in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has been a guest teacher at the Vienna International Piano Academy in Austria, Marco Polo Festival in Querceto, Italy, and Mukogawa Women's University in Hyogo, Japan. He has also traveled extensively throughout Taiwan serving as master class teacher and examiner for the International Piano Performance Examination Committee.

Shuster earned the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music in Piano Performance and Related Literature degrees from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and the Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Shuster was initiated as a National Arts Associate by Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity, an award recognizing his accomplishments as a distinguished educator and performing pianist.

JMU Wind Symphony Personnel

Flute/Piccolo

Vanessa Britton | Madison
Michael Discenza | Arlington
Megumi Kadarusman | Clifton
Jakob Knick | Alleghany
*#Rebecca Needham | Palm Bay, FL

Oboe

Cady Litteral | Sterling
*Will Slopnick | Norfolk
Lynette Salins | Fairfield

Bassoon

Charlie Andress | Ashburn
*David Kang | Chantilly

Clarinet

Robert Christianson | Stafford
Kelsey Davis | Harrisonburg
Jeanette Gilson | Chesapeake
Ian Graff | Virginia Beach
*#Geneva Maldonado | Bushkill, PA
Grace Trembl | York, PA
Leah White | Leesburg

Bass Clarinet/Contra

Preston Davis | Henrico
Cami Holmes | Alexandria

Alto Saxophone

Tyrique Payne | Colonial Heights
*Dylan Royal | Martinsville

Tenor Saxophone

David Barredo | Charlottesville

Baritone Saxophone

Tyler Huffstetler | Weyers Cave

*denotes principal/co-principal

#denotes graduate student

Trumpet

*Owen Brown | Charlottesville
Carter King | Richmond
Taylor Lowry | Forest
Max Parrish | Woodbridge
#Peyton Phaller | Zephyrhills, FL
Micah Wingfield | Harrisonburg

Horn

Alex Childs | Springfield
Will Rapp | Virginia Beach
*#Gray Smiley | Greenville, NC
*Jacob Taylor | South Riding

Trombone

CJ Brown | Fredericksburg
Quin Robinson | Warrenton
*Jack Waters | Forest

Bass Trombone

Peyton Barrett | Midland

Euphonium

Jake Cuppernull | Herndon
*Ben Fuller | Ashburn

Tuba

Andy Helvey | Alexandria
Jackson Lee | Waynesboro
*Henry Taylor | Culpeper

String Bass

Jack Choi | Nokesville

Percussion

Adelaide Hofmann | Lorton
Brian McDermott | Brookings, SD
Jonathan Ramirez | Manassas
*#Josh Sheppard | Powhatan
Kayden Taliaferro | Midlothian
Brian Willey | Fairfax

Piano

#Aleksandra Velgoshina | Moscow, Russia

The JMU Madison Singers

Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*
Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*
Colin Cossi, *graduate conductor*
Addison Walton, *graduate conductor*

Mac Creswick, Marlow Lewis, Kaylea Manners, Ciara Theisz, *TMS managers*

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Abby Wilson	Addison Walton	Garrett Gass	Colin Coss
Augusta Nafzinger	Ciara Theisz	Mac Creswick	Daniel Klein
Christina Santiago	Eva Pierce	Nick Gomez-Colon	Elijah Keyes
Kaylea Manners	Izzy Layman	Paolo Mancini	Habib Jaafar
Katy Lange	Mara McBane	Ricky Goodwyn	Ivan Godoy
Leah Brown	Kelly Donlan		Johnny Park
Marlow Lewis	Nicole Dudley		Michael Tsougranis
Natalie Carter	Olive Poole		Roman Leonard
Sophia Loadholtz	Rebecca Imbasciani		
Sophie Osmani			

JMU School of Music Statement of Community and Belonging

Difference in identity enriches our community, fosters artistic and intellectual growth, and is vital to creating thriving venues for expression in a global world. In addition to welcoming all individuals and perspectives regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, or citizenship status, we wish to make the following acknowledgements and affirmations, adapted from Americans for the Arts:

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result. We resolve to educate ourselves, keep vigilant watch, and act to bring an end to systemic oppression.
- Cultural equity--which embodies values, practices, and policies that ensure all people have access to, and are represented in, the arts--is critical to the sustained engagement of music in society.
- Acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of musicians in society can challenge inequities and encourage alternatives.



Music and You How you can make a difference!

Dear Patron,

Thank you for attending today's performance. The JMU School of Music educates the most talented students from around the world to shape the fabric of society. We are ecstatic to return to our stages to showcase the talent and hard work of our students and faculty.

Scholarship contributions help young musicians blossom into mature artists. With your support, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. If you are interested in supporting our students' passion and dedication, please consider contributing to the Music Scholarship Fund at James Madison University.

Name: _____
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Music General Scholarship Fund #15600

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