

# UArkMusic

## 2025-2026 Season

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### ABOUT MUSIC

The University of Arkansas is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Department of Music is housed within the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Department faculty and students perform over 400 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center that opened in 2015. Chamber and solo recitals are primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall.

For more information, find us on social media or contact us at (479) 575-4701, email us at **[music@uark.edu](mailto:music@uark.edu)**, or visit **[music.uark.edu](http://music.uark.edu)**.

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## 2025-2026 Season

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### MUSIC MONDAY CONCERT SERIES: FACULTY WOODWIND QUARTET

Cristina Ballatori, flute

Theresa Delaplain, oboe

Nophachai Cholthitchanta, clarinet

Melanie Ferrabone, bassoon

7:30 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2026

Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall

University of Arkansas

# PROGRAM

## Concertino

N. Tschemberdschi (1903-1948)

- I. Intrada
- II. Danza
- III. Adagio
- IV. Finale: Tema con Variazioni

## Music for Woodwind Quartet

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

- I. Very fast, rhythmic
- II. Moderately fast, light
- III. Moderately fast, accented
- IV. Slow, sustained
- V. Fast, playful

## Malai

Vanich Potavanich

Arr. Dilokkunanant, adapted Juan Gómez Torres

## Quatuor

Jean Francaix (1912-1997)

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Allegro molto

# PERSONNEL

**Cristina Ballatori** has performed across the United States, Europe, England, and Latin America as a recitalist, soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. Performance highlights include concerts in such venues as the Festivales Internacionales de Flautistas in Lima, Peru, World Flutes Festival in Mendoza, Argentina, Atelier Concert Series in Paris, France, and artist residencies in Spain, Costa Rica, and Mexico.

An active chamber musician, Ballatori is a member of the Semplice Duo with pianist Kevin Chance, and the Lyrique Quintette. Described by critics as “delightful performers” whose “music making was effortless and sparkling,” the Semplice Duo was formed with the goal of exposing a wide variety of audiences to the less frequently performed chamber music for flute and piano. Winners of the Notes at 9,000 Emerging Artist Series Competition in Colorado, the Semplice Duo has performed recitals and educational outreach concerts throughout the United States and abroad. Their debut album, *Night Surrendering to Dawn*, scheduled for release on the Centaur label in 2025, features a program of works for flute and piano by 21st Century composers Valerie Coleman, Amanda Harberg, and Samuel Zyman, along with two world-premiere recordings of works by Christian Ellenwood. Passionate about the performance of new music and music by women, Ballatori is a member of the Flute New Music Consortium and has commissioned and premiered works by Valerie Coleman, Reena Esmail, Cherise Liter, and Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda.

Ballatori regularly appears as a guest artist and has been a featured performer, clinician, and adjudicator at many festivals and conferences including those of the National Flute Association, Music Teachers National Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Band Directors Association, and Florida Flute Association among many others. Recent guest artist engagements include appearances for the Rochester Flute Association, Wisconsin Flute Festival, and the Southwestern Oklahoma State Flute Day. A passionate advocate for music education, Dr. Ballatori has presented workshops for the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation’s “Live! Music Now” program, and given master classes at universities and public schools throughout the United States and in Latin America.

A sought-after and dedicated teacher, Ballatori joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas in Fall 2024 as Assistant Professor of Flute and flutist with the Lyrique Quintette. She previously served as Associate Professor of Flute at both the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). At UTRGV, Ballatori was one of fifteen tenure track professors within the

sixteen University of Texas System schools to receive the Regents' Outstanding Award, a \$25,000 award recognizing extraordinary classroom performance and innovation in instruction. Her students have been named prize winners and finalists in local, state, regional, and national competitions, including those sponsored by the National Flute Association and Music Teachers National Association, and have been accepted into top summer festivals and graduate programs. Under Ballatori's direction, the UTRGV Flute Choir and Flautarra Ensemble enjoyed the university's first invitations to appear as featured performers at the National Flute Association Convention, Texas Music Educators Association Convention, and Texas Flute Festival. In 2022, the UW-W Flute Ensemble received the university's first invitation to perform at the National Flute Association Convention in over thirty years.

A winner of the National Flute Association's Graduate Research Competition, Ballatori's doctoral thesis, "Suite Paysanne Hongroise for Flute and Piano by Béla Bartók/Arr. Paul Arma: A Performer's Guide," was recognized for its outstanding contribution to flute research. Her articles have been published in *American Music Teacher*, *Flute Talk*, and *Flutist Quarterly*. Ballatori has served as co-director of the Frontera Chamber Music Society, a non-profit organization she co-founded, and as co-director and co-founder of the South Texas Flute & Clarinet Festival. An active member of the National Flute Association, she currently serves as Assistant Program Chair of the organization's 2025 Convention in Atlanta. She previously served as a member of the NFA's Board of Directors, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Pedagogy Committee, Youth Engagement Committee, and as coordinator of the High School Soloist Competition.

Ballatori completed the Doctor of Musical Arts in Flute Performance, Pedagogy, and Literature at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The recipient of a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship, she received a postgraduate diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England where she studied with Peter Lloyd, retired principal flutist of the London Symphony Orchestra. She earned performance degrees at Louisiana State University (M.M.) and George Mason University (B.M.). Her major teachers include Alexa Still, Katherine Kemler, Judith Lapple, and Diane Smith. Ballatori is a Burkart Artist.

**Theresa Delaplain** is an esteemed oboist and pedagogue, actively performing as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral musician. She has commissioned, performed, and recorded several new works for oboe and has been a champion of contemporary music. Delaplain is a founding organizer of the SHE Festival of Women in Music, a yearly international festival to promote music written by women. She is the First Place winner in the 2025 American Prize Instrumental Soloist

division, and she is a Lorée Artist.

Her solo album, *Souvenirs*, with pianist Tomoko Kashiwagi, has earned glowing reviews in several publications. It was described in *Fanfare* as "...a fascinating mix of repertoire, performed to the highest of standards. This is a fabulously thought-out excursion into the oboe repertoire, beautifully recorded." A description in *The Double Reed* proclaimed that "Delaplain's mellow tone is beautifully suited to the melismatic phrases." In 2025 Delaplain released *Her Voice* with pianist Miroslava Panayotova, an album of music by women for oboe and piano, which garnered this praise in a *Fanfare* review: "Delaplain and Panayotova deliver top-notch performances across the board. They are clearly in sync at all times. Delaplain's tone is full and focused."

Delaplain is also featured on a recent album of chamber music by Robert Mueller, *Dream Gardens*. Her album with the Lyrique Quintette has also been favorably received and reviewed, with reference to Delaplain's "dark, chocolately oboe playing."

Delaplain has been a panelist and presenter at several festivals and conferences, and she has also recently resumed composing and performing her own works. She won a grant to perform in Creative Arkansas Community Hub and Exchange's "Mixtape" series in a social justice program of works for oboe and multimedia, and her composition *Monet Suite* for oboe/English horn and piano was published by Trevco Music Publishing.

Delaplain has performed as concerto soloist with the Fort Smith Symphony, the North Arkansas Symphony, the Arkansas Philharmonic, the Thai National Orchestra, the LOU Orchestra, the Tulsa Youth Symphony, and the University of Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and Chamber Orchestra. She currently serves as Principal Oboist for the Fort Smith Symphony, and the Arkansas Philharmonic, and is the past (retired) Principal Oboist of the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas and the Music Festival of Arkansas.

Delaplain is on the Arkansas Arts Council's "Arts on Tour roster" as oboist with the Lyrique Quintette. The quintet has toured Panama, Spain, Germany, Thailand, Canada, and throughout the United States, giving formal concerts, school concerts, master classes, clinics, and workshops. They recently released *Arrivals and Departures: Music of the Americas* on the Mark Classic label, and they previously released *Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue*. Delaplain has appeared at many International Double Reed Society Conventions, and she was a guest recitalist at the Southwest Contemporary Music Festival and Conference, in addition to performing at the College Music Society National and Regional Conventions.

A dedicated educator, Delaplain is an Associate Professor at the University of Ar-

kansas, where she teaches oboe and music theory and is Woodwind Area Coordinator. She has taught at the Interlochen Center for the Arts Summer Arts Camp, the Midwest Double Reed Camp, and the Saarbarg International Music Festival and School in Germany. She has been active as a clinician and adjudicator, including appearances at the Mid-South Double Reed Society Festival, Valdosta State University Double Reed Day, University of Central Oklahoma Oboe Day, KState Oboe Day, East Carolina Oboe Day, and the Arkansas All-State Music Convention.

Delaplain has also written a popular oboe reed-making book, *My Kingdom for a Reed!*, and is the co-host of *Something to Crow About!*, a YouTube channel devoted to oboe reed-making. She also served as Treasurer of the Midwest Double Reed Society for many years.

Delaplain's formal education included attending Macalester College for two years, where she studied with Rachel Brudnoy and Richard Killmer; earning a Bachelor of Music in Oboe Performance degree from the University of Michigan, where she studied with Arno Mariotti; earning a Master of Music in Oboe Performance from Bowling Green State University, where she studied with John Bentley; and earning a Doctor of Musical Arts in Oboe Performance from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, where she studied with Sara Bloom and had master classes with Robert Bloom.

A native of Thailand, **Nophachai Cholthitchanta** joined the University of Arkansas in the Fall of 2001, a member of The Lyrique Quintet, principal clarinetist of the Arkansas Philharmonic. Previously, he taught at Graceland University and faculty at Continuing Education, The University of Missouri-Kansas City. Two recent recording reviews with the Lyrique Quintette state: "... superb and masterful clarinet playing ..." -The Clarinet and "... virtuosic clarinet playing..." -The Double Reed.

Dr. Cholthitchanta holds degrees from Chulalongkorn University, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Indiana University, University of Northern Colorado, and University of Missouri-Kansas City, Conservatory of Music, where he was selected as a Liberace Scholar. His principal teachers include Jane Carl, Bil Jackson, Thomas Masse, Eli Eban, Richard Lesser, Alfred Prinz, Michael Campbell, Andrew Simon, and has studied chamber music under Alexander Schneider, Mathew Ruggiero, Abraham Skernick, Dorothy Dwyer, Anthony Camden, etc.

Formerly, Nophachai was the principal clarinetist of the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, L'Orchestre Mondial Des Jeunesses Musicales, Asian Youth Orchestra, Asean Youth Orchestra and was a member of Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, New Ear Ensemble, North Arkansas Sympho-

ny etc. He has performed at music festivals as a soloist, chamber music musician and orchestral member in the major concert halls in more than twelve countries including Concertgebouw Hall, Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus. He has performed under the baton of Alexander Schneider, Lukas Foss, Günter Herbig, Eric Klas, David Alan Miller, Samuel Wong, En Shao and others. He was also a concerto competition winner at the Hong Kong Academy Concerto Competition, the Rocky Mountain Competition and twice at the University of Northern Colorado Symphony's Solo Competition. He has performed concertos with the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, Thai National Orchestra, North Arkansas Symphony, UNC Symphony Orchestra, Kasetsart Wind Symphony, UA Symphony Orchestra and UA Wind Symphony. Nophachai has appeared at International Clarinet Association (ICA)-ClarinetFest, International Double Reed Society Convention (IDRS), National Flute Association Convention (NFA), College Music Society National Conference (CMS) etc.

Nophachai is an avid reed maker and researcher of reed cane (*Arundo donax* L.). He has received more than \$170,000 in research funding for his project, Study and Quality Development of Native Reed Cane (*Arundo donax*) in Thailand. He also redesigned the clarinet reed-making process and integrated it into his single reed-making course.

In addition to modern clarinet, Nophachai is also a researcher and an avid collector of historical clarinets. He owns both originals and reproductions of 18th - 19th c. clarinets. He presented research paper and lecture recital at the American Musical Instrument Society Meeting and an article entitled "Stubbin's S-K Mechanism" was published in a 2012 companion volume to the Catalogue of the Sir Nicholas Shackleton Collection in the Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments. His recent research paper with Albert R. Rice, and Jean Jeltsch entitled "Clarinet Innovation and Invention, the Concealed Speaker-Key Mechanism by Jacques-François Simiot and his Followers, 1800–1873" Dedicated to Sir Nicholas Shackleton published in The Galpin Society Journal Volume LXXVII (2024).

**Dr. Melanie Ferrabone**, a distinguished Panamanian bassoonist, has built a multifaceted international career as a teacher, soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer. Her work and performances have made a significant impact on the global music community.

She currently serves as bassoon faculty at the University of Arkansas and previously taught as an adjunct professor at Florida International University. During the summer, she works as the Artistic Operations and Program Coordinator for

the International Saint Malo Festival, one of the leading academic festivals in Latin America, hosting musicians from more than 30 countries. At this festival in 2024, she premiered and performed her composition *Entre Mares* with the wind ensemble.

An active performer in Arkansas and Florida, Dr. Ferrabone has appeared with ensembles such as the Arkansas Symphony, Palm Beach Symphony, Florida Grand Opera, NuDeco Ensemble, and Gulfshore Opera. She has also recorded for the Grammy-awarded studios Miami Art House and L Music Miami, contributing to albums for Il Divo, Agris, and other projects.

Dr. Ferrabone has received recognition in several competitions, including the Frost Concerto Competition (2022), the Mississippi Music Teacher Association Collegiate Competition, the USM Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition, and the USM Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Her participation in major conferences and events includes the College Music Society Conference, the Meg Quigley Bassoon Competition and Symposium in Arizona, and the Festival de Dobles Cañas de Centroamérica in Guatemala. She has also performed at festivals such as the New Hampshire Music Festival and the Eastern Music Festival, showcasing her versatility as a contrabassoonist, as well as at prominent U.S. festivals like Festival Napa Valley's Blackburn Music Academy and the Brevard Summer Music Institute.

Twice featured in *Score Magazine*, Dr. Ferrabone was recognized as a distinguished female musician in Florida for her innovative vision for the modern music career.

Originally from Panama, she began her musical training at the National Conservatory under Daniel Agudo. She later pursued her studies in the United States, earning her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Southern Mississippi under Dr. Kimberly Woolly and completing both her Master's and Doctoral degrees at the University of Miami under Professor Gabriel Beavers.