

Guest Artist Recital

Jonathan Gunn, clarinet
with Eric Frei, piano

Thursday, October 22, 2026
Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano — Amanda Harbert (b. 1973)

I. Gentle/Playful
II. Interlude
III. Agitato

Fantasie for Solo Clarinet — Jörg Widmann (b. 1973)

Premiere Rhapsody — Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano — Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

I. Allegro Tristamente
II. Romanza
III. Allegro con Fuoco

*This performance was supported in part by funding from the SEC Travel Grant program.

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PERSONNEL

Clarinetist **Jonathan Gunn** is a versatile artist with a varied career as educator, soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer. Appointed as Associate Principal and Eb Clarinet of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in 2004, he then served as Principal Clarinet from 2011 to 2016. He has also performed as Guest Principal with the Chicago, Houston, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras among others.

As a soloist, he has appeared with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, the Wheeling Symphony and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and has recently performed internationally as soloist and recitalist in China, Thailand, Taiwan and Canada.

Committed to the education of the next generation, Mr. Gunn gives masterclasses and recitals around the world and has served on the faculties of the Buffet-Crampon Summer Academy, NYO-USA and Round Top Music Festival. Currently, Mr. Gunn is the Professor of Clarinet at the Butler School of Music at The University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Gunn can be heard on countless Cincinnati Symphony and Cincinnati Pops recordings on the Telarc and Fanfare Cincinnati labels. He can also be heard on his debut solo album of French clarinet repertoire with pianist Anton Nel on Centaur Records and the Corigliano Clarinet Concerto on Reference Recordings. Mr. Gunn is a Vandoren Artist and a Buffet Group USA Performing Artist.

Eric David Frei is a pianist, vocal coach, and conductor whose work spans a wide range of genres, including opera, musical theatre, and chamber music. He is currently an Instructor of Collaborative Piano at the University of Arkansas, where he works with singers and instrumentalists while maintaining an active performing career throughout the region.

Frei's recent performance work includes appearances with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma and performances with The Phantom of the Opera artists Eryn LeCroy and John Riddle at the Walton Arts Center. He previously served as the Assistant Professor of Professional Practice-Music Director at Oklahoma State University (2022–2026), where he conducted musical theatre productions and worked extensively with BFA Musical Theatre students. From 2016–2022, he served as a Vocal Coach at Oklahoma City University, working primarily with opera and musical theatre students.

His professional opera experience includes work with Tri-Cities Opera, Seagle Music Colony, Taos Opera Institute, and First Coast Opera, where he has served as a vocal coach, répétiteur, assistant conductor, and chorus master. Frei holds a Master of Music in Opera

Production and Vocal Coaching from Florida State University, where he accompanied and music directed opera productions under the mentorship of Douglas Fisher.