

MUSIC MONDAY CONCERT SERIES

“In Motion”

Semplice Duo
Cristina Ballatori, flute
Kevin Chance, piano

Monday, October 26, 2026
Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

In Motion explores the many ways that music can move us through rhythm, dance, nature, and cultural traditions. From the quirky elegance of Damase and the solemn introspection of Valerie Coleman's *Requiem Milonga* to the rhythmic energy of Martínů's beloved First Sonata, the sounds of water in Linthicum-Blackhorse's *Mnicakmun*, and the Latin-inspired rhythms of *Charanga* and *Tango Fantasia*, the program invites listeners to experience a delightful spectrum of color and character through chamber music for flute and piano.

Sonate en concert — Jean-Michel Damase (1928-2013)

Requiem Milonga — Valerie Coleman (b. 1970)

First Sonata for Flute and Piano — Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959)

I. Allegro moderato
II. Adagio
III. Allegro poco moderato

INTERMISSION

Mnicakmun (Sounds of Water) — Linthicum-Blackhorse (b. 1989)

I. Mnicasniyanyanla (Rippling Water)
II. Mnicaluza (Rapid Water)
III. Mniohuta (The Shore)

Charanga for Solo Flute — Michael Colquhoun (1879-1963)

Tango Fantasia

Jacob Gade
arr. Toke Lund Christiansen
(1879-1963)

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PERSONNEL

Semplice Duo

Hailed by critics as “delightful performers” whose “music making was effortless and sparkling,” the Semplice Duo has presented recitals and educational outreach programs throughout the United States and abroad since its founding in 2000. Winners of the Notes at 9,000 Emerging Artist Series Competition, the duo was formed to introduce audiences to the less frequently performed repertoire for flute and piano. The duo’s debut album, *Night Surrendering to Dawn*, was released on Centaur Records in September 2025. The album, which received two Silver Medals in the 2026 Global Music Awards in the Album and Duo categories, features an eclectic collection of works by Valerie Coleman, Amanda Harberg, Samuel Zyman, and Christian Ellenwood, including two world-premiere recordings.

Cristina Ballatori, Flute

Flutist Cristina Ballatori has established an international performing career as a recitalist, soloist, and chamber musician, with appearances throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia. A finalist in the 2026 American Prize Instrumental Performance Division, she has performed and presented master classes at festivals and universities throughout the United States and abroad.

Ballatori is a member of the Semplice Duo with pianist Kevin Chance and the Lyrique Quintet. The Semplice Duo, founded in 2000, was a winner of the Notes at 9,000 Emerging Artist Series Competition and released its debut album, *Night Surrendering to Dawn*, on Centaur Records in 2025. The album received two Silver Medals in the Album and Duo Categories of the 2026 Global Music Awards.

A passionate advocate for contemporary music and living women composers, Ballatori has commissioned and premiered works by composers including Reena Esmail, Kevin Day, Valerie Coleman, Cherise Liter, and Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda. She is also a dedicated educator and currently serves as Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Arkansas. Previously, she held positions at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where she received the UT System’s Regents’ Outstanding Award, a $25,000 honor recognizing exceptional teaching, innovation, and student success.

Ballatori is the founder and director of the Arkansas Flute Festival and has served in numerous leadership and program roles with the National Flute Association. She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Colorado Boulder and a Postgraduate Diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England. Her major teachers include Alexa Still, Peter Lloyd, and Katherine Kemler. Ballatori is a Burkart Artist.

Kevin T. Chance, Piano

Named Teacher of the Year by the Alabama Music Teachers Association and Music Educator of the Year by the Arts Council of Tuscaloosa, pianist Kevin T. Chance has been hailed as "a superlative musician" performing "with musical conviction and muscularity." He has performed extensively throughout the United States and abroad as a soloist and collaborator, including appearances at Carnegie Hall and performances with orchestras and ensembles throughout the country.

Dr. Chance is a member of the Semplice Duo with flutist Cristina Ballatori. The duo was named a winner of the Notes at 9,000 Emerging Artist Series Competition and has performed throughout the United States and Europe, including their 2014 European debut in Paris. Their debut album, *Night Surrendering to Dawn*, was released by Centaur Records in 2025.

A sought-after teacher, clinician, and adjudicator, Dr. Chance's students have earned numerous honors in local, state, regional, and national competitions. He has presented at multiple Music Teachers National Association conferences and currently serves as President of the Music Teachers National Association. He is also a past president of the Alabama Music Teachers Association and the American Matthay Association.

Dr. Chance is Associate Professor of Piano and Chair of the Gloria Narramore Moody Piano Area at the University of Alabama. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, the Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University, and a bachelor's degree from Birmingham-Southern College.