



# UArkMusic

## 2022-2023 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, which is slated for a full renovation starting December 2022.

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).



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ARKANSAS**

Fulbright College  
of Arts & Sciences



**MOTHER EARTH**  
ACCENT FACULTY CONCERT SERIES

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**ACCENT FACULTY CONCERT SERIES**

**MOTHER EARTH**

Nathan Mertens, saxophone

Tomoko Kashiwagi, piano

Christopher Strickland, watercolorist

Amelia Southern & Grace Holley, Zero Hour Arkansas

7:30pm, Sunday, October 30, 2022

Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall

University of Arkansas

**PROGRAM**

**Solitude of Stars (2020)**

Stacy Garrop (b. 1969)

**Secrets of Water (2015)**

Cathy Likhuta (b. 1981)

**Night Bird (1996)**

Karen Tanaka (b. 1961)

## “Season of Remembrance”

### from *On Consciousness Streams* (1997)

Jacqueline B. Hairston (b. 1932)

### This Earthly Round (2014)

Miriama Young (b. 1975)

### The Singing Fish (2017)

Lucy Armstrong (b. 1991)

- I. Life in the Sea
- II. The Wailing Fish
- III. The Singing Fish

## PERSONNEL

American saxophonist, **NATHAN MERTENS** (he/him) currently serves as the Teaching Assistant Professor of Saxophone at the University of Arkansas. As an active soloist and chamber musician, he has performed recitals in Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Croatia, Bolivia, the United Kingdom, and throughout the United States. He has performed as a soloist with orchestras including the Busan Philharmonic Orchestra, Hastings Symphony Orchestra, The University of Texas Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Arkansas Saxophone Ensemble. Mertens' orchestral experience includes performances with the San Antonio Symphony and the Omaha Symphony. In competition, he was awarded Third Prize in the 14th Kurashiki International Saxophone Competition, Second Grand Prize in the North International Music Competition in Sweden, and has been a finalist for many national competitions.

Previously, Mertens lived in Tokyo, Japan as a Monbukagakusho Research Scholarship recipient with the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology. As such, Mertens was the first American Saxophonist to formally study in Japan. Realizing that awareness and access to Japanese music were lacking in the West, Mertens created the Japanese Saxophone Database, a resource to connect the rest of the world with all things saxophone in Japan. While in Tokyo, he performed with the Kunitachi Saxophone Ensemble, the Japan Saxophone Orchestra, Marie Kikuchi, and Emi Kondo.

As an advocate for new music, Mertens has commissioned and premiered works by composers including Lucy Armstrong, Akiro Ito, Sachie Kobayashi, Andrew Boss, Rob Buckland, and Zach Browning. He has premiered these works with many ensembles across the globe at the World Saxophone Congress, North American Saxophone Alliance Conference, and other concert venues. Most recently, he

commissioned Anthony Greene for a work entitled, “kWEe(a)r(e),” which centers around celebrating and uplifting queer identities.

As a clinician, Mertens has been a guest artist at institutions including the Conservatorio Plurinacional de Música, Oklahoma State University, South Dakota State University, Texas A&M International University, and will be at the University of Texas-San Antonio and UCLA this upcoming year. He has also worked with high schools throughout the Midwest and Texas. Mertens previously taught at Hastings College, Saxophone Academy Austin, Longhorn Music Camp, and The University of Texas at Austin.

Mertens studied at The University of Texas at Austin - Butler School of Music, Hastings College, and Kunitachi College of Music, with Stephen Page, Debra Rhodes, and Masato Kumoi, respectively. Mertens is a D’Addario Woodwind Artist, a Yamaha Performing Artist, and a Rousseau Artist Endorser, and performs exclusively on these products.

Pianist **TOMOKO KASHIWAGI** finds great joy in playing diverse repertoire she encounters as a performer and as an educator. Kashiwagi joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas- Fayetteville in 2012. Currently Kashiwagi is the Assistant Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano and the Emily J. McAllister Endowed Professor in Piano.

Kashiwagi completed her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees as well as the Performer Diploma in Piano Performance at Indiana University where she studied with Professors Shigeo and Reiko Neriki. It did not take long for Kashiwagi to realize the importance of chamber music and ensemble playing as a musician and that she truly enjoys interacting with other musicians. She is the first recipient of the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Texas at Austin where she studied with Prof. Anne Epperson.

Kashiwagi has performed in such prestigious venues as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Central Conservatory in Beijing, Guildhall School in London among others. During the summer, Kashiwagi was the staff pianist for renowned Meadowmount School of Music for six years and more recently, the pianist for the Intensive Oboe Institute at Interlochen, MI. She is frequently invited to be an official pianist for conferences, competitions and festivals which included the 2014 Menuhin International Violin Competition in Austin, TX and International Tuba and Euphonium Conference in 2019.

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