



PRESENTS

## “snapshots of life”

Ashley Hsu, Clarinet

with

Alexei Ulitin, Piano

Cara Fleck, Harp

Friday, May 7, 2021

5:00 PM

Joseph & Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall

&

Vimeo Livestream ([ter.ps/AHjrecital](https://ter.ps/AHjrecital))

### PROGRAM

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#### Time Pieces

**Robert Muczynski (1929-2010)**

Allegro risoluto  
Andante espressivo  
Allegro moderato  
Andante molto, Allegro

#### Sonata

**Theresa Martin (1979-Present)**

Meeting  
Parting  
Reflecting

*Intermission*

#### Erwinn

**Georges Meister (1848-1902)**

#### Rhapsodie

**Giacomo Miluccio (1928-1999)**

#### Suite from The Victorian Kitchen Garden

**Paul Reade (1943-1997)**

Prelude  
Spring  
Mists  
Exotica  
Summer

*Cara Fleck, Harpist*

This recital is offered in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Clarinet Performance and Music Education  
Ashley Hsu is a student of Mr. Robert DiLutis

*For an uninterrupted music performance, please check that you are in a location with a strong Wi-Fi connection.  
**psst!** Don't exit out out of the livestream after the last piece! Wait for a short and fun encore performance!*

## ***Program Notes***

What is life? According to dictionary definitions, life is a state of existence, and a condition that differentiates between things that grow and change (such as humans and plants) and things that are just there, like cars and buildings. But in truth, the word 'life' itself encompasses a wide range of definitions – life can be the rise and fall of emotions; life can be a journey through time; life can be an endless interaction between people, nature and objects. In short, there is no one single definition of life.

**Snapshots of Life** is a recital in which the pieces performed capture a brief glimpse of life – emotions, imagery, an atmosphere. Like a snapshot, each piece or movement attempts to capture the essence of the moment by portraying certain emotions and atmosphere. Every musical photo/piece is unique unto itself.

It is up to you, the listener, to feel and translate music to life.

## **Time Pieces (1983)**

Robert Muczynski (1929-2010) was an American composer and pianist best known for his woodwind and piano works, often integrating jazz and neo-classical elements into his music. After graduating from DePaul University, he became a widely renowned composer, his music traveling through concert halls all over the world. Aside from his compositions, he bounced around college composition faculties before settling at the University of Arizona as both the chairman of the composition department and composer-in-residence for 23 years.

*Time Pieces* is one of Muczynski's best known works. Composed for clarinetist Mitchell Lurie, the piece was premiered around a year later at the 1984 Clarinet Congress of the International Clarinet Association. Muczynski wrote the following about the piece in the program notes for the album *Lurie and Baker Play Muczynski* (1984) -

*"This composition is a suite of four contrasting pieces, each highlighting some specific characteristic of the clarinet in terms of range, technical prowess, color, and expressiveness.... The title of the work, Time Pieces, has nothing to do with mechanical clocks or watches. It is not a play on words but rather an awareness that everything exists in time: history, our lives and...in a special way...music."*

## **Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (2005)**

Theresa Martin (1979-) is an American clarinetist, pianist and internationally recognized composer who draws inspiration through a range of art mediums, nature, and her personal experiences, resulting in imaginative, energetic, and rhythmically driven music. Her award-winning compositions are often performed at music conferences all over the world. Currently, she has a private studio in Wisconsin (teaching clarinet, piano, and composition) and often guest lectures at universities around the country.

*Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* is a characteristic work commissioned by Walt Nielsen. Each movement depicts a different aspect of interpersonal relationships, all connected through a three-note fragments of rhythmic and pitch transformation. The atonal and chaotic feel of movements conveys the essence that not all interpersonal

relationships are smooth sailing. Martin attached a quote that describes the piece -

“Meeting” – “The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed” - Carl Jung

“Parting” – “The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again.” - Charles Dickens

“Reflecting” – “Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.” -Anais Nin

### **Erwinn (Fantasia)**

French composer Georges Meister (1848-1902) is one of the lesser-known composers of the Romantic Era. After graduating from the Paris Conservatory, he served in the French military as a music conductor. *Le Grenadier du Caucase* is a military band-styled march that Meister composed that is still performed today.

*Erwinn* (or also called *Fantasia*) – is a piece written for H Lafontaine, a clarinetist of the time. *Erwinn* gives homage to the bel canto (translated as ‘beautiful singing’ in Italian) style. The piece also captures an elegance similar to Carl von Maria Weber’s *7 Theme and Variations of Silvana*. The *bel canto* style of operatic singing can be heard through the flourishing and song-like phrases of the clarinet.

### **Rhapsodie (1979)**

Giacomo Miluccio is one of the clarinetists who has faded into obscurity. This Italian composer, teacher, and opera clarinetist composed two known clarinet works – the *Rhapsodie* and *8 Grandes Etudes De Technique Melodique*.

*Rhapsodie* is a rhapsody solo piece dedicated to Miluccio’s friend, Jean Leduc. The piece is reminiscent of Wilson Osbourne’s *Rhapsody* (1958), as evidenced how the first phrase starts and ends on the same pitch.

### **Suite from The Victorian Kitchen Garden (1991)**

Paul Reade (1943-1997) was an English composer who studied piano at the Royal Academy of Music under Alan Richardson. After studying there, he became a repetiteur at the English National Opera, working with singers and instrumentalists alike to hone his composing skills to create more expressive music. In the late 60s, he was hired as pianist and songwriter at BBC TV, often writing music for children’s programs. In all, Reade’s most known compositions includes music from the TV series *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* (1987), the ballet *Hobson’s Choice* (1989), and the ballet *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1996).

This piece derives from the music soundtrack of a 13-part BCC TV series *The Victorian Kitchen Garden*. The 1987 series filmed a recreation of a Victorian Era kitchen garden, over a period of a year. The sounds of the harp, clarinet, and strings can be heard occasionally in the background to accentuate the idyllic rural peacefulness. The suite was composed for the clarinetist, Emma Johnson, to play the music in a concert setting with a string orchestra and harp. The simplistic and evoking nature of the music won the Ivor Novello award in 1991 for ‘Best TV Theme.’

## Performer Biographies –

**Ashley Hsu** is a junior music education and clarinet performance double major studying under Robert DiLutis. Along with her long list of pre-college music experiences, she has recently been part of the 2020 CBDNA-E Intercollegiate Band and the NSO's Summer Music Institute. In addition, Ashley will be participating in the Honors Performance Series's Virtual Music Summit this summer. Aside of her performing and educating pursuits, Ashley enjoys photography, biking, and doing origami.

### Alexei Ulitin

A native of Kiev, Ukraine, Alexei Ulitin enjoys a vibrant career as a collaborative artist, solo pianist and teacher. Ulitin currently serves as a piano faculty at Rowan University (New Jersey). He is also a staff pianist and accompanying coordinator at the University of Maryland, College Park. From 2016 to 2018, he served as a visiting assistant professor of collaborative piano at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Ulitin has worked as a member of the musical staff at several music festivals, including Aspen, Meadowmount, Siena, and the Northern Lights. He has been a recipient of the New Horizons Fellowship at Aspen Music Festival for three years. His recital partners have included Stephen Wyrzynski, Emilio Colón, Daniel Perantoni, Demondrae Thurman, Anton Belov, Marian Stieber, and Jon Garrison. Ulitin has won prizes in numerous competitions, including the 2014 Baltimore Music Club Competition (first prize), 2014 Wonderlic Piano Competition, 2013 Liszt-Garrison International Piano Competition, 2010 International Young Artist Piano Competition in Washington, D.C. (first prize), and 2010 Music Teachers National Association competition (Eastern Division Winner). He earned a Bachelor of Music from Rowan University, Master of Music from the

National Music Academy of Ukraine (Kiev), and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Maryland.

**Cara Fleck** is a core member of the Grammy-nominated Inscape Chamber Orchestra and principal harpist of Apollo Orchestra. She also has appeared with the New Orchestra of Washington, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Washington Chorus and National Philharmonic. An avid chamber musician, Cara performs with the Annapolis Chamber Players and has been in residence at the Pike Falls Chamber Music Festival in Jamaica, Vermont.

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### SPECIAL THANKS TO –

*My family – for their support for my future full of music and listening and ignoring my practice sessions of honking away at my clarinet*

*Professor DiLutis – helping me develop my clarinet playing skills over the course of my college career, and help me prepare my recital music through countless lessons*

*Alexei U., Cara F., and Justin H. – for being wonderful music partners-in-crime*

*My current music professors – for patiently dealing with me and my shenanigans as I attempted to balance recital preparation and schoolwork this semester*

*My past and present music teachers, conductors, and etc. – for being part of my musical journey towards greatness*

*Michael Y. & Joshua F. – for proofreading my program notes*

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**Please note:** As a courtesy to the performers and your fellow guests, feel free to watch this recital with other people in your vicinity, and to type anything into the livestream chat. Please remember that food, drink, smoking, photography, recording (audio and video) and animals (other than service animals) is allowed over internet – we the performers cannot see what you are doing. But we the performers would also appreciate your efforts if you watched and listened to the performance without any distractions. Note that we make every effort to start on time. Latecomers are still welcome to watch and listen, or just listen to the performance.