



SUNFLOWER PERFORMING ARTS
AT HESSTON COLLEGE

Sunflower Soirée

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 3 P.M.
HESSTON MENNONITE CHURCH

PROGRAM

Grand Trio, Op. 33
I. Allegro non troppo con fuoco
III. Scherzo
IV. Allegretto

Eugène Walckiers
1793-1866

Brain Flowers

Go Down, Moses
Steal Away to Jesus
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Wade in the Water

arr. Harry T. Burleigh
1866-1949
arr. Burleigh
arr. Carren Moham
arr. Moham

Dr. Carren Moham, soprano
Ken Rodgers, piano

Suite for Violin, Clarinet and Piano
II. Divertissement
III. Jeu
IV. Introduction et Final

Darius Milhaud
1892-1974

Outside the Bach(s)

Keyboard Sonata K.466
Unstern!-Sinistre
La Lugubre Gondol

Domenico Scarlatti
1685-1757
Franz Liszt
1811-1886
Liszt

Dr. Mei Li, piano

Amparito Roca

Jaime Texidor Dalmau
1884-1957

Quintet No. 1 in B-flat minor
III. Allegro Moderato

Victor Ewald
1860-1935

Alexander's Ragtime Band

Irving Berlin, arr. Jack Gale
1888-1989 and 1935-2022

Salina Symphony Brass Quintet

Formed in 2019, **Brain Flowers** is a trio dedicated to the performance of music featuring flute, violin, and cello. Trio members are Kenna Graber, Rebecca Schloneger, and Seth Girton.

Kenna Graber, flute, received her BA in music and education at Bethel College and her MEd from Wichita State University. She studied flute with Caroline Eastburn Camp and Julianna Moore at the University of Iowa as well as Paula Patterson, Lorraine Carlson Miller and Kristin Shaffer at Bethel College. While at Bethel College, Kenna had the opportunity to perform with the Bethel College Concert Choir in Europe and Russia. Kenna has performed with various groups and currently plays second flute/piccolo with the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra and principal flute with the Hutchinson Symphony Orchestra. She works full time as a teacher mentor for Newton USD 373 and teaches flute for Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts. Kenna lives on a 6 acre “farm” outside of Peabody with her husband Kelson, two sons, and two lab dogs.

Rebecca Schloneger, violin, is a member of the first violin section of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra and the Principal Second violinist in the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony. She has served as concertmaster of the St. Olaf College Orchestra, as Principal Second Violin with the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Philharmonia Orchestra, and as a first violin section member of the Music Theatre of Wichita Orchestra. This summer she performed in Italy with Opera Seme. Schloneger currently teaches middle school orchestra for Newton USD 373 and teaches Suzuki violin at the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts.

Seth Girton, cello, is originally from Wichita, where he began studying cello at the age of nine. Under the tutelage of Susan Mayo, he was an active participant in the Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestras Program for six years before earning a degree in mathematics at Oberlin College. He received his Master of Music degree from Emporia State University in 2015. Seth has taught cello at many of the colleges in central Kansas and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Bethel College. In addition, he spent ten years scurrying about in the back of McHugh Violins as a repair technician before accepting a position teaching orchestral strings in the Newton, Kansas, public schools. Seth serves as principal cellist with the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra and the Hutchinson Symphony Orchestra, and also performs with Knocknasheega Celtic Band. Meanwhile, he has spent much time exploring non-traditional and experimental cello techniques and sharing these at venues in the Wichita area, particularly local farmers' markets as well as coffee and public houses.

Global impact and local influence describe the career of soprano and vocal health professional, **Dr. Carren Moham**, Vice President of Academics at Hesston College, and Professor Emerita of Music at Illinois Wesleyan University. A winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Dr. Moham later moved to New York City to pursue her singing career. She was the first to earn the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Health and a doctorate in Black Music History at The Ohio State University in Columbus. Her passion for the virtually unknown and unpublished art songs of African-American composers has led Dr. Moham to create two concert and lecture recital series, "Songs by African-American Composers" and "Songs by African-American Women," which she has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and South America, as well as on a special arts program for former president, Bill Clinton, and former first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton during their White House tenure. Along with her administrative duties at Hesston College, Dr. Moham maintains an active singing career.

Kenneth Rodgers has been on the faculty of Hesston College since 1988. He conducts Global Voices choir and teaches organ and Music Appreciation classes. A native of central Kansas, Ken graduated from Hesston College in 1985, Goshen (Ind.) College in 1987, and the University of Kansas (Lawrence) with a master's degree in church music in 1998. He is a frequent accompanist for various groups and individuals, including today's performances by Dr. Carren Moham and Outside the Bach(s).

Outside the Bach(s) invites you to explore something different in a classical music experience! In 1993, Joan Griffing and Les Nicholas joined musicians from across the country as founding members of the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival in Virginia. The Festival is now in its third decade, featuring the music of J.S. Bach and composers influenced by Bach. Our ensemble Outside the Bach(s) invites audiences to enjoy a unique and unusual classical music experience. We love exploring little known works, often presenting them in non-traditional venues. No matter how old, all music was once new and one can find rare, hidden gems in the dustbin of music history. We think great music should be great fun! Come with us and step Outside the Bach(s)!

Dr. Joan Griffing is the Academic Dean at Hesston College. She has worked in higher education for the 32 years. As a violinist, she is a member of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra and the concertmaster of the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival Orchestra in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She has performed and given master classes in Europe, Taiwan, Brazil, New Zealand, and Australia. Joan is a founding member of the chamber music group Musica Harmonia, whose mission is to promote peace and cultural understanding through musical collaboration. The ensemble released a CD of chamber music by Gwyneth Walker, *When the Spirit Sings*, in 2017. The CD includes two works composed specifically for Musica Harmonia. Dr. Griffing earned her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Ohio State University, all in violin performance.

Leslie Nicholas has appeared as principal clarinetist from New York's Alice Tully Hall to Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Across Europe he has performed in opera, orchestra, chamber music, and solo roles. Mr. Nicholas has been principal clarinetist of New York's Classic Chamber Orchestra, the West Virginia Symphony, the Roanoke Symphony, ProMusica Columbus, the Dallas Chamber Orchestra, Central City Opera, and the New York Harlem Opera (Europe). Mr. Nicholas now devotes much of his time to the performance of chamber music. He holds performance degrees from the University of Texas and Northwestern University, with additional graduate study at Southern Methodist University and post-graduate study at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. Mr. Nicholas presently accepts talented, dedicated students into his private studio. www.lesnicholas.com

Dynamic Chinese pianist **Dr. Mei Li** was born in Chengdu, China into a musical family. She began her piano studies at the age of five and eventually became the apprentice of the famous Chinese piano pedagogue, Zhaoyi Dan. At the age of twelve, she entered the affiliated middle school of Sichuan Conservatory of Music and continued her rigorous and professional piano study. After graduating from the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Dr. Li obtained a full scholarship from the Northern Illinois University in the United States and worked with American pianist Professor William Goldenberg. After gaining a master's degree in piano performance and exploring the virtuoso repertoire, Dr. Li earned her DMA degree from the University of Kansas. She has won awards at five international piano competitions, including the International IBLA Music Competition in Italy and the International Virtuoso Grand Prize Competition. Dr. Li was invited to perform as a soloist at the World Conference on Women in Chicago, the renowned Chicago Cultural Center, and Carnegie Hall in New York. She has recently been invited to perform and give master classes in Mexico and to participate at the American Liszt Society National Festival. Dr. Li is CEO and Co- Founder of the Chicago International Music Competition and Festival. She is currently serving as piano faculty at Hesston College.

The Salina Symphony Brass Quintet, comprising brass musicians of the orchestra, enjoys any opportunity to explore great music written or adapted for brass instruments. The pandemic was a catalyst for the group's formation, and they have represented the Symphony in several chamber concerts since. Outside of their orchestral and chamber music roles, the quintet's members make their careers in a variety of fields in several central Kansas communities.

Kyle Unruh, trumpet, is a product of music programs at Goessel public schools, Bethel College, and the UMKC Conservatory of Music. He is director of bands at McPherson High School and principal trumpet in the Salina Symphony. Kyle enjoys many young family life adventures with Justine, Lillian, and Myles.

Evan Koch, trumpet, grew up in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and has called Kansas home since graduating from Bethel College in Newton in 2014. Evan has taught music for four years in the Wichita area, in addition to teaching private lessons and performing. Evan and his wife, Abby live in the North Riverside neighborhood in Wichita and enjoy spending time running or hiking trails, learning music for church, and taking care of their garden.

Kyle Hopkins, horn, is Director of Bands and Professor of Music at McPherson College. He is principal horn in the Salina Symphony Orchestra and also performs in the Wichita Grand Opera. In addition to being a sought-after clinician and adjudicator, Kyle has performed with a wide range of groups such as Mannheim Steamroller, Celtic Women, the Topeka Symphony and the Kansas City Philharmonia.

David Koetting, trombone, graduated from Fort Hays State University with a degree in music education and played professionally in the United States Air Force bands across the US and internationally. David currently is the principal trombonist in the Salina Symphony and performs in the “The Blades”, “Jazz Tangents”, the “Wheatland Brass Quintet, and the Salina Symphony Brass Quintet. He lives in Salina with his wife of 36 years Lilia.

Chris Barlow, tuba, is a graduate from Fort Hays State University with a degree in Music Education. He currently lives in Salina with his wife and kids and enjoys performing within the community.

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SUNFLOWER PERFORMING ARTS

2022-23 Series

Sunday, September 11, 3 p.m. – Sunflower Soirée

Tuesday, October 25, 7 p.m. – ensemble 4.1

Tuesday, December 6, 7 p.m. – Calmus: Christmas A Cappella

Monday, February 6, 7 p.m. – Our Song, Our Story: The New Generation of Black Voices

Sunday, April 2, 3 p.m. – pax duo

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HESSTON COLLEGE

Friday, September 23, 7 p.m. – Songs by African-American Composers:

Dr. Carren Moham with Hesston College Bel Canto Singers

– Hesston Mennonite Church

Thursday-Sunday, September 29 to October 2 – Fall Play: Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike – Black Box Theater, Keim Center

Tuesday, October 18, 7 pm – Bel Canto Fall Concert

– Whitestone Mennonite Church

Saturday, December 3, 7 pm – Hesston College Music and Theatre present:

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play – Hesston Mennonite Church

Stay Informed! Email finarts@hesston.edu to receive monthly updates about upcoming performances.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Russell Adrian

Jennifer Ellis

Ken Frey

Gyles Garber

Lois Harder

Rodd Jones

Ken Rodgers

Will Wiebe-Friesen

Laurel Woodward-Breckbill

Holly Swartzendruber, Director

Karen Unruh, Administrative Assistant



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Long before Europeans laid claim to the land on which Hesston Mennonite Church and Hesston College sit, Native Americans, specifically the persons of the Kanza (Kaw) tribe lived, hunted, and buried their family members here. One step in moving toward a restoration of relationships is actively seeking to better understand the trauma of displacement inflicted upon Native Americans by the US Government and white settlers in the name of westward expansion. While none of us had a direct hand in the removal from this area of the Kanza peoples in the 19th century, our homes, for example, are here because of that removal.

We encourage you to look for concrete ways to alleviate injustices still suffered by our Native American friends and neighbors. Choosing to listen to hard stories is one, small step in the direction of restoration. Monetary gifts are another way to help. Here are a few of the many resources you may use to better understand the past and current struggles of the Kanza people, and an organization to which you may donate to support the preservation of Kanza heritage.

- *The Loss of Turtle Island*. This participatory learning experience that explores the relationship between European settlers and Indigenous peoples will be held Sunday, October 23, 4:00 to 5:45 p.m., at Memorial Hall on the Bethel College campus.
- Sarah Augustine
This Land Is Not Empty. MennoMedia, 2021
- Erica Littlewolf
“Discovering the Root of My Fear.” *The Mennonite*, 2 December 2016.
<https://themennonite.org/discovering-the-root-of-my-fear/>
- TedxTyson presents Mark Charles: “We the People.”
<https://youtu.be/HOktqY5wY4A>
- *Discovery: A Comic Lament* - a play by Alison Brookins produced by Ted & Co.
<http://www.tedandcompany.com/shows/discovery-comic-lament/>

To support the preservation of Kanza heritage you may mail a check to:

Kanza Heritage Society
515 S. Main St., Unit 12
Wichita, KS 67202



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