

The Amherst College Music Department Presents

McBride '59 Jazz Commission Series Concert
Featuring Amherst College Performance Group Gemini Project
and
Special Musical Guests Modality

Saturday, February 18, 2023

8:30pm

Powerhouse

Memphis Underground

Herbie Mann

Arranged by Bruce Diehl

Connor Barnes, trombone
Caleb Savoie, Soprano Saxophone
Rowan Belt, Piano
Annika Ridky, Drums

Point, Counterpoint

Ellen Rowe

Adrian Whitney, Tenor Saxophone
Troy Rinker, Trombone
Avi Helft, Bass
Bodhi Liveright, Guitar
Rowan Belt, Piano
Annika Ridky, Drums

'59

Charles Nichols

2023 McBride '59 Jazz Commission Series

Camila Bonilla, Tenor Saxophone
Connor Barnes, Trombone
Gabriel Proia, Trumpet
Siobhan Angeles, Alto Saxophone
Bodhi Liveright, Guitar
Rowan Belt, Piano

Nzembo Na Mvula Zamba (Song of the Rain Forest)

Fred Sturm

Gabriel Proia, Flugelhorn

-Gemini Project 2023 Spring-

Saxophones/Woodwinds

Amr Al Dayeh, Alto Saxophone
Siobhan Angeles, Alto Saxophone
Caleb Savoie, Alto Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone
Camila Bonilla, Tenor Saxophone
Adrian Whitney, Tenor Saxophone
Ryan Hughes, Baritone Saxophone
Vica Henry, Clarinet

Trumpets

Charlie Odulio, Trumpet
Mike Pastore, Trumpet
Gabriel Proia, Trumpet
Cameron Chandler '20, Trumpet

Trombones

Connor Barnes, Trombone
Sebastian Brenneis, Trombone
Troy Rinker, Trombone
Justin Leach, Bass Trombone

Rhythm Section

Rowan Belt, Piano
Bodhi Liveright, Guitar
Avi Helft, Bass
Annika Ridky, Drums

Thanks to the following for their help in making this concert possible: Ted Keyes, Alisa Pearson, Suzette Farnham, Darryl Harper, Andrew Zucchini, Madison Martin, Sienna McCulley, Office of Student Activities, Arts at Amherst Initiative, Dan Langa, Cameron Chandler, David Picchi, Geoff Cunningham, Carl Clements, David Sporny, Eugene Uman, Joe LaCreta, Claire Arenius, Ann Maggs, Stephen Page, Jason Robinson, and Diane Diehl.

<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/music/ensembles/jazz>

www.amherstcollegejazz.com

Charles Nichols

Composer, violinist, and computer music researcher **Charles Nichols**, whose music Gramophone describes “deconstructs Baroque virtuosity”, explores the expressive potential of instrumental ensembles, computer music systems, and combinations of the two, for the concert stage, and collaborations with dance, video, and installation art. His research includes spatial audio, data sonification, motion capture for musical performance, telematic performance, and haptic musical instrument design.

Nichols has worked with ensembles including the Beo String Quartet, Cascade Quartet, Earplay, FLUX Quartet, Hypercube, Klang String Quartet, loadbang, PEN Trio, Sapphire Trio, Spatial Forces Duo, Third Angle Ensemble, and Transient Canvas, and soloists including Charles Castleman, Brett Deubner, Susan Fancher, Kyle Hutchins, Megan Karls, William Lang, Elizabeth Lantz, Darragh Morgan, Sarah Plum, Kathleen Supové, and Steve Vacchi. He has collaborated with choreographers including Jane Comfort, Scotty Hardwig, and Amy Ragsdale, and artists including Paola Zellner Bassett, Meaghan Dee, Marie Yoho Dorsey, Zach Duer, and Joan Grossman.

His music and research has been presented at conferences including the Audio Engineering Society International Conference on Spatial Reproduction, Audio Mostly, Australasian Computer Music Conference, College Music Society National Conference, Conference for Research on Choreographic Interfaces, International Computer Music Conference, International Conference on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques, International Conference for High Performance Networking Computing and Storage, International Conference on Saxophone Pedagogy and Performance, International Congress on Sound and Vibration, International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference, Korean ElectroAcoustic Music Society Annual Conference, National Conference of the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities, NowNet Arts Conference, Society for ElectroAcoustic Music in the United States National Conference, and Society of Composers Inc. National Conference and festivals including the ACCelerate Smithsonian Creativity and Innovation Festival, Bang on a Can Institute, Birmingham Electroacoustic Sound Theatre Festival, Charlotte New Music Festival, Electronic Music Midwest, Feet to the Floor Festival, Festa Della Musica Europea, Festival Internacional de Musica Electroacustica "Primavera en la Havana", Iowa Composers Forum Summer Festival of New Music, June in Buffalo, Moogfest, Música Viva Festival, MusicAcoustica, Network Music Festival, New York City Electronic Music Festival, Noise Floor, NY Phil Biennial, Oaxaca FilmFest, Pan Music Festival, “Poznan Music Spring” International Festival of Contemporary Music, Root Signals Festival, San Francisco Dance Film Festival, Seoul International Computer Music Festival, Sound and Music Computing Festival, Split Film Festival, Supernova Digital Animation Festival, TANZAHOi International Festival, Taukay Edizioni Musicali Contemporanea Festival, Theremin Fest, Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival, and Torino Milano Festival Internazionale della Musica.

He has been commissioned by the Association of American Medical Colleges, Charlotte New Music Festival, Iowa Music Teachers Association, Montana State Music Teachers Association, Butte America Foundation, Montana Public Radio, Institute of Medicine and Humanities,

Missoula Art Museum, The Myrna Loy, Amherst College, Drake University, Temple University, University of Montana, University of Oregon, Virginia Tech, Center for Communicating Science, Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology, Montana Institute on Ecosystems, Headwaters Dance Company, Missoula Symphony Orchestra, Montana Transport Company, University of Montana Symphony Orchestra, Earplay, Third Angle Ensemble, and Megan Karls, has been awarded by the Institut International de Musique Electroacoustique de Bourges, Fundación Destellos, International Design Awards, AltFF Alternative Film Festival, American Prize in Composition, National Academy of Music, Iowa Composers Forum, Montana Arts Council, Peoria Civic Federation, Renée B. Fisher Composer Awards, and ABLAZE Records and has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, New Music USA, and PROP Foundation.

Nichols teaches Composition and Creative Technologies at Virginia Tech, is a Faculty Fellow of the Institute for Creativity Arts and Technology and the Center for Communicating Science, and previously taught at the University of Montana. He was a Technical Director at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA) at Stanford and a Research Associate at the Center for Studies in Music Technology at Yale. He has composed as a resident at the Ucross and Brush Creek artist retreats, conducted research as a visiting scholar at the Sonic Arts Research Centre at Queen's University Belfast and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology at McGill University, and taught computer music workshops at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Banff Centre, CCRMA, and the Charlotte New Music Festival.

He has earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Yale University, and Stanford University, where he studied composition with Samuel Adler, Warren Bensen, Martin Bresnick, Anthony Davis, Jacob Druckman, Brian Ferneyhough, Lucas Foss, and Jonathan Harvey, computer music with Jonathan Berger, Chris Chafe, Fernando Lopez-Lezcano, Max Mathews, Jean-Claude Risset, and Juilus Smith, and performance with Charles Castleman, Daniel Stepner, and the Cleveland Quartet.



Modality

Jay Bruns: electronics and percussion

Clark Grant: guitars

Charles Nichols: violin, bass, and computer

Ben Weiss: keyboards and synthesizers

From a friendship kindled over a craigslist gear transaction, Modality has morphed into a cross-continental collaboration.

This Montana and Virginia based collective swims through oceans of sound, conjuring immersive, psychedelic, beautifully strange worlds, sonic excursions for fans of drone, ambient, krautrock, and contemporary music. Although they live in three cities, the four members continue to perform live and over the internet.

Their latest album, [Megacycles](#), was released in October, 2020.



McBride Commission Series

McBride '59 Jazz Commission Series:

The Robin McBride '59 Jazz Commission Series is named after Robin McBride, Amherst College Class of 1959, who has been a wonderful source of energy to those of us involved in teaching and learning about this great music. Robin has been active in the recording industry as a record producer. In this capacity he has worked with countless great musicians across all genres and has produced over 65 albums (LPs and CDs) in his career. During his time at Amherst he was befriended by the Count Basie Orchestra and still is in contact with the band's current leader, Bill Hughes. In 2000, Robin McBride made a generous donation of his 2000+ jazz record (vinyl) collection to be stored at Amherst College and utilized by students and faculty from the Five College Community. This collection is being carefully cataloged and prepared for use in the future. In October 2007, Robin was honored with a Legacy Award by the Chicago Chapter of the Grammy Awards.

Previous Commission Composers include Nathan Childers (Cityscapes, 2005), David Springfield (The Art of the Matter, 2006), Santiago Cerda (Los Andes Suite, 2007), Dave Rivello (A Series of Short Prayers, 2008), L. Franklin Newton (Into the Light, 2009), Earl MacDonald (Smoke&Mirrors, 2010), Ayn Inserto (Down a Rabbit Hole, 2011), Christine Jensen (Blue Yonder, 2012), Eric Applegate (Phosphorescence, 2013), Jeff Holmes (10 for Ten, 2014), J. C. Sanford (Trash Me, Hamster, 2015), Alex Lee-Clark (Cocktail Party, 2016), Chris Merz (Two Weeks From Everywhere, 2017), Omar Thomas (Orchids, 2018), Sara Jacovino (Mammoth Interruption, 2019), Jihye Lee (Try Out, 2020), Jen Allen (On the Precipice, 2021) and Brian Martin (Faro Shuffle, 2022).

Amherst Survival Center

<https://amherstsurvival.org>



Since its inception, the Amherst Survival Center has relied on volunteers as both an operational necessity and an assertion of our values – that we all give, that we all receive, and that

everyone has something to offer.

It has been a critical value since our beginning to offer resources to all who need them, creating a vibrant community space where it is ok to ask for help.

In December of 2012, after decades of dreaming, years of planning, and a very successful capital campaign, the Amherst Survival Center moved to its new home at 138 Sunderland Road. This building, appropriately sized for the organization's services, beautiful, light-filled continues to serve as a reminder of the unprecedented support of our community – dozens of volunteers and over 700 business and individual donors. We are so grateful for the leadership of Jane and Vangie, Cheryl Zoll (former Executive Director), Jan Edelson (former President of the Board), Lynn Griesemer (chair of Capital Campaign Committee) and the Capital Campaign Committee, and all the visionary contributors who saw what was needed and responded.

Upon moving into our new building, we roughly doubled the number of people we served. We were able to double the number of meals provided, to expand programming, activities, and workshops offered, and continue to grow and develop to ensure that all in our community are able to survive and thrive. Both the physical space and incredible ASC community were key to the organization's subsequent transformation amidst COVID-19, shifting to an all to-go model of food distribution, and expanding access through food pantry delivery and curbside pick-up options. During the first year of COVID-19 operations, the center provided more than a million meals-prepared and groceries-to more than 7,000 of our neighbors.



Upcoming Concerts:

March 2	Friedmann Room	9pm+	Cameron Chandler Group and Gemini/Pisces
March 9	Friedmann Room	9pm+	Sean Britt Quartet and student groups
March 23	Friedmann Room	9pm+	Genevieve Rose Quartet and student groups
March 30	Friedmann Room	9pm+	Wanda Houston & Mothership Convergence and student groups
May 1	Room 7	7pm	Jazz Combos
May 3	Room 7	7pm	Jazz Combos