

10-31-2011

Guest Recital: Sqwonk

Jeff Anderle

Jonathan Russell

Sqwonk Bass Clarinet Duo

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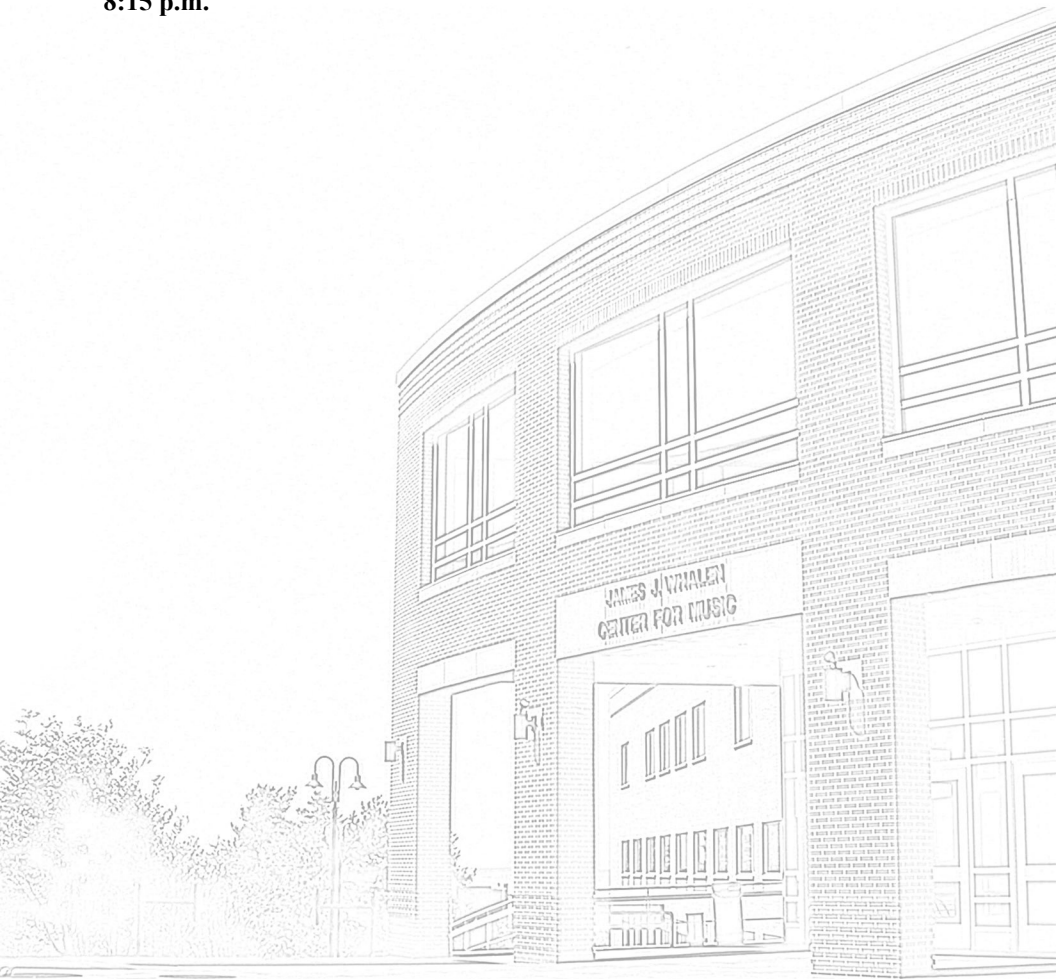
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Guest Recital: Sqwonk

Jeff Anderle, Jonathan Russell, bass clarinets

Ford Hall
Monday, October 31, 2011
8:15 p.m.



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Black

Marc Mellits

Sojourn of the Face

Cornelius Boots

Strict9

Aaron Novik

KNEE GAS (ON)

Ryan Brown

KlezDuo

Jonathan Russell

Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor

J.S. Bach, arr. Jonathan Russell

SQWONK

The San Francisco-based Sqwonk bass clarinet duo is a dynamic and adventurous ensemble that “pushes the envelope of what bass clarinet music can be” (Clarinet Magazine). Sqwonk is devoted to exploring the full expressive range of the bass clarinet, from deep resonances to raucous wails. While grounded in the classical tradition, Sqwonk’s music draws on a wide range of influences, from klezmer to heavy metal to blues to minimalism to free improvisation, creating a repertoire that is strikingly contemporary, yet broadly accessible to a wide audience.

Sqwonk has been hailed for its “extraordinary...deftness and dynamic range,” (San Diego News) and its “perfect production of complicated interwoven lines, acrobatic leaps, and sensitive lyricism in difficult registers” (Clarinet Magazine). Sqwonk’s playing has been described as “...technically strong and very tight” (New Music Box) and “literally danceable” (Lucid Culture). Sqwonk has created an entirely new repertoire of bass clarinet duos from scratch, and has released two CDs featuring newly commissioned works by some of America’s most exciting up-and-coming composers. Sqwonk has given performances throughout the San Francisco Bay Area at a wide range of venues and events, ranging from CalPerformances at Zellerbach Hall, to the Switchboard Music Festival, to Café du Nord. Sqwonk has also performed around the country at venues such as The Stone in New York, Sushi’s Outsound Series in San Diego, the Bang on a Can Summer Institute in North Adams, MA, and the 2010 ClarinetFest in Austin, TX.

Also passionate about education and outreach, Sqwonk has led numerous workshops and master-classes at schools, conservatories, and universities around the country. Sqwonk has received grants from the Northern California Composers Commissioning Program, the American Composers’ Forum’s Subito program, the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. For more information, visit www.sqwonk.com

JEFF ANDERLE

Clarinetist/bass clarinetist Jeff Anderle is currently enjoying an extremely diverse musical life. An exponent of contemporary classical music, Jeff is currently a member of Sqwonk, a bass clarinet duo; the bi-coastal ensemble Redshift; and Edmund Welles: the bass clarinet quartet. In addition, he performs regularly with other cutting edge groups in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the Magik*Magik Orchestra, and the Paul Drescher Ensemble. Jeff is a co-founder of Switchboard Music, an organization dedicated to supporting music that fuses different genres and styles of music through it's annual marathon concert and other activities. He is on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and works for Clark Fobes making clarinet and saxophone equipment.

JONATHAN RUSSELL

Jonathan Russell is a composer, clarinetist, conductor, and educator who is active in a wide variety of music, from classical to experimental to klezmer to church music. His work stretches the boundaries of contemporary classical music, opening it up to the sounds and attitudes of the other musical traditions surrounding it. Especially known for his innovative bass clarinet and clarinet ensemble compositions, his works for bass clarinet duo, bass clarinet quartet, bass clarinet soloists, and clarinet ensembles have been performed around the world and are radically expanding the technical and stylistic possibilities of these genres. Jonathan is a member of the heavy metal-inspired Edmund Welles bass clarinet quartet and the Sqwonk bass clarinet duo, which has commissioned numerous new works and released two CDs of new American bass clarinet duets. He is co-director of the Switchboard Music Festival, an annual eight-hour marathon concert that brings together the San Francisco Bay Area's most creative and innovative composers and performers. He has a B.A. in Music from Harvard University and an M.M. in Music Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He is currently a student in the Composition PhD program at Princeton University. For more information, visit www.jonrussellmusic.com