

11-3-2013

Senior Recital: Junwen Jia, soprano and alto saxophone

Junwen Jia

Cayuga Saxophone Quartet

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Senior Recital:

Junwen Jia, soprano and alto saxophone

Kathy Hansen, piano

Cayuga Saxophone Quartet:

Yuyang Zhang, alto saxophone

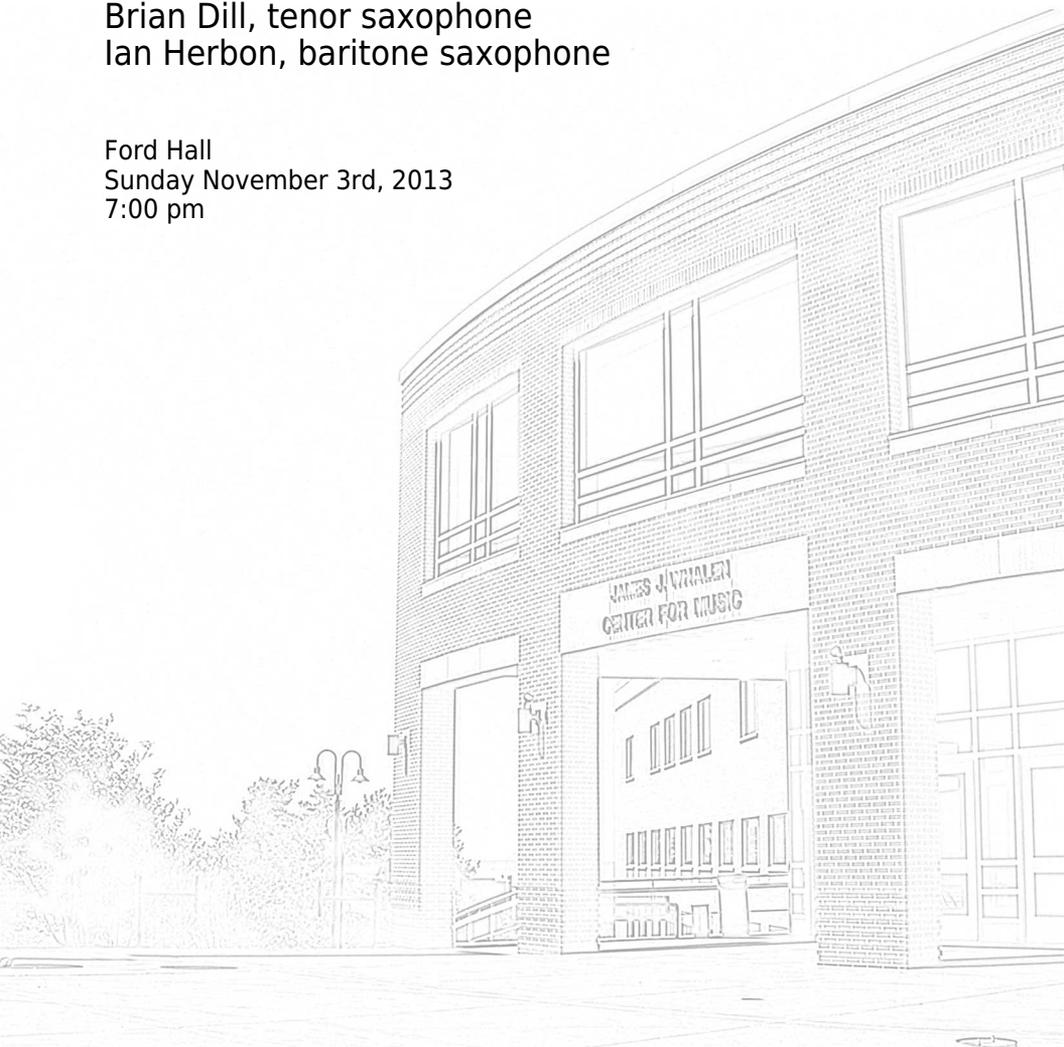
Brian Dill, tenor saxophone

Ian Herbon, baritone saxophone

Ford Hall

Sunday November 3rd, 2013

7:00 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

- The Sonata for oboe and piano(1962) Francis Poulenc
I. *Elégie (Paisiblement, Sans Presser)*
II. *Scherzo (Très animé)*
III. *Déploration (Très calme)*
- Tableaux de Provence(1957) Paule Maurice
I. *Farandoulo di chatouno* (Farandole of young women)
II. *Cansoun per ma mio* (Song for my love/mother)
III. *La boumiano* (The Bohemian woman, or The Gypsy)
IV. *Dis alyscamps l'amo souspire* (A Sigh of the soul for the Alyscamps)
V. *Lou cabridan* (The Bumblebee)
- Concertino da Camera(1935) Jacques Ibert
I. *Allegro con moto*
II. *Larghetto - Animato Molto*
- Suite sur des themes populaires roumains, op. 90(1956) Jean Absil
I. *Allegro vivace*
II. *Andante con moto*
III. *Scherzo Legiero*
IV. *Andante cantabile*
V. *Rude et tres rythme*
Cayuga Saxophone Quartet:
Junwen Jia, soprano saxophone
Yuyang Zhang, alto saxophone
Brian Dill, tenor saxophone
Ian Herbon, baritone saxophone

Program Note

Francis Jean Marcel Poulenc was a French composer and pianist, and a member of the French group Les Six. He composed art song, solo piano music, chamber music, oratorio, choral music, opera, ballet music, and orchestral music.

The **Sonata for oboe and piano** by Francis Poulenc dates from 1962. It is his opus number 185 and is dedicated to the memory of Sergei Prokofiev. According to many oboists, the last movement "Déploration" was the last piece he wrote before he died. It sits as a kind of obituary.

The Oboe Sonata is very difficult in places, especially the Scherzo. The sorrowful Déploration also requires great skill. To express his mourning for his friend Prokofiev, Poulenc uses the extremes of the oboe. For example, in one passage the player must play a phrase at the bottom of the oboe's range including B flat, the oboe's lowest note, very loudly (fortissimo). The same phrase is then repeated, but is marked to be played very quietly (pianissimo). Another obvious example of Poulenc's use of extreme scoring in the first movement is the starting theme, which is very high, and the player must be skilled to control the notes and keep them in tune.

The movements are in the order slow-fast-slow as opposed to the fast-slow-fast of the traditional sonata.

Paule Charlotte Marie Jeanne Maurice was a French composer. Maurice was born in Paris to Raoul Auguste Alexandre Maurice and Marguerite Jeanne Lebrun. Registration lists at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris report that her father was an office worker and state only that the two were married.

Her most famous composition is **Tableaux de Provence pour saxophone et orchestre** written between 1948 and 1955 dedicated to saxophone virtuoso, Marcel Mule. It is most often heard as a piano reduction. It was premiered on 9 December 1958 by Jean-Marie Londeix with the Orchestre Symphonique Brestois directed by Maurice's husband, and fellow composer, Pierre Lantier.

Tableaux de Provence was first recorded by Marcel Mule in 1957 on the Selmer release *Marcel Mule*, with Solange Robin on piano. It was premiered on December 9, 1958 by Jean-Marie Londeix with the Orchestre Symphonique Brestois.

Jacques François Antoine Ibert was a French composer. Having studied music from an early age, he studied at the Paris Conservatoire and won its top prize, the Prix de Rome at his first attempt, despite studies interrupted by his service in World War I.

Ibert pursued a successful composing career, writing (sometimes in collaboration with other composers) seven operas, five ballets, incidental music for plays and films, songs, choral works, and chamber music. He is probably best remembered for his orchestral works including *Divertissement* (1930) and *Escales* (1922).

Concertino da Camera pour Saxophone Alto et Onze Instruments ("Short concerto for alto saxophone and eleven instruments") was written by Jacques Ibert during the year 1935. Ibert dedicated the work to his friend, saxophonist Sigurd Rascher, who premiered the first movement in 1935. Later that year, Ibert completed the second movement, and the work was performed for the first time in its entirety by Rascher in December, 1935.

The work is in two movements, the first, *Allegro con moto*, is lively and technically challenging and the second, *Larghetto - Animato Molto* begins with a hauntingly lyrical passage before resuming the energetic pace of the beginning, interrupted by a short cadenza. The concerto is distinctive for its large range requiring the use of saxophone altissimo. The accompanying ensemble consists of: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet and strings (small string orchestra). The piece shares similarities with his concerto for flute.

Jean Absil, a Belgian composer, began his musical studies as an organist, but in 1920 turned to the study of composition. His Piano Concerto (1938) brought him international attention. In 1955 he was elected to the Belgian Royal Academy, and in 1964 he received the Prix Quinquennial of the Belgian government. Absil's style is essentially polyphonic and polymodal. Changes in meter and irrational divisions are frequent. His music has great structural clarity, often cast in variation or other conventional forms. Absil's oeuvre includes works for orchestra, chorus, voice, piano, guitar, as well as many works for chamber ensembles, including three important works for saxophone quartet.