

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER**  
**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
**SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS**



*presents*

**TRIO DESIARD**

**ERIC SIERVELD, TRUMPET**

**JAMES BOLDIN, HORN**

**DIANA THACHER, PIANO**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025**

**7:30 PM**

**BRAITHWAITE RECITAL HALL**

# PROGRAM

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**Three Browning Songs, Op. 44, No.1**

Amy Beach (1867-1944)

Arr. Ed Hirschman

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**Prometheus and the Gift of Fire**

John Stevens (ASCAP) (b. 1951)

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**Ages: Six | Fifteen | Thirty-Four | Sixty-Six  
| Ninety-Two**

Susan Mutter (b. 1962)

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**Gaspard de la Nuit I. Ondine**

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

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**The Garden of Eden III. The Serpent's  
Kiss**

William Bolcom (b. 1938)

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**Southern Signs**

James Naigus (ASCAP) (b.  
1987)

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**The Bushwacker Six Pack**  
4. Last Mountain Lager

Elizabeth Raum (b. 1945)

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**Fantango**

Kevin McKee (ASCAP) (b. 1980)

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## **Three Browning Songs, Op. 44, No. 1**

Despite being excluded from musical and academic circles, American composer **Amy Beach** composed numerous successful large-scale works such as her Gaelic Symphony in E Minor and Piano Concerto. She also wrote solo and chamber works, including 120 songs. Her Three Browning Songs (1899) are dedicated to the Browning Society of Boston.

Texts by Robert Browning (1812-1899)

### **The Year's at the Spring**

The year's at the spring,  
And day's at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hill-side's dew-pearl'd;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn;  
God's in His heaven—  
All's right with the world!

### **Ah, Love, but a day**

Ah, Love, but a day,  
And the world has changed!  
The sun's away,  
And the bird estranged;  
The wind has dropped,  
And the sky's deranged;  
Summer has stopped.

Look in my eyes!  
Wilt thou change too?  
Should I fear surprise?  
Shall I find aught new  
In the old and dear,  
In the good and true,  
With the changing year?

Thou art a man,  
But I am thy love.  
For the lake, its swan;  
For the dell, its dove;  
And for thee – (oh, haste!)  
Me, to bend above,  
Me, to hold embraced.

### **I Send My Heart Up To Thee**

I send my heart up to thee, all my heart  
In this my singing,  
For the stars help me, and the sea, and the sea  
bears part;  
The very night is clinging  
Closer to Venice' streets to leave on space  
Above me, whence thy face  
May light my joyous heart to thee, to thee its  
dwelling place.

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## **Prometheus and the Gift of Fire**

**John Stevens** was born in Buffalo, New York (USA) in 1951. He holds degrees in Music Performance (tuba) from the Eastman School of Music (1973) and Yale University (1975). For many years John Stevens was a free-lance performer in New York City. From 1981 to 1985 he was on the faculty of the University of Miami (FL) School of Music. From 1985 to 2014 he was on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music, where he was Professor of tuba/euphonium, a member of the Wisconsin Brass Quintet and Director of the School. John Stevens has long been active as a composer and arranger, particularly for brass. Many of his compositions have become standard repertoire for performers all over the world.

**Prometheus and the Gift of Fire** loosely depicts the improvement in the lot of mortal man when presented with fire, stolen from the Titans by Prometheus.

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## **Ages: Six | Fifteen | Thirty-Four | Sixty-Six | Ninety-Two**

**Susan Mutter** is a professional horn player and composer, and has performed with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Columbus Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Chicago Civic Orchestra, and many others. She holds a degree in horn performance from Indiana University, and has taught on the faculty of Wayne State University. *Ages for Trombone (or Horn) and Piano* was composed in 2008 and premiered by Kenneth Thompkins, principal trombonist of the Detroit Symphony. The piece is dedicated to the composer's father, Howard VanValzah. She writes the following about this unique and beautiful composition:

*I was inspired to compose Ages when I contemplated how a man relates to the world around him so differently at various ages in his life. All six year old boys have something in common, as do all 92 year old men! It is what is in common, that I have tried to capture here. In "Six", for example, I picture a boy wandering aimlessly around his neighborhood in days of yesteryear, imagining whatever comes to him as he encounters various items he finds. At a construction site he finds some boards, perhaps, and he creates a little "home"...or perhaps he finds some fresh mint and decides to try to make chewing gum! At "Fifteen", he is the rebellious teen – not giving a care what his parents think – wanting to do everything HIS way, and at the same time, with so much energy, he just wants to grab the world in his hand – conquer all heights, and sing his heart out with abandon! At "Thirty-four", monotony has set in...he's stuck in a repetitive job that's relentless. At the key change, a brighter time appears as he gets a chance to spend some time with his precious 3 year old daughter, but soon after – he must go back to work again. "Sixty-six" is probably one of the most satisfying times in the man's life. He is a grandfather now, and is retired and can sit back and enjoy the family he has raised, and his grandchildren, too. His heart overflows with contentment and love. At "Ninety-two", his health and strength are fading, and he is on his deathbed at a hospital. The single notes in the piano are like a morphine drip that is keeping pain at bay for him. As he drifts in and out of consciousness, glimpses of his beloved childhood come back to him, almost taking him completely back to his youth – but then life fades from him...*

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## **Fantastical Voices: Ravel and Bolcom**

Though written more than fifty years apart, these two works share a fascination with figures from myth and legend. Maurice Ravel's *Ondine* (The Water Spirit), from his cycle *Gaspard de la nuit* (Devil of the Night, 1908), draws on a poem by Aloysius Bertrand. In it, the voice of a water spirit is heard outside a window at night — recalling the ancient sirens whose songs led listeners to their deaths. When the man she addresses declares his love for a mortal woman, she laughs and disappears into the rain.

William Bolcom's *The Serpent's Kiss*, from his rag fantasy *The Garden of Eden* (1969), turns to the Biblical story of the Fall. Written in the style of ragtime, it becomes a theatrical re-telling of temptation, deception, and expulsion from paradise.

Placed together, these works show how composers from different eras have turned to story and symbol to give the piano a voice beyond the ordinary world.

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## **Southern Signs**

As a dedicated teacher, active performer, and prolific composer, **Dr. James Naigus** seeks to inspire the next generation of musicians and creative thinkers through artistic empowerment and enthusiastic innovation. He is currently Assistant Professor of Horn at the University of Georgia and hornist with the Georgia Brass Quintet. He frequently plays with the Atlanta Symphony and Charleston Symphony and is an in-demand clinician at universities and horn symposia around the country. His over 100 published compositions have been performed by groups such as the New York Philharmonic, festivals such as Music Academy of the West, and countless venues across the globe. In his free time he enjoys playing pickleball and spending time with his dog Colton.

**Southern Signs** was commissioned by Jim Johnson and Kiirsi Maunula Johnson in 2019 with assistance from the Kansas State University Small Research Grant. It is a rhapsodic piece in three main sections that explores the sonorous possibilities of the trumpet and horn. — Notes by the composer.

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## **The Bushwacker Six Pack**

### **4. Last Mountain Lager**

Canadian composer **Elizabeth Raum** began her musical career in in Halifax, Nova Scotia where she played principal oboe with the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. An extremely prolific composer, her works include 6 operas, over 90 chamber pieces, 18 vocal works, choral works including an oratorio, several ballets, concerti and major orchestral works. Her music has been commercially recorded on over 40 CDs. She enjoys a reputation of being one of Canada's most "accessible" composers, writing for varied mediums and in remarkably diverse styles.

The **Bushwacker Brewpub** is a place where friends gather to have a good time, talking, eating, and indulging in the wonderful varieties of brews that make it one of the favorite brewpubs in Regina. Each movement of this suite is named after one of the beers brewed and served at the Bushwacker Brewpub. I've always found these names to be so imaginative that they invoke scenes and people: Stubblejumper Pilsener (two crusty old farmers getting together for a beer and an argument); Northern Lights Lager (quite minimalist with the shifting chord patterns like the shifting colors of the Northern Lights); Screamin' Mosquito Chili Beer (a bit of "Tex/Mex" bothered by a pesky mosquito); Last Mountain Lager (the grand panorama of the Rocky Mountains); MacGregor's Wee Heavy (ending with a Scottish reel), and India Pale Ale (the steady rhythm of the raga broken by an occasional flourish of individual instruments). – Notes by the composer.

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## **Fantango**

**Kevin McKee** (b. 1980) is an American composer with a primary emphasis in brass chamber music. He was born and raised in Yreka, CA, a little mountain town in the heart of the "State of Jefferson" (Northern California). He began playing the trumpet in grade school at the urging of his father, who was the high school music teacher in town. He went on to earn two degrees in trumpet performance; a BM from Sacramento State, where he studied with Gary Dilworth, and a MM from the University of Maryland, under Chris Gekker. He is also an alumni of the Aspen Music Festival and the National Orchestral Institute. His music has been performed on every non ice-covered continent, and can be heard on over 50 recordings. He has contributed to the International Trumpet Guild Journal and is a member of ASCAP, through which he has been a recipient of many ASCAP Plus awards. In addition to composing he is an active trumpet performer.

**Fantango** is a tango-influenced piece that was commissioned by Conspiratus Brass with assistance from Kansas State University. I love the drama and energy of tango music and have been interested in playing in that sonic sandbox for a while now. Perhaps because the members of Conspiratus Brass are a married couple (Jim Johnson, trumpet and Kiirsi Maunula Johnson, horn) I thought this would be a good vehicle for that exploration. And while the title not-so subtly suggests the heavy tango influence, I like that it also suggests fantasia which, in terms of form, the piece most certainly is; and also, fandango, which is a lively Spanish dance for two. – Notes by the composer.

# ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

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**James Boldin** is a Professor of Music at the University of Louisiana Monroe, where he holds the Emy-Lou Biedenharn Endowed Chair in Music. Additionally, he has served as Interim Director (2022-2023) and Associate Director (2016-2022) of the ULM School of Visual and Performing Arts. He has performed and presented at the International Horn Symposium, the International Trombone Festival, the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference, the International Women's Brass Conference, and numerous state and regional events. Boldin is proud to be a Yamaha Performing Artist, and performs on a variety of Yamaha horns, including the YHR 871 and YHR 671.

He performs extensively with Black Bayou Brass and Trio Mélange, resident faculty ensembles at ULM, and has given recitals and master classes throughout the region and abroad. In 2018, Black Bayou Brass released Scenes from the Bayou (Mark Records), which features several World Premiere recordings for brass trio. An active orchestral musician, Boldin holds positions with the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, Rapides Symphony Orchestra, and Monroe Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with the South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Louisiana Lyric Opera, Opera East Texas, and with numerous orchestras in the Midwest. As an advocate for new music, Boldin has commissioned and premiered numerous compositions for horn solo, brass trio, brass quintet, and other chamber ensembles.

His two solo recordings – Jan Koetsier: Music for Horn and Cantabile: Music for Horn with Clarinet and Piano by Gina Gillie – are available on the MSR Classics label. He has authored three books – Solo Training for Horn, Solo Training Duets for Horns, and Excerpt Training Duets for Horns (Mountain Peak Music) – and has published dozens of articles, reviews, and musical arrangements. In 2012 and 2015, he was awarded Career Advancement Grants from the Louisiana Division of the Arts. Boldin earned the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied with Douglas Hill, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Appalachian State University, where he studied with Karen Robertson. He is a member of The College Music Society, The National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors, and The International Horn Society, and has served as IHS area representative for the state of Louisiana. Since 2020, he has served as the Publications Editor for the International Horn Society. For more information, visit [jamesboldin.com](http://jamesboldin.com).

# ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

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**Eric Siereveld** is a multifaceted performer and currently serves as the Associate Professor of Trumpet and Jazz at the University of Louisiana Monroe. In Louisiana, he performs regularly with the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, the Monroe Symphony Orchestra, the Lagniappe Brass, the Black Bayou Brass, the LA Legacy Big Band, and LA Jazz. He is a veteran in the NYC music scene and was a member of the Bronx Opera and Orchestra (2012-14), performed on/off Broadway, a veteran of several national/international Broadway tours, free-lanced across the tri-state area, and was an Instructor of Trumpet at the United Nations International School. His debut album, Eric Siereveld's Organic Quintet Walk the Walk is available through Shifting Paradigm Records, and his most recent recording Vignettes: Music for Trumpet & Brass was released through Albany Records in October, 2022. He served as project coordinator, personnel manager, and was a featured performer on Douglas Hedwig's Vibrant Colors: Brass Music of Douglas Hedwig released on MSR Classics in November of 2022. Eric received his BME from Morehead State University, his MM in Jazz Studies from Indiana University, and his DMA in Trumpet Performance from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. His primary teachers include Greg Wing, Joey Tartell, William Adam, David Baker, and John Aley. Dr. Siereveld is a Yamaha Performing Artist, and plays Yamaha Trumpet and Flugelhorns. He is also a Torpedo Bags Performance Artist and Endorsing Artist for The Silencer.



# ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

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**Dr. Diana Thacher** is Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Louisiana Monroe, where she teaches piano pedagogy, class piano, applied piano, and collaborative piano courses. She graduated from Louisiana State University with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree and a Master of Musical Arts degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She was the First Prize winner of Concerto Competition in 2019, performing Liszt “Totentanz” with LSU Student orchestra at the Union Theater, Baton Rouge. She won First prize at the International Siberia Piano Competition in Novosibirsk, Russia (2004) as well as Second prize at the Tolyatti International Chamber Music Competition, Russia (2005).

As a soloist, Diana has performed with the Kazakh National Symphony Orchestra, Kazakh Conservatory Student Orchestra, the Shenzhen Music Academy Chamber Orchestra (China), LSU Student Orchestra, Moscow Music Festival Rendezvous Orchestra, and has toured throughout Germany with the Symphony Orchestra of Central Asia.

Dr. Thacher has performed throughout the United States and abroad, including performances at Shenzhen Concert Hall, Konzert Haus in Berlin, Paris Conservatory of Music, Moscow Music Conservatory and Walt Disney Concert Hall. Presented by FeverUp in New Orleans, Diana recently gave a Candlelight Series of Six Solo Piano Recitals dedicated to Chopin’s Best Works.

Education through music is central to Dr. Thacher’s mission as a performer. Diana served as a teacher and a director of the piano department at the Fresco Academy of Performing Arts in Eagle, Idaho and presented various master-classes as a visiting guest artist at the Medicine Hat College (Alberta, Canada).

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# ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

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As an active collaborative pianist, Diana held positions at Loyola University of New Orleans, Boise State University and The San Francisco Opera. She collaborated for 3 seasons with Jefferson Performing Arts Center and New Orleans Opera Association.

Additionally, as an avid chamber musician, Diana has performed in numerous chamber groups throughout the San Francisco Bay Area as part of the project “Classical Revolution”, appeared as a guest artist at the seasons of McCall Music Festival, the Utah Summer Music Festival, the “Moscow Randevouz in the Park” Summer festival, Banff Center of the Arts, in chamber series with the Boise Philharmonic Orchestra and in a chamber series with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Diana performed as a member of The Moscow ProArt Trio and the Thacher Duo, and she recently joined “Musaica” Chamber Ensemble, whose mission is to promote and foster chamber music performance; to encourage the composition of new music; and to increase the awareness and appreciation of chamber music.

# Fall 2025 School of Performing Arts Events

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Thur	Sep 25	5 pm	East Texas State Fairgrounds	UT Tyler at the East Texas State Fair
Tue	Sep 30	7:30 pm	Cowan Center	UT Tyler Bands Concert
Mon	Oct 6	6 pm	BRH	Voice Studio Recital
Tue	Oct 7	12:30 pm	BRH	Student Recital
Thur	Oct 9	7 pm	True Vine Brewing Co	UT Tyler Jazz
Sat	Oct 11	7:30 pm	St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church	Fall Choir Concert
Mon	Oct 13	7:30 pm	BRH	Jazz Combo Concert
Tue	Oct 21	12:30 pm	BRH	Student Recital
Sat	Oct 25	5 pm	Bergfeld Park	Concert in the Park
Tue	Nov 4	12:30 pm	BRH	Student Recital
Tue	Nov 4	7:30 pm	BRH	Evening of Brass
Wed	Nov 5	7:30 pm	BRH	Percussion Ensemble Concert
Tue	Nov 11	12:30 pm	BRH	Student Recital Hall
Tue	Nov 11	7:30 pm	BRH	Piano Studio Recital
Thur	Nov 13	7:30 pm	BRH	Saxophone Studio Recital
Tue	Nov 18	7:30 pm	Cowan Center	UT Tyler Bands Concert
Thur	Nov 20	7:30 pm	BRH	UT Tyler Chamber Strings/ Composer Readings Concert
Mon	Dec 1	7:30 pm	TBD	Jazz Combos Concert
Fri	Dec 5	7 pm	Liberty Hall	Swingin' Into Christmas with UT Tyler Jazz
Sat	Dec 6	7:30 pm	St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church	Choral Christmas Concert

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