

# Saxophone Chamber Recital

Chee Meng Low, saxophone

Jessica McMillan, flute

Justin Massey, saxophone

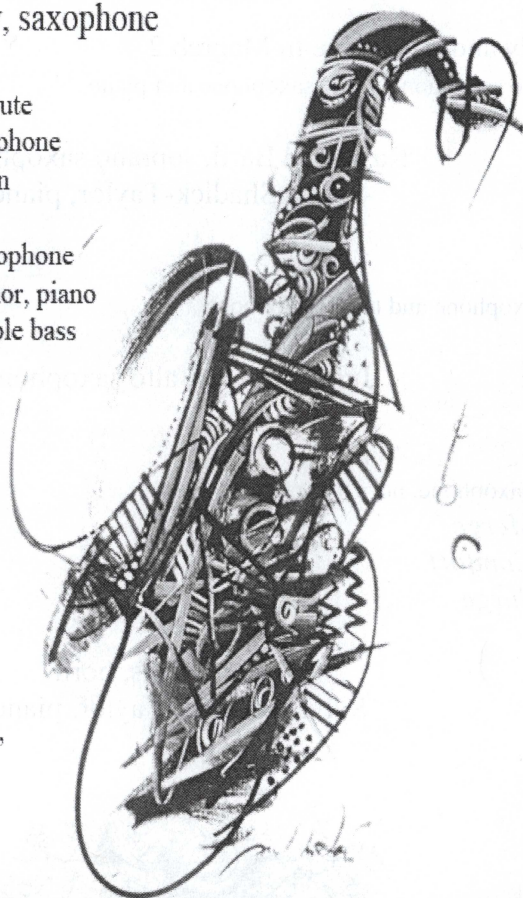
Matt Nickel, bassoon

Megan Evans, horn

Raymond Baril, saxophone

Sylvia Shadick-Taylor, piano

Yukari Sasada, double bass



Featuring works by  
Bentzon, Kasamatsu,  
Lauba & Stolte

In partial fulfillment of the Doctor of Music degree

Painting by Suchart Vongthong

 UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Wednesday, June 6th 2012  
7:00 PM Convocation Hall  
Free admission

Chee Meng Low, saxophone

## Programme

Racconto No.1 Op.25

for flute, alto saxophone, bassoon and double bass

Jørgen Bentzon  
(1897 - 1951)

Jessica McMillan, flute

Matt Nickel, bassoon

Yukari Sasada, double bass

Rhapsody and the Dance in Magreb 2

for soprano saxophone, tenor saxophone and piano

Yasuhiro Kasamatsu  
(b. 1960)

Raymond Baril, soprano saxophone

Sylvia Shadick-Taylor, piano

Massai

for alto saxophone and tenor saxophone

Christian Lauba  
(b. 1952)

Justin Massey, alto saxophone

Prix

for tenor saxophone, horn and piano

Charles Stolte  
(b. 1969)

*Merge*

*Comfort*

*Surge*

Megan Evans, horn

Sylvia Shadick-Taylor, piano



This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Music degree.

## ***Biographies:***

### ***Chee Meng Low, saxophone***

Chee Meng Low, a native of Malaysia, is a graduate of the College of Music, Mahidol University Thailand, Master of Arts, performance program. He was the recipient of the College of Music's scholarship, and served as the teaching assistant for the saxophone and large ensemble studio.

During 2007-2010, Chee Meng served as the Assistant Communication and Planning Manager for the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra, developing the education & outreach program, and the daily operation of the orchestra. In addition to that, he also served as one of the saxophone instructors for the College of Music, Mahidol University, coaching private lessons, saxophone quartet and saxophone ensemble. He was also assistant to the Deputy Director for Academic and Research Affairs. He has taught music for Cempaka International schools in Malaysia, and also as an adjunct professor with the University Putra Malaysia.

Currently he is working on his Doctor of Music degree at the University of Alberta Canada, under the guidance of William Street. He is the recipient of the University of Alberta FS Chia Doctoral Scholarship, Beryl Barns Memorial Graduate Award and the Edward Chang Memorial Award.

Chee Meng was a member of the International Committee, World Saxophone Congress (2006-2009), and regional representative of the Asia –Pacific Band Directors' Association (2007-2010).

### ***Jessica McMillan, flute***

Jessica McMillan holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Alberta. Born in Saskatoon, her studies have taken her to many sides of the world. Her solo career began when she won the opportunity to perform Joachim Quantz's Concerto in G Major for Flute and Strings QV5 75 in 2009, and Carl Nielsen's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra in 2010 with the University Symphony Orchestra. Her solo studies have taken her to Oxford, Hartford, Montreal, and Los Altos. Ms. McMillan has played with the University of Alberta's Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and Contempo New Music Ensemble.

### ***Justin Massey, saxophone***

Justin Massey has recently completed the Bachelor of Music degree in saxophone performance at the University of Alberta, under the guidance of Dr. Allison Balcetis and Dr. William Street. Mr. Massey has received grants from the Edmonton Arts Council and the University of Alberta. He is also a recipient of the Arts Graduate Scholarship from the Government of Alberta. Mr. Massey performed the Tomasi's Concerto with the University Symphonic Wind Ensemble as winner of the 2011 concerto competition. In August 2012, Mr. Massey will begin his Master of Music degree at Bowling Green State University, where he will hold the saxophone assistantship.

### ***Matt Nickel, bassoon***

Matt Nickel is the recipient of a Bachelor of Music degree in Bassoon Performance from the University of Alberta, where he studied with Diane Persson. In 2008 and again in 2009 Matt was Principal Bassoon for the National Youth Band of Canada for their Ontario and Saskatchewan tours. Matt has also had the distinct honour of being a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada in 2009 and for the orchestra's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. In January 2011 Matt performed Mozart's *Concerto for Bassoon in Bb Major K. 191* with the University Symphony Orchestra as winner of the concerto competition. Currently, Mr. Nickel is working towards a Master's in Music degree in Bassoon Performance from the University of Michigan, where he studies with Dr. Jeffery Lyman.

### ***Megan Evans, horn***

Megan Evans is currently Assistant Principal Horn with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, a position she began in September 2008. Ms. Evans is a graduate of Kwantlen College in Langley, British Columbia where she studied with Dr. Wayne Jeffreys. She then went on to complete both a Bachelor and Master of music degree at McGill University in Montréal. Her primary instructors were Denys Derome and John Zirbel of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and she has also taken lessons and masterclasses with many of North America's finest horn players.

In 2007, Ms. Evans was appointed Fourth Horn with the Niagara Symphony in Ontario. In 2008, she accepted her current position with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. In addition to

making music in an orchestra, Megan Evans also enjoys performing as a soloist and chamber musician. She has spent her last four summers at the Aspen Music Festival and hopes to return every summer for the rest of her life!

### ***Raymond Baril, saxophone***

Raymond Baril has been the principal conductor and music director of the New Edmonton Wind Sinfonia since 1999. He holds the position as Head of the Wind Department at Grant MacEwan College, and is the director of one of the University of Alberta/Grant MacEwan jazz ensemble, a position that he has held since 1986. Mr. Baril continues to work as a saxophonist and woodwind performer in the Edmonton area. In that capacity he has performed with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, in productions at the Citadel Theatre and for Live Entertainment Corporation, with such artists as Tommy Banks, Manhattan Transfer and Dionne Warwick. He has directed orchestras for shows such as Sweet Charity, On the Town, and Candide. Mr. Baril attended Northwestern University in Chicago where he received a Master of Music degree in conducting. As well, he holds Bachelor's degrees in both music and education from the University of Alberta. Mr. Baril is currently pursuing the Doctor of Music degree at University of Alberta under the guidance of William Street.

### ***Sylvia Shadick-Taylor, piano***

Pianist Sylvia Shadick-Taylor is a soloist and chamber musician who has toured in Europe, Asia and North America. Her highly expressive performances reflect an intense exploration of the artistic vision of each composer's work.

Sylvia has performed as soloist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the Winspear Chamber Orchestra as well as in recital. As an Ambassador of the Canadian Music Centre, these recitals frequently feature contemporary Canadian music. She has toured in Japan, Thailand, Germany, Canada and USA, including two performances at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall: in 1998 with Hungarian/Canadian violinist, Nándor Szederkényi; and in 2011 with Canadian cellist, Tanya Prochazka.

Sylvia lives in Edmonton and is active as a teacher, clinician and vocal coach.

***Yukari Sasada, double bass***

Yukari Sasada, a double bass player from Osaka Japan, graduated from Kyoto University of Fine Arts, having studied with leading double bassists such as Gary Karr, F.Petracchi, Masahiro Nishide, Shinji Atarashi and Shinich Minamide. She has previously served as the Principal double bass with the Kobe City Chamber Orchestra, Nara Chamber Orchestra, Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, Thailand Philharmonic, Galvani Institute Orchestra Thailand, and also actively performed as a member of numerous orchestras in Japan, Southeast Asia and Canada. Currently she is a freelance double bass player residing in Edmonton, Canada.

***Programme Note:***

**Jørgen Liebenberg Bentzon** was born in Copenhagen in 1897. He was a pupil of Carl Nielsen and Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Other than being a composer, he was also a prolific author and debater. Bentzon composed his first *Racconto* in 1935, followed by a series of six works written during the subsequent fourteen years with the same generic name, but with different instrumental combinations. The *Racconto* No.1 was written for pioneer concert saxophonist Sigurd Rascher, while Rascher was living in Denmark during the 1930s. The piece contains beautiful melodic writing, and features a long cadenza for the saxophone.

**Yasuhiro Kasamatsu** graduated from Tokyo University, majored in Aesthetics and Philosophy. He learned piano with Miyoko Gordberg and composition with Akira Miyoshi. He composed mainly for chamber groups, theatre works, as also for film. According to the composer, the three different parts for the *Rhapsody and the Dance in Magreb 2* can be played on different tempo, and it is important to respect the individualities of all three players.

**Christian Lauba** is a Tunisian born French composer. He studied languages at the University of Bordeaux and music at the Conservatory of Bordeaux with composer Michel Fusté-Lambezat, and also worked closely with saxophonist Jean-Marie Londeix. *Massai* was composed for Richard Ducros and Olivier Sliepen, and is the title No.14 in his series of etudes for saxophone.

**Charles Stolte** is Associate Professor of Saxophone, Music Theory and Composition at The King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and Instructor of Saxophone at Grant Macewan Alberta College Conservatory of Music. He holds a Doctor of Music degree in Saxophone Performance from Northwestern University, where he was the first Canadian to be accepted to the doctoral program for study with renowned saxophonist Frederick L. Hemke. Dr. Stolte also holds degrees from University of Alberta and The King's University College. His teachers include Frederick L. Hemke, William H. Street, Howard Bashaw, Malcolm Forsyth, M. William Karlins and Jay Alan Yim.

The French word, *prix*, carries the English definitions of both *prize* and *price* and is a fitting metaphor for the work, wonder, and mystery of the marriage of hearts (and of musical instruments). *Prix* is dedicated to the composer's wife, Natalie, and was written in 1998 for Jonathan Helton, saxophonist and Grace Kang, hornist.

- Merge* - blends characters with the necessary retention of essential characteristics.
- Comfort* - is a lullaby; it is the comfort of moving together.
- Surge* - moves forward in trepidation and joy.

*“Program note by the composer”*



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