

Charlotte Ethington, oboe

Doctoral Recital Series
Katzin Concert Hall | November 14, 2019 | 7:30 pm

Program

Les Folies d'Espagne

Marin Marais
(1656-1728)

Alex Duke, cello
Hyewon Rina Kim, harpsichord

Obsession pour hautbois et piano

Makoto Shinohara
(b. 1931)

Sonatine pour hautbois et piano

I Modéré
II Andante
III Presto

Pierre Sancan
(1916-2008)

Intermission

Six Études pour hautbois

Gilles Silvestrini
(b. 1961)

I Hôtel des Roches noires à Trouville (Claude Monet, 1870)
II Potager et arbres en fleurs, printemps, Pontoise (Camille Pissaro, 1877)
III Boulevard des Capucines (Claude Monet, 1873)
IV Sentier dans les bois (Auguste Renoir, 1874)
V Scène de plage—Ciel d'orage (Eugène Boudin, 1864)
VI Le ballet espagnol (Edouard Manet, 1862)

Four Personalities

Yellow
White
Blue
Red

Alyssa Morris
(b. 1984)

Program Notes on reverse side

School of Music

ASU Herberger Institute for
Design and the Arts
Arizona State University

Program Notes

The first half of tonight's program consists of three pieces of music performed in the mid-late twentieth century at the annual contests (*concours*) of the Paris Conservatory. These contests first began in the late 1700s, and students who received a first prize were considered ready, and indeed required, to graduate. Throughout the nineteenth century, the vast majority of the *concours* pieces for oboe were written by the conservatory's oboe professors and were generally very similar in form and style. Through much of the twentieth century a different composer was commissioned every year to write a new piece of oboe music for the *concours*, and from year to year twentieth century oboe students who performed in the *concours* were required to play in a much wider variety of styles than were students of the nineteenth century. The three *concours* pieces that will be performed tonight provide a snapshot of this variety.

Though composed in the Baroque era, *Les folies d'Espagne* by Marin Marais was selected as a *concours* piece in 1995 along with Gilbert Amy's *Jeux*, a contemporary piece for solo oboe. *Les folies d'Espagne* consists of 32 couplets based on a main theme; tonight, we will perform 16 of these. Though Marais originally published this music in his *Second Book of Pieces for the Viol* (1701), he intended for it to be played on a variety of instruments including both strings and winds.

Makoto Shinohara, now known for his electronic music and for blending Western and Japanese music, was commissioned to write *Obsession* for the 1960 *concours*. This piece contains a few main themes that each become more and more "obsessive" as they develop, evoking emotions of brooding anguish and frenzied hysteria. A climax of screaming high notes precedes the return of the opening motive, which brings us back to the same emotional place where the piece began. The final notes sound inconclusive, perhaps suggesting that the "obsession" has not ended.

Pierre Sancan wrote his *Sonatine* for the 1957 *concours*, soon after joining the Paris Conservatory faculty as a piano professor. This *Sonatine* is among the few pieces of his that are widely known outside of France. The variety of characters present throughout this piece make it a delight to play. The first movement alternates between sounding mysterious, playful, and adamant; the second movement is contemplative, unsettled, melancholy; the cheeky third movement ends with a resetting of the main theme from movement one.

Both pieces on the second half of the program were written by oboists. **Gilles Silvestrini** won first prize in the Paris Conservatory *concours* in 1985, the same year he finished writing the first draft of his *Six Études pour hautbois*. (He fully completed the work in 1997.) Silvestrini wrote these études as musical depictions of famous impressionist paintings.

- I. *Hôtel des Roches noires à Trouville*: Listen for the flags waving in the wind; the sounds of ocean waves; the conversations and laughter of the hotel guests; the wispy clouds floating in the sky.
- II. *Potager et arbres en fleurs, printemps, Pontoise* (Garden and trees in bloom, spring, Pontoise): Listen for the vitality of new life in the spring; light raindrops; the sounds of nature in a garden.
- III. *Boulevard des Capucines*: One of four *grands boulevards* in Paris.
- IV. *Sentier dans les bois* (Trail in the woods)
- V. *Scène de plage—Ciel d'orage*: Not based on one particular painting, but on "a combination of two types of scenes (beach scenes and stormy skies) commonly painted by Eugène Boudin around 1864" (Zoller, Louisiana State University Doctoral Dissertation, 2011).
- VI. *Le ballet espagnol* (The Spanish ballet)

Alyssa Morris premiered *Four Personalities* (2007) during her senior recital at Brigham Young University. She has since established an international reputation as both an oboist and a composer. Below are her program notes for this piece, which is based on the Hartman Personality Test.

YELLOW—Yellow is fun loving. The joy that comes from doing something just for the sake of doing it is what motivates and drives yellow.

WHITE—White is a peacekeeper. White is kind, adaptable, and a good listener. Though motivated by peace, white struggles with indecisiveness.

BLUE—Blue brings great gifts of service, loyalty, sincerity, and thoughtfulness. Intimacy, creating relationships, and having purpose is what motivates and drives blue.

RED—Motivated by power, red is aggressive and assertive. Red is visionary, confident, and proactive.

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