


**MEREDITH COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
GUEST ARTIST SERIES**

PRESENTS



**The Music
of
BILL ROBINSON**

**Sunday March 24, 2019
4:00 pm
Carswell Concert Hall**

Sponsored by Generous Donors to the Meredith Music Department

Program

Opening Remarks—Bill Robinson, Composer

From God's Back 40 for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| I. Gimme that Old-Time Tetrachord | Don't Be Shy |
| II. Yet Another Waltz | Anorexia composita |
| III. Sic Transit Gloria Mundi | Lento |
| IV. The Albuterol Stomp | Speedy |

Performed by Eric Pritchard, viola;
Fred Jacobowitz, clarinet; Carl Banner, piano

Faith No Fear for Cello Quartet

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| I. Turn Off the TV | Niente televisione |
| II. Watch Your Breath | Adagio |
| III. It's Just a Fun Tune | With an attitude |

Performed by the Chapel Hill Philharmonia Cello Quartet
(Richard Clark, Dorothy Wright, Rosalind Goodwin, and James Dietz)

Miniatures for Piano and Woodwind Quintet

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| I. Farewell Overture | Frühjahrsmüdigkeit |
| II. Poem | Largo |
| III. Sevillana | Allegro con gringo |

Performed by the NCCMI Woodwind Quintet (Amy Xu, flute; Hans-Nikolas Romano, oboe;
Isabelle Lee, clarinet; Marni Weinreb, bassoon; Aiden McCoy, horn) and Kent Lyman, piano

----**Brief Intermission**----

Violin Concerto No. 2 Chamber version for Violin and Two Pianos)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| I. Country Fiddling | Playful |
| II. Between Earth and Space | With awareness |
| III. Scherzo | Vivace |
| IV. Sufinale | Dervishistical |

Performed by Eric Pritchard, violin; David Heid and Randall Love, pianos

Audience members are reminded to silence alarm watches, pagers, and cellular phones before the performance. As a matter of courtesy and copyright law, no unauthorized recording or photography is allowed during the performance

About the Music

From God's Back 40

In June 2017, clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz and pianist Carl Banner, director of Washington Musica Viva, asked me to write a trio for clarinet, viola, and piano. I had just moved to the little town of Cleveland, North Carolina, where I started playing an electric 6 string violin. The new environment proved fertile for creativity.

The first movement is based on various tetrachords, which is very common in my music. I have written a piece before titled *Diatonic Phrygian Tetrachord*, which was more specific about that particular type. There is a somewhat baroque flavor to this section, as I came up with the basic ideas after listening to Bach violin concertos.

The second movement is *Yet Another Waltz*, as I have written altogether too many already. I wouldn't recommend trying to dance to this one.

The third movement has a touch of country roots music to it; I am trying my hand at old fiddle tunes, and it's well-suited to the rural surroundings.

The finale is a big fast ending, inspired by my inspiration of albuterol as an inhaled medication for COPD. One of the main problems of this disease is extreme fatigue; albuterol is a potent stimulant, that does the job.

Faith, No Fear

My good friend and long-time collaborator, cellist Bonnie Thron, connected me with Richard Clark, who is an enthusiastic amateur cellist. His chamber group, Chapel Hill Philharmonia Cello Quartet, was interested in new music for that instrumentation. I was just finishing up my latest big project, *Violin Concerto No. 2* written for Eric Pritchard, and figured a smaller form would be a good idea for a couple of months.

The title is a quote from Neem Karoli Baba, an Indian saint. I have a lot of difficulties with anxiety, and just having this statement around does help.

While the first cello part tends to higher notes and the fourth tends to lower notes, in general the counterpoint will lead each part where it needs to go. As a result, each part gets a chance to play in the full range.

Miniatures

I frequently write chamber versions first when composing pieces for large forces. In 2015, from January through August, I wrote for concert band. One piece was *Popular Music of Planet X*, and another was *Tilting at Windmills. A Little Poem*, from the first, and *Sevillana*, from the second, had chamber versions for woodwind quintet and piano. After completing my Cello Concerto in late January, I felt it was time to write a third movement to make a complete composition for this chamber group. The new movement became *the Farewell Overture*, inspired in a way by Groucho Marx in *Animal Crackers*, and also by my uncertainty as to how much more music I will be able to write. This overture was then arranged for concert band. *Frühjahrs Müdigkeit*, the tempo marking for the first movement, is German for a sense of listlessness brought on by the coming of spring.

Violin Concerto No. 2

I have had the pleasure of making music with violinist Eric Pritchard since 2006. In 2009, Eric performed the first edition of Violin Concerto No. 1, *Ananda Concerto*, with the Raleigh Civic Chamber Orchestra. That concerto has since been extensively revised. I started a second violin concerto for Eric after finishing my Cello Concerto for Bonnie Thron. Spring and summer 2016 was a difficult and depressing time for me. As a result, I wrote no music for about six months. After retiring and moving to the small town of Cleveland, NC, I was able to start back into the violin concerto in the fall of 2017. This is a companion piece to the Cello Concerto, with the same instrumentation both in the chamber and orchestral versions, four movements, about the same length, and a third movement with origins in my sonatas for solo violin.

In the first movement, measures 108 (clue; look that up in Hindu symbology) through 115, and again measure 144 to the end, I use a melody introduced by Ram Dass in his 1969 Sculpture Garden lectures in NYC. These lectures formed the basis for the book *Be Here Now*. The tune was used to chant "Rama".

The short third movement started life in 2002 as the second movement of my *Ninth Sonata for Solo Violin*. (There are ten such sonatas.)

The fourth movement is titled *Sufinale*, as both Eric and I are interested in Sufi mysticism and spiritual practices.



About the Musicians

Bill Robinson was born in Denton, Texas in 1955. He started piano lessons at age three and violin at ten. He moved to Massachusetts in 1961. Composition started in 1972 at Phillips Academy, Andover. After a year at Eastman School of Music, he spent many years at UNT in Denton Texas, earning a BM in composition in 1984. Bill moved to North Carolina in 1987. Bill came to Raleigh in 2001 to study physics at NCSU, earning a BS in 2004, and a PhD in 2010. He studied and experimented with ball lightning, and taught at NCSU until 2017. After two years in rural western Rowan County, he is moving to Garner on April 6. Bill has recorded over a dozen CDs, and has a website at billrobinsonmusic.com that has all his scores and recordings.

Dr. Kent Lyman is a Steinway Artist and has traveled extensively as a performing artist throughout the United States, in South Korea, China, Brazil, and Italy. He has appeared with a number of orchestras in the Carolinas and Florida, and has collaborated with many of the leading musicians in the state of North Carolina and elsewhere.

Carl Banner, Pianist, is founder and director of Washington Musica Viva (WMV), dedicated to the performance of classical, contemporary, and jazz-based chamber music. WMV has produced monthly concerts in the Washington DC area since 1998 and has received public and private grant support. WMV has commissioned and premiered several new works, including this trio co-commission of Bill Robinson's "*From God's Back 40*" with clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz. Banner studied piano with Harold Zabrack, Leon Fleisher, Leo Smit, and Leonard Shure, and was the winner of several piano competitions. He was awarded a PhD in Cell Biology from Harvard University in 1983 and worked as a researcher and administrator until 2004. Since then he has devoted his full time to chamber music performance.

The Chapel Hill Philharmonia Cello Quartet consists of amateurs from our community orchestra. We include an emeritus professor of diagnostic radiology from UNC-CH (Richard Clark), a retired operating room nurse from UNC Hospitals (Dorothy Wright), an environmental toxicologist/administrator (Rosalind Goodwin) and an electrical engineer (James Dietz). We have played together for over seven years and occasionally share our music informally in churches, retirement communities and workshops. Since the original repertoire for four cellos is somewhat limited and generally very challenging for non-professionals, our programs consist mainly of arrangements of other works. On the advice of Bonnie Thron, we commissioned a suite by Bill Robinson who wanted to create some music for amateurs for this instrumentation.

Bill writes in his score introduction, "This music avoids virtuoso display, and is reasonably straightforward technically, to be useful for non-professionals." We are not so sure we would have used these exact words, but have really enjoyed the challenges of working on this new and engaging music. The title, *Faith, No Fear* is very apt!

David Heid comes to North Carolina after a successful career in New York City as a vocal coach/accompanist. Among the many well-known singers he has performed with are Karen Beardsley, Susan Dunn, Adria Firestone, Carolyn James and Christine Weidinger. Also an arranger and conductor, he made his Lincoln Center debut in Alice Tully Hall in 1994. In the summer of 1997, he was heard at both the Darling Harbor Convention Center and the historic Towne Hall in Sydney, Australia. His coaching clients include past Grammy and Tony Award winners.

David, a proud graduate of the SUNY Fredonia School of Music, is currently on the faculty at Duke University teaching piano and working with singers as well as being in demand throughout the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area as a collaborative artist. He has worked with many of the area's leading organizations including Durham Choral Society, NC Symphony, Raleigh Chamber Music Guild, Mallarme Chamber Players, The Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, NC Opera, Theater in the Park, Thompson Theater Summerfest, Long Leaf Opera and Triangle Opera. He was previously on staff of the renowned Juilliard School in New York City. Additionally he has worked extensively in gospel music and recorded on a number of Christian labels. He has toured the U.S. and Canada with Jane Syftestad and directed The Voices of St. John's MCC - named in 1997 "The Best Gospel Choir in the Triangle." Their debut CD "Anywhere with Jesus " was nominated for a GLAMA award in the contemporary spiritual category

Fred Jacobowitz received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied with the late Leon Russianoff. He made his New York Debut at Carnegie Recital Hall (now Weill Hall) as winner of the Artists International Competition. He was a featured soloist on radio stations WBAI and WQXR in New York City, with the Goldman Band, and in recital throughout the Metropolitan New York area. As a chamber musician, he has participated in the Marlboro Music Festival and played in the Verrazano Winds Woodwind Quintet in Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Jacobowitz was Principal Clarinetist in the Annapolis (Maryland) Symphony Orchestra from 1989-2002. He is equally at home in the worlds of Classical, Jazz and Folk, having performed and recorded with his Kol Haruach Klezmer Band and his duo, Ebony and Ivory. He has performed as recitalist and soloist throughout the US and Canada and in Panama. Mr. Jacobowitz now resides in Raleigh, NC, where (when not performing out of town) he is a machinist. He teaches and freelances, and he can often be heard playing concerts with his wife, North Carolina Symphony Principal 'Cellist Bonnie Thron. In addition, he performs as half of the Jacobowitz-Larkin duo with pianist Anatoly Larkin. He runs his own business, Case Closed, fixing musical instrument cases and is a professional Little League Baseball Umpire.

Eric Pritchard has taught violin and served as the First Violinist of the Ciompi Quartet at Duke University since 1995. Formerly First Violinist of the Alexander and Oxford Quartets, Mr. Pritchard has taught at Miami University, San Francisco State University, City University of New York, and the NC School of the Arts. He was winner of the National Federation of Music Clubs Award in Violin as well as the first prize winner at the London International String Quartet Competition and the Coleman and Fischhoff national chamber music competitions. He has performed widely as a recitalist and as soloist with the Boston Pops and orchestras in Europe and South America. His major teachers were Eric Rosenblith, Josef Gingold, Ivan Galamian and Isadore Tinkleman and he holds degrees from Indiana University and the Juilliard School. He has been performing music by Bill Robinson since 2006.

Nikolas Romano is a senior at Enloe High School, where he plays the oboe in the Enloe Wind Ensemble. He has been playing oboe for six years and studies privately with North Carolina Symphony principal oboist, Melanie Wilsden. He has also studied the piano since the age of five. He has played in the All-State Honors Band three times, twice as principal oboe. Nikolas has played each year in the All-District Honors Band, in school musicals in the pit orchestra, Lamar Stringfield music camp, and Triangle Youth Philharmonic. In NCCMI, he has learned the value of playing chamber music with a close-knit group of musicians. Chamber music allows each member of the quintet to identify one's own role within the scope of the group's greater sound. Although not majoring in music, Nikolas plans to further cultivate his passion for music in college.

Amy Xu is a senior at Enloe High School. She hasn't decided where she will be going for college next year or what she will be studying but knows that she will be continuing to play flute no matter where she ends up. She started playing in fifth grade and is currently in the Enloe Wind Ensemble. She has also participated in All-District Band clinics, the Triangle Youth Orchestra, Lamar Stringfield, a number of RAFA Solo competitions, and the NCCMI Woodwind Quintet. Her experiences have been opportunities for immense musical and personal growth, as they have given her a myriad of resources, from talented ensemble members and mentors to high-level performance opportunities.

Aiden McCoy is a sophomore at Enloe High School, where he plays as the principal French Horn in the Enloe Wind Ensemble. He started horn in fifth grade and has grown musically, each year. He has participated in All District and All State for three consecutive years. He enjoys playing with the North Carolina Youth Wind Ensemble, Lamar Stringfield, and the Triangle Youth Philharmonic. This is his first year playing with NCCMI and his first experience with small-ensemble classical music. In a small ensemble, every note counts, and you own your every high and every low. This woodwind quintet is a true collaboration in music making. Their coaches strive to bring out the best in each member of the group. Aiden loves the music he makes and the instrument he makes it with. He looks forward to more music-making in the future!

Isabelle Lee is a sophomore at Panther Creek High School. She has been the clarinetist of the NCCMI Wind Quintet for only a year but has learned a lot through this enriching and unique chamber music experience. Through precise and thoughtful instruction by NCCMI coaches, she was able to further advance her abilities as a musician. In NCCMI, she has really enjoyed herself, being in a blithesome atmosphere with talented musicians that she has learned to cherish as friends as well. In addition to her activity as the clarinetist of NCCMI, some of her other musical activities and musical accomplishments of this year include being principal clarinetist in the Triangle Youth Philharmonic and being in the Triangle Youth Philharmonic Wind Quintet, All-District Honors Band, All-State Honors Band, and NC Governor's School.

Marni Weinreb is a seventh grader at Ligon Middle School. She has been studying piano since she was four year old. Marni began playing the bassoon at age 10, studying privately with Jessica Kunttu. She has participated in All-County and All-District clinics throughout middle school and is very excited for her first All-State clinic this coming May. Marni is thrilled to be a part of NCCMI. Playing chamber music with such talented musicians has enhanced her love for music and helped build confidence in her performance skills.



Thank You

President Jo Allen, Provost Matthew Poslusny,
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Carson Riutta, Administrative Assistant,
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Tonight's concert is made possible by donors to the music enhancement and scholarship funds. If you wish to contribute, donations can be left in the basket in the lobby or sent to the Meredith Music department at 3800 Hillsborough St., Raleigh, NC. 27607

UPCOMING EVENTS

Octavia, Friday, April 12, 2019 8:00pm Carswell Hall

2nd Annual Friends of Music Celebration, Saturday April 6, 2019
Reception at 5pm, Concert at 6:30pm, Carswell Concert Hall

Spring Choral Concert with NC State Singing Statesmen
Saturday, April 13, 2019 8:00pm Jones Chapel

Meredith Philharmonic Chamber Series
Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:00pm Carswell Hall

Meredith Philharmonic Pops Series
Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:00pm Jones Auditorium



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