Spring 2015 Artists in Residence

Borromeo String Quartet

Rhythm and Brass
Canadian horn player Jeff Nelsen has, for the past twenty years, been living his dreams full out and fearlessly. A professor at the prestigious Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Jeff’s passion is helping others reach their dreams through “Fearless Performance,” a seminar designed to alleviate performance anxiety. Nelsen has performed for Broadway shows, toured with Michael Bolton and Barry Manilow, recorded dozens of movie soundtracks, and performed in the horn sections of orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago, Boston, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Montreal, Vancouver, and National Symphony and the Balkan Gypsy funk band of Slavic Soul Party. Mezzo-soprano Nina Yoshida Nelsen has appeared at the New York City Opera, Santa Barbara Opera and at London’s Royal Albert Hall as Suzuki in Madame Butterfly. She has also performed roles including Cherubino, Don Alfonso, and the title role in Carmen with companies including the Utah Opera, Opera New Jersey, Opera Providence, and the Komische Kammeroper of Munich. Concert repertoire includes Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony (Carnegie Hall) and Mozart’s Coronation Mass (Santa Barbara and Poeria Symphonies). She is a graduate of Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts and was a National Finalist in the vocal competitions of the Jensen Foundation, the Loren L. Zachary Society, and the Metropolitan Opera.

Jeffrey Nelsen (horn) and Nina Yoshida Nelsen (soprano)

- Jan. 21, 2015, 10 am-noon, Horn and voice lessons, Recital Hall, SFAC
- Jan. 21, 2015, 2:25 pm, Brass area masterclass (Jeff Nelsen only), Recital Hall, SFAC
- Jan. 21, 2015, 3-4:30 pm, Voice lessons, Recital Hall, SFAC
- Jan. 22, 2015, 1:40-2:30 pm, Voice lessons, Recital Hall, SFAC
- Jan. 22, 2015, 10:30 am-12 pm, Informal concert/presentation, Conway Senior High School
- Jan. 22, 2015, 1-4:30-2:30 pm, Presentation for UCA students, Recital Hall, SFAC
- Jan. 22, 2015, 7:30-9:30 pm, Individual masterclasses, various locations, SFAC
- Jan. 22, 2015, 10:30 am-12 pm, Informal concert/presentation, Conway Senior High School
- Jan. 22, 2015, 1-4:30-2:30 pm, Presentation for UCA students, Recital Hall, SFAC
- Jan. 22, 2015, 7:30-9:30 pm, Public concert, Recital Hall, SFAC

Borromeo String Quartet

- Feb. 11, 2015, 4-6 pm, Masterclass for string groups, Recital Hall, SFAC
- Feb. 11, 2015, 7:30-9:30 pm, Individual masterclasses, various locations, SFAC
- Feb. 12, 2015, 10:30 am-12 pm, Informal concert/presentation, Conway Senior High School
- Feb. 12, 2015, 1-4:30-2:30 pm, Presentation for UCA students, Recital Hall, SFAC
- Feb. 12, 2015, 7:30-9:30 pm, Public concert, Recital Hall, SFAC

Celebrating their 25th anniversary, the Borromeo String Quartet is one of the most important string quartets of our time. Audiences and critics alike champion the Borromeo’s ability to bring back the contemporary fire to often-heard repertoire, while making even the most challenging new music approachable. Through the pioneering use of laptop computers instead of traditional sheet music, the Borromeo is redefining the classical music landscape. Whereas previous artists have only had access to their individual parts, this new technology enables each musician to perform entirely ranging from aviation to child abuse to winegrowing. Nelsen mentors other writers through her position as a regional adviser for the Nevada chapter of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). In 2012, she founded Ventana Children, a charitable organization whose mission is to help disadvantaged youth into safe housing and working toward career goals through higher education, vocational training, and the arts.

Ellen Hopkins (Young Adult Writer)

- Feb. 17, 2015, 7:30 pm, Public reading and book signing, COB Auditorium 107
- Feb. 18, 2015, 11:15 am, Craft talk/Q & A, A, 331 Thompson Hall
- Feb. 18, 2015, 4:30-5:30 pm, Presentation for young adults, Faulkner County Boys and Girls Club, 1405 Robins Street

Ellen Hopkins is a poet, freelance writer, and the award-winning author of twenty nonfiction titles and nine New York Times bestselling young adult novels-in-verse, including Perfect, Fallout, Tricks, Glass, Identical, Impulse, Burned, and Crank. She has published hundreds of articles on subjects ranging from aviation to child abuse to winegrowing. Hopkins mentors other writers through her position as a regional adviser for the Nevada chapter of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). In 2012, she founded Ventana Sierra, Inc., a charitable organization whose mission is to help disadvantaged youth into safe housing and working toward career goals through higher education, vocational training, and the arts.

Robert Hupp (Theatre Director)

- March 12, 2015, 6:30 pm, Public lecture: “Non-profit Theatre in America,” Bridges/Larson Theatre, SFAC
- April 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 7:30 pm, Lucky Stiff, directed by Robert Hupp, Bridges/Larson Theatre, SFAC

Robert Hupp is in his fifteenth season as producing artistic director of Arkansas Repertory Theatre. His directing credits for The Rep include, among many others, Red, Death of a Salesman, and To Kill a Mockingbird. He also directed Les Miserables for Arizona’s Phoenix Theatre Company and the American premieres of Glyn Maxwell’s The Lifeblood and Wolfpit for the Phoenix Theatre Ensemble in New York City. Robert directed several works for the Obie Award-winning Jean Cocteau Rep, including premieres of the Bentley/ Milhaud version of Brecht’s Mother Courage and Her Children, Seamus Heaney’s The Cure at Troy and Eduardo de Filippo’s Napoli Milionaria.

Rhythm and Brass

- March 20, 2015, 7 pm, Public concert, Ida Waldran Auditorium
- March 20, 2015, 7 pm, Masterclass: Brass pedagogy, Recital Hall, SFAC

Performing on trumpets, horn, piano, trombone, tuba and percussion, Rhythm & Brass has accumulated an extensive repertoire from the Baroque tradition to chamber jazz and beyond, including commissioned works by some of today’s most creative contemporary composers. While maintaining a full touring schedule, Rhythm & Brass has also performed at numerous special events including a 1994 New York concert debut at Carnegie Recital Hall with celebrated jazz trumpeter Randy Brecker. Rhythm & Brass has also been featured at the New York Brass Conference, the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the Raphael Mendez Brass Institute, and at Kentucky’s Great American Brass Band Festival.

Romey Borys, Cello

- April 23, 2015, 4 pm, String masterclasses, SFAC Recital Hall
- April 23, 2015, 7 pm, Dinner with students, Christian Cafeteria
- April 23, 2015, 7:30 pm, Chamber music masterclass and Q & A, SFAC Recital Hall
- April 25, 2015, 7:30 pm, Roman Borys in concert with the Conway Symphony Orchestra, Reynolds Performance Hall (tickets required)

A founding member of the Juno Award-winning Gryphon Trio, cellist Roman Borys is one of Canada’s most active chamber musicians and producers. Since 2008, Roman has been Artistic Director of the Ottawa Chamber Music Society, programming over 100 concerts per season for the Society’s annual Chamberfest. He is a passionate advocate of audience development initiatives such as Listen Up!, a project that teaches kids how to combine musical composition and poetry. A native of Toronto, Canada, Roman Borys studied with Janos Starker at Indiana University and Aldo Parisot at Yale University. Borys now teaches at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music.