

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Music presents
The Faculty & Friends Concert Series

Willis Delony, piano

featuring

Joseph Skillen, tuba
Will Campbell, saxophones

Rowe Recital Hall, Rowe Arts
Tuesday August 30, 2022 | 7:30 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

Program

Images, 2ème série

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

- I. Cloches à travers les feuilles
- II. Et la lune descend sur la temple qui fut
- III. Poissons d'or

Piano Sonata No. 3

Paul Hindemith
(1895-1963)

- I. Ruhig bewegt
- II. Sehr lebhaft
- III. Mäßig schnell
- IV. Fuge: Lebhaft

Between the Notes

Willis Delony
(b. 1957)

Olha Maria

Antonio Carlos Jobim
(1927-1994)

How Do You Keep the Music Playing

Michel Legrand (1932-2019)
lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman

Intermission

Concert Piece for Tuba and Piano

Libby Larsen
(b. 1950)

Adoration

Florence Price (1887-1953)
arr. Clayton Maddox

Joseph Skillen, tuba

Jazz duo selections to be announced from the stage

Will Campbell, saxophones

Performer Biographies



In a performing career spanning over four decades, pianist **Willis Delony** has won acclaim as a classical/jazz crossover artist. His innovative concert explorations of the two musical worlds are showcased in a series of solo piano recordings on the Centaur label. A *New World A' Comin' – Classical*

and Jazz Connections was released in 2001. *Double Dance – Classical and Jazz Connections II* was released in 2008. *Out of Character – Classical and Jazz Connections III*, was released in October 2014. Also part of the series is an independent release from 2018 entitled *Butterfly Room – Connections for Solo Piano*. The project continues with *Between the Notes*, which was released by Centaur in 2021. Previous album credits include a recording of sonatas by Samuel Barber and Sergei Prokofiev, also on the Centaur label, and a jazz album entitled *Civilized Conversations*, featuring Delony and bassist Bill Grimes. He collaborated with bassoonist William Ludwig on the Mark Records release, *Rhapsody in Bassoon*, which features the world premiere recording of André Previn's *Sonata for Bassoon and Piano*. He also appears with oboist Johanna Cox Pennington on her album *Orion Nocturne* on the Albany label. He is currently collaborating with violinist Joana Genova in a recording of the complete sonatas for violin and piano by Stephen Dankner, which will be released in 2023. Also in the works is a recording of classical and jazz works with trumpeter Brian Shaw, also set for release in 2023.

Delony has appeared as piano soloist, guest pianist/arranger or conductor with orchestras throughout the United States as well as orchestras in Canada, the former Soviet Union and China. As a solo and collaborative recitalist, he has performed classical and jazz concerts throughout the U.S. as well as France, Germany, the former Soviet Union, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil and Argentina. He has performed with many of the nation's leading jazz artists and is co-host/pianist for Louisiana State University's popular concert series *Hot Summer Nights – Cool Jazz*. His pops orchestra arrangements have been performed throughout the U.S. and Canada, including over 50 scores written

for the Minneapolis-based jazz vocal quintet Five By Design, with whom he has recorded two albums. He has worked for many years with Baton Rouge producer/sound engineer Joey Decker of Disk Productions, co-creating dozens of award-winning commercial soundtracks for clients nationwide. He collaborates regularly with leading contemporary composers, having premiered the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra by Stephen Dankner with the LSU Symphony Orchestra in 2015. He has recorded and performed solo piano works by Parisbased American composer Joseph Makholm, as well as solo piano works by jazz composer Les Hooper. In January 2017, he premiered Greg Yasinitzky's Jazz Concerto for Piano and Orchestra with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. In part due to the strength of this performance, the work was awarded *The American Prize* in composition. A series of 2018 performances in Paris featured his lecture/recital on the music of Bill Evans at the IMEP Paris College of Music as well as a solo recital at the Bill Evans Piano Academy. During the 2021-22 season he performed Florence Price's Concerto for Piano with the LSU Symphony, and also collaborated with the LSU Wind Ensemble in a performance of Stravinsky's *Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments* as part of the international Stravinsky In America festival.

Delony is the Boyd Professor of Piano and Jazz Studies in the School of Music at Louisiana State University, where he has been a member of the music faculty since 2000. From 1986-2000 he served on the music faculty at Southeastern Louisiana University and is a former member of the music faculty at Delta State University. He is a past recipient of an Artist Fellowship awarded by the Louisiana Division of the Arts, as well as the Edith Kirkpatrick Arts Leadership Award given by the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. He received the LSU Distinguished Faculty Award in 2019 and was chosen as the SEC Professor of the Year for LSU in 2020.

Originally from North Carolina, **Will Campbell** is the Director of Jazz Studies and Professor of Saxophone at UNC Charlotte. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in Saxophone Performance and Literature degree from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the of Bachelor of Music (Jazz Studies) and



Master of Music (Saxophone Performance) from the University of North Texas. While attending UNT, he was a member of the One O'Clock Lab Band and directed the Three O'Clock Lab Band. From 1990 to 1994, he toured internationally as a member of the Harry Connick, Jr. Orchestra. Recording credits include *Blue Light, Red Light, When My Heart Finds Christmas*, and *The New York Big Band Concert* (Video). In 2007, Dr. Campbell released *Think Tank* (Cellar Live Records), his debut recording as a leader and composer. Dr. Campbell is also a member of Unhinged Sextet, a cooperative jazz ensemble that has released two recordings on OA2 Records, *Clarity* and *Don't Blink*. In 1995, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Fellowship Grant, which allowed him to study privately with renowned saxophonist Dick Oatts in New York City. Dr. Campbell also been invited to direct All-State Jazz Bands in New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and North Carolina and has performed at conferences for the North American Saxophone Alliance, International Association for Jazz Education, The Jazz Education Network, and the World Saxophone Congress. His arrangements and compositions are available through University of Northern Colorado Jazz Press and Dorn Publications. Dr. Campbell is an Artist/Clinician for the Conn-Selmer Company and a Performing Artist for D'Addario Reeds and endorses these products exclusively.



Chair of the Music Department at UNC Charlotte and professor of tuba and euphonium, **Joseph Skillen** is a respected performer, teacher, and scholar. His scholarly work includes more than 40 publications, three book chapters, 12 professional recordings, musical transcriptions, and multiple solo performances on four continents. Current research interests include brass pedagogy, contemplative teaching

practices, curricular design, commissioning and premiering new works for tuba, community engagement, and arts entrepreneurship. Skillen's former students are performing in orchestras, military bands, teaching in higher education and K-12 schools, and also enjoying careers in business, engineering, and medicine with the mind of an artist. He is the Secretary

of the International Tuba Euphonium Association and holds degrees from Tennessee Tech University, Pennsylvania State University, and Michigan State University. Skillen has served in multiple administrative positions including serving as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at Louisiana State University where was named an emeritus professor.

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College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Eric Millard, trumpet
Faculty & Friends Concert Series

Thu Sep 29 | 7:30 pm
Rowe Recital Hall

Macbeth
Actors from the London Stage

Thu Sep 29- Sat Oct 1 | 7:30 pm
Black Box Theater

OCTOBER

Jazz Ensemble & Combos

Tue Oct 18 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Wind Ensemble

Wed Oct 19 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Orchestra

Thu Oct 20 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

University Chorale

Fri Oct 21 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Elizabeth Sullivan, oboe
Faculty & Friends Concert Series

Tue Oct 25 | 7:30 pm
Rowe Recital Hall

NOVEMBER

Fall Dance Concert

Thu Nov 3- Sat Nov 5 | 7:30 pm
Sun Nov 6 | 2 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Gospel Choir

Mon Nov 14 | 7:30 pm
Rowe Recital Hall