

# Collaboration Celebration!

Leslie Cullen, flute  
Jaime Namminga, piano

Elijah Barclift, horn  
Annah Oh, piano

Bryan Hall, violin  
Allison Gagnon, piano

Ulrich Eichenauer, viola  
Amélie Langlois, piano

Jodi Burns, soprano  
PG Hazard, piano

Watson Chamber Music Hall  
Saturday, November 6, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

*Presented by*

**UNC School of the Arts**  
Brian Cole, Chancellor

**School of Music**  
Saxton Rose, Dean



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# Collaboration Celebration!

Sonata in C-sharp Minor (1904).....Mel Bonis  
Andantino con moto (1858 - 1937)  
Scherzo: Vivace  
Adagio  
Finale: Moderato

*Leslie Cullen, flute*  
*Jaime Namminga, piano*

Imaginings (2017) .....Dorothy Gates  
(b. 1966)

*Elijah Barclift, horn*  
*Annah Oh, piano*

from Sonata in D Major, Op. 75 (1885) .....Camille Saint-Saëns  
Allegro moderato—Allegro molto (1835 - 1921)

*Bryan Hall, violin*  
*Allison Gagnon, piano*

Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70 (1849) .....Robert Schumann  
(1801 - 1856)

*Ulrich Eichenauer, viola*  
*Amélie Langlois, piano*

from the “Appalachian Songbooks” .....Kenneth Frazelle  
Bonnie Blue Eyes (Book 1) (2000) (b. 1955)  
The Cuckoo (Book 2) (2009)  
Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss (Book 2) (2009)

*Jodi Burns, soprano*  
*PG Hazard, piano*

Creation of the **COLLABORATIVE PIANO PROGRAM** at University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) was set in motion by two key figures in the School of Music's recent history: Robert Yekovich, dean of the School of Music for many years, and longtime piano faculty member Eric Larsen. Allison Gagnon came to UNCSA during the fall of 1998 to work on the piano staff for one year while finishing doctoral work. At her request they let her teach an accompanying class for piano majors. One year became two, and Dean Yekovich proposed creation of curriculum for a graduate program in collaborative piano that would be led by Gagnon. Then-Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies Michael Rothkopf guided Larsen and Gagnon through the stages of curriculum approval, and in the fall of 2001, the first graduate student joined the fledgling program.

A collaborative piano program takes on the unique characteristics of its school. At UNCSA, the students join the spectrum of piano support provided by the piano staff; their partners range from high school to post-grad students; the collaborative piano program has accepted Professional Artist Certification (PAC) students and pianist Fletcher Fellows. Students have an array of opportunities in partnering studios and collaborations, including working with students in the School of Dance and School of Drama. Schedule, budget and workload challenges have threatened survival, but the program has stayed the course.

Tonight, the collaborative piano studio celebrates musical collaboration. Included are performers who were with the program in the early days as well as recent alumni and their colleagues. Earlier this weekend, collaborative piano students connected virtually with two pioneers in the collaborative piano field: Anne Epperson, to whom all our alums are "grand-students" and Margo Garrett, herself an early alum of UNCSA. A virtual round table in Zoom squares connected alums from near and far who shared "what are they doing now" stories, many having added to collaborative music-making the dimensions of teaching, leadership, parenting and even new fields of endeavor. So tonight, the collaborative piano studio also celebrates the collaborative skill set: teamwork, versatility, resourcefulness, inclusion, concern for others and an indefatigable "you can do it" spirit!

## BIOGRAPHIES

Flutist and piccoloist **LESLIE CULLEN** has performed at The Kennedy Center, Ravinia, The Kimmel Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Recital Hall and the Aspen Music Festival, and she enjoys a varied career of solo, chamber music and orchestral playing. She is the executive director of the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra and with that group regularly tours nationally and internationally. Paragon also has an extensive discography with New World Records; twice these recordings have been cited for a Grammy for Classical Producer of the Year. Cullen is a native of Oklahoma and has served as an artist-in-residence for the Oklahoma State Arts Council. She holds degrees in flute performance from the Manhattan School of Music and The Juilliard School, and as professor of flute at both Susquehanna and Bucknell universities she greatly values the opportunity to teach and learn from her students.

A passionate educator and performer, **JAIME NAMMINGA** (MM '09) is an assistant professor of music at Susquehanna University where she coordinates the collaborative piano area and teaches ear training and class piano. She holds a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the University of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a Master of Music in collaborative piano from UNCSCA, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in collaborative piano from Arizona State University. Namminga has been rehearsal pianist, coach and vocal director for various opera and theatre productions, a choral and dance pianist at several universities, an adjudicator and pianist for concerto and composition competitions, and she has performed on numerous recitals. Indie Opera Podcast described her playing as “gorgeous and fantastic,” and Namminga was a finalist for the 2021 Puerto Rico Collaborative Piano Institute competition. Her scholarship includes writings and presentations on the pianistic enhancing of musical theatre and choral repertoire. Namminga composes and arranges, and she developed and directed Susquehanna University’s first annual summer Strings and Keyboard Institute in 2019. She is a member of Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association (PMTA), Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society (IKCAS).

**ELIJAH BARCLIFT** is from Greensboro, NC, and he is a high school junior at UNCSA. He was recently named the 2021 North Carolina representative for the Music Teachers National Association's Senior Brass Competition, the Northeast Horn Workshop High School Solo Competition Winner and the Northwest Horn Workshop High School Low Horn Excerpt Winner and Solo Competition runner up. As a young freelancer, he has recently performed with the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra. Barclift was the principal horn of the North Carolina All-State Honors Band in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades. His parents are band directors and were his first music teachers. Before coming to UNCSA he studied with Mary Burroughs and Maria Serkin.

**ANNAH HYOJIN OH** (MM '13), a native of South Korea, is a collaborative pianist at UNCSA. She has worked as a studio accompanist at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. In 2013 Oh completed her Master of Music in collaborative piano at UNCSA, and prior to that her Bachelor of Music in piano performance at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Her summer study includes the Aspen Music Festival and School in Colorado and the International Summer Academy at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Her principal teachers have been Allison Gagnon, Andrew Willis and Juyeon Seo. She has also worked with Anne Epperson, Eric Larsen, Jura Margulis and Inara Zandman. Oh has experience with other keyboard instruments including organ, fortepiano, harpsichord, celesta, clavichord and synthesizer. She is active in church choir and band.

Hailed by Cincinnati City Beat as “extraordinarily evocative” for his performances and reviewed by the Salisbury Post as playing with “great beauty and extraordinary brilliance” for his Sibelius Violin Concerto,

**BRYAN EMMON HALL** has performed extensively in the United States and abroad as a chamber, orchestra, violinist, violist and conductor. Hall has performed in such venues as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco and the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, China. He has also appeared as a soloist with over 30 orchestras such as the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, Shasta Symphony Orchestra, Balcones Symphony, Salisbury Symphony Orchestra, Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony Orchestra, Austin Civic Orchestra, Central Texas Orchestra, Piedmont Wind Symphony,

Juneau String Ensemble, Cincinnati Accent Festival Orchestra and many others. Hall served on the faculty of The University of Alaska Fairbanks as associate professor of upper strings. He was concertmaster of the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, conductor of the Northern Lights Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Fairbanks Youth Symphony Orchestra. He was visiting concertmaster of the Juneau Symphony Orchestra during the 2018-2019 season. His articles appear in various publications, including String Magazine. He is currently the assistant professor of upper strings and orchestra conductor at Georgia College and State University.

Canadian pianist **ALLISON GAGNON** directs the Collaborative Piano Program at UNCSA and concertizes with vocal and instrumental colleagues both here and beyond. Before joining UNCSA in 1998 she was affiliated with two Canadian universities: Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. She was also a member of the piano staff at the Meadowmount School of Music in New York for almost 20 years.

A dedicated educator, Gagnon has received the UNCSA Excellence in Teaching Award, and graduates of the collaborative piano program she launched 20 years ago at UNCSA are active professionally across the US, in Canada and abroad. Her developing interest in the role of music in dementia care has led to a new dimension in her role as educator: since 2019 she has served as faculty mentor for the Morning Music Club team of UNCSA's ArtistCorps community engagement initiative.

Gagnon completed her Doctor of Musical Arts with Anne Epperson at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her earlier teachers were Dale Bartlett (McGill), Michael Krist (Vienna Hochschule für Musik), Pierre Jasmin, Margaret McLellan (Queen's) and her mother Marjorie Gagnon. Her creative interests include ceramics and wildlife photography. She also serves on the executive board of NCMTA and the board of Forsyth Audubon.

**ULRICH EICHENAUER** grew up in Germany where he studied viola with Nobuko Imai. He is currently associate professor of viola at UNCSA and has previously taught at conservatories in Germany and Switzerland. Eichenauer was on the faculty of the Guildhall School in London, and he

has given masterclasses in the United States, Europe, Asia and South America.

As a member of the acclaimed Mendelssohn String Quartet and the Waldstein Quartet, he has toured extensively in the United States, Europe and South America and has released numerous recordings of romantic and contemporary repertoire. Together with other UNCSA faculty he plays in the Reynolda Quartet. Eichenauer regularly appears at renowned chamber music festivals and concert series in the United States and abroad. Early in his career, he served for several seasons as principal violist of the Dresden Philharmonic in Germany. He has recorded CDs with solo works by Max Reger and Paul Hindemith as well as lesser known chamber music repertoire of Heinrich Kaminski, Ludwig Thuille, Adolf Busch and others. Eichenauer plays the “Baron Knoop” viola made in 1670 by Jacob Stainer.

Collaborative pianist **AMÉLIE LANGLOIS** (MM '03) enjoys the busy life of an accompanist. She studied at UNCSA where she was the first to graduate with a Master of Music in collaborative piano. Her major teachers have included Allison Gagnon, Michel Fournier, Marie Fabi and Brigitte Poulin. Summer festivals have included the Brevard Music Center and le Cours International de la Musique in Morges, Switzerland. Langlois, together with pianist Catherine Donkin, formed the Duo Rideau. They were semi-finalists at the International Grieg Piano Competition in Norway and won first prize at the International Bradshaw and Buono Piano Competition, playing at Carnegie Hall.

Langlois maintains a full private music studio and works as a vocal coach and accompanist at the Centre d'excellence artistique de LaSalle. Other posts in Ottawa-Gatineau have included accompanist at the Conservatoire de Musique de Gatineau, coach for the Lyrical Ensemble at Carleton University and pianist of the choir at la Maison de la Francophonie d'Ottawa. She is in much demand as an adjudicator and an examiner. She is an examiner for Conservatory Canada and has been recently examining for them in China for the US Music Certification Exams. As a collaborative artist, Langlois has performed across Canada, the United States and Europe.

**JODI BURNS** has been described as singing with a “plush voice and rich expressivity” (NYT) and with “a golden pure voice with beauty in all ranges”(CVNC). In her appearance in the Southeastern premiere of Kevin Puts’ “Silent Night” with Piedmont Opera, The Winston-Salem Journal noted, “Burns dazzled with her lustrous soprano and bright charisma. The production is elevated whenever she appears on stage.”

She recently appeared to high acclaim with Piedmont Opera as Lauretta in “Gianni Schicchi;” as Mary in “Mary, Queen of Scots” and as Adina in “The Elixir of Love.” Other roles include: Ann Trulove (“The Rake’s Progress”) with The Princeton Festival, as well as Micaela (“Carmen”), Josephine (“H.M.S. Pinafore”), Rose (“Street Scene”), Zerlina (“Don Giovanni”), Barbarina (“The Marriage of Figaro”), the Dew Fairy (“Hansel and Gretel”) and Ida (“Die Fledermaus”). Burns has sung frequently with The Winston-Salem Symphony, The North Carolina Symphony and The Piedmont Wind Symphony. Collaborations with composer Kenneth Frazelle have been frequent in recent years, including with Piedmont Opera in 2020.

Burns earned her Master of Music from UNCSA through the Fletcher Opera Institute (2011), where she studied with Marilyn Taylor, and she earned her Bachelor of Music in Education from The Ohio State University. She is now a member of the voice faculty at UNCSA. Burns will be appearing with the Western Piedmont Symphony in April 2022, singing Richard Strauss’ “Four Last Songs.”

**PG HAZARD** (MM ‘18) is a vocal coach and pianist living in Winston-Salem, NC. She is also an adjunct instructor of piano studies at High Point University. Her most recent project was “Echoes of Carolina,” Piedmont Opera’s live-streamed production featuring songs by Kenneth Frazelle. For the 2019-2020 season Hazard was also an apprentice artist with Palm Beach Opera.

While at UNCSA, Hazard received her Master of Music and held the inaugural fellowship in collaborative piano in the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute. She had the privilege of working with Warren Jones, David Efron, Antony Walker, Stephen Stubbs and Christopher Allen. She assisted with musical preparation and opera scenes recitals and performed in the orchestra for every mainstage production (2016-19).



Hazard has attended summer festivals including Music Academy of the West, Si Parla Si Canta, SongFest, and the Miami Music Festival, appearing in masterclasses with Marilyn Horne, Craig Rutenberg, Speranza Scappucci, William Bolcom, Libby Larsen, Jake Heggie, Warren Jones, Wu Han, Harolyn Blackwell and Renée Fleming.

She is a graduate of Florida State University. While there she accompanied The University Singers choir in recital and on tour and was music director for FSU Student Opera Society's production of A Little Night Music and FSU Opera Outreach's production of The Magic Flute.

# UNCSA MANIFESTO

## We Believe

**Artists** enrich our culture, enlighten our society, lift our spirits, and feed our souls.

Integrative **arts education** from an early age sparks a lifetime of creative thinking, powerful self-expression, and innovative problem solving.

Rigorous **artistic training** empowers our students and graduates to engage our communities, advance local and global creative industries, and inspire the world.

**Arts organizations** improve the quality of life and place in big cities and small communities, transforming them from merely livable to truly lovable.

**UNC School of the Arts** nurtures the talent, hones the craft, and develops the unique voices of emerging artists. We realize the full potential of exceptionally creative and passionate students to do their best work and become their best selves.

## DEAN'S COUNCILS FOR UNCSA

The Dean's Councils support each of UNCSA's five arts schools - Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking, and Music. Dean's Council members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more, work closely with the Dean to advance that school's mission and fundraising priorities, and enjoy a deeper relationship with the Dean and students of the school. If you are interested in joining one of these groups of committed individuals, please contact Interim Vice Chancellor for Advancement Rich Whittington at 336-770-3330 or [whittingtonr@uncsa.edu](mailto:whittingtonr@uncsa.edu).

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The School of Music gives talented young artists the opportunity to perfect their musical talent and prepare for life as professional musicians. Our training includes both private instruction and public performance experience, including more than 150 recitals and concerts presented each year. This performance experience, combined with career development opportunities and studies in music theory, literature and style, provides the ultimate training to help young musicians grow as both artists and professionals.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

### **Demondrae Thurman, Euphonium Soloist**

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.  
Watson Chamber Music Hall

Demondrae Thurman, considered one of the stars of the formidable generation of brass soloists, performs a combination of new and classic works for euphonium and piano. Thurman has earned a firm international reputation as a euphonium soloist with performances in Europe, Asia and throughout North America.

### **“Heathers: The Musical”**

#### **by Kevin Murphy and Laurence O’Keefe**

November 11-13 & 18-20, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.  
November 14, 2021 • 2 p.m.  
Freedman Theatre

Westerberg High is ruled by a shoulder-padded, scrunchie-wearing junta: Heather, Heather and Heather, the hottest and cruelest girls in all of Ohio. But misfit Veronica Sawyer rejects their evil regime for a new boyfriend, the mysterious rebel J.D., who plans to put the Heathers in their place: six feet under. Based on the 1988 film that became a cult hit, the rock musical “Heathers” is a dark comedy following the social politics of late ’80s teens. Dean Scott Zigler, Assistant Dean Krisha Marcano and stage combat instructor Kelly Martin Mann co-direct.

### **Emerging Choreographers Concert**

November 16-20, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.  
November 20, 2021 • 2 p.m.  
Agnes de Mille Theatre

Emerging Choreographers presents the original work of student choreographers as they flex their creative muscles, showcasing innovative work from the next generation of dance makers.

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