

UNCSA

**OSKAR ESPINA-RUIZ,
CLARINET, AND
DMITRI VOROBIEV, PIANO,
IN RECITAL**

Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

WATSON HALL

Oskar Espina-Ruiz
CLARINET

Dmitri Vorobiev
PIANO

PRESENTED BY
UNCSA

Brian Cole
CHANCELLOR

Saxton Rose
SCHOOL OF MUSIC, DEAN

OSKAR ESPINA-RUIZ, CLARINET, AND DMITRI VOROBIEV, PIANO, IN RECITAL

Dance Preludes for Clarinet and Piano (1954)..... **Witold Lutoslawski**
(1913-1994)

Allegro molto
Andantino
Allegro giocoso
Andante
Allegro molto

Eternal Garden: Four Songs for Clarinet and Piano (2003) **David Maslanka**
(1943-2017)

On Chestnut Hill
Eternal Garden

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (2015) **Amanda Harberg**
(b. 1973)

Gentle / Playful
Interlude
Agitato

INTERMISSION

Three Pieces for clarinet solo (1919)..... **Igor Stravinsky**
(1882-1971)

I.
II.
III.

Voces del Barrio (Voices from the Latin Ghetto), **Alfonso Fuentes**
for clarinet solo (2006) (b. 1954)

Sonatine for Clarinet and Piano (in one movement) (2012) **Valerie Coleman**
(b. 1970)

BIOGRAPHIES

OSKAR ESPINA-RUIZ

Oskar Espina Ruiz has been described by the press as a “masterful soloist” (La Nación, Costa Rica) and a “highly expressive clarinetist” (Nevskoye Vremia, Russia). He has performed at major concert halls and festivals to high critical acclaim, including concerto performances at the Philharmonic Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia, and recitals in New York City, Washington D.C., Moscow, Madrid, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. He has appeared as soloist with the St. Petersburg State Academic Symphony (Russia), St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic (Russia), Orquesta Sinfónica de la Ciudad de Asunción (Paraguay) and Bilbao Symphony (Spain).

His chamber music collaborations include the American, Argus, Ariel, Cassatt, Daedalus, Escher, Shanghai, Ulysses and Verona quartets, the Quintet of the Americas, pianists Benjamin Hochman, Ursula Oppens and Anthony Newman, and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra artists. He has been featured as soloist at the 20th Tokyo Summer Festival, the European Mozart Academy performing throughout European capitals, the St. Petersburg Palaces XIII. International Music Festival (Russia) and the VI. Festival Internacional de Música Clásica Contemporánea de Lima (Perú). He has recorded for the Bridge, Kobaltone and Prion labels, receiving high critical acclaim by fellow clarinetists Richard Stoltzman and Charles Neidich for his solo recording “Julián Menéndez Rediscovered.”

During the 2022-2023 season, Espina-Ruiz will appear in concert with the Ulysses Quartet, performing Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s Quintet and the world premiere of a clarinet quintet by Seth Grosshandler; with Merz Trio and Trio Reverón, performing Messiaen’s iconic Quartet for the End of Time and Gabriela Lena Frank’s Hilos; and in recital with Dmitri Vorobiev and Shari Santorelli, performing works by Valerie Coleman, Amanda Harberg, David Maslanka, Alfonso Fuentes and others; and with Misha Dichter, including the two clarinet sonatas by Johannes Brahms.

Born in Bilbao, Spain, his first musical training came at an early age, performing on Basque folk instruments, a fipple flute and drum, or “txistu” and “tamboril.” He later pursued the traditional conservatory training as a clarinetist and often performed with the Bilbao Symphony, as its youngest member, from age sixteen. He came to New York City in 1991 to further his studies in clarinet at Mannes School of Music, and later won the top clarinet prizes at the Artists International and Olga Koussevitzky international competitions.

He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from Stony Brook University, where his major teachers were Charles Neidich and Ayako Oshima. He has also studied with flutist Aurèle Nicolet while at the European Mozart Academy. From

BIOGRAPHIES

2009 to 2011 he was on the clarinet faculty at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, in San Juan, and since 2011 is clarinet artist-faculty at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), currently serving as associate professor.

DMITRI VOROBIEV

Dmitri Vorobiev first gained international attention after winning the Casagrande International Piano Competition in Italy in 1994. He has been a major prize-winner in the Busoni, Cincinnati World, Ibla Grand Prize, A.M.A. Calabria, Iowa and Alabama international piano competitions. In 2000, he placed first and also took three special prizes at the UNISA International Piano Competition in Pretoria, South Africa, and in 2003, he won first prize in the New Orleans International Piano Competition. He appeared as a soloist with Cape Town Symphony Orchestra, Pretoria Chamber Orchestra, Durban Symphony, Terni Philharmonic, Manhattan School of Music Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony and Western Piedmont Symphony. His solo recitals have taken him throughout the United States, Israel, Russia, Germany, Czech Republic, Ireland and South Africa. Vorobiev's collaborations include frequent performances with violinist Ivan Zenaty as well as performances with the Zemlinsky String Quartet, violinist Rodney Friend and appearances in duo-piano recitals with his wife, Polina Khatsko.

A native of Moscow, Russia, Vorobiev began his piano studies when he was five. He attended the School of Music and the Music College of the Moscow State Conservatory where he studied with Nina Levitzkaya and Victor Bunin. In 1992, he was invited by Eric Larsen to study at the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he received his Bachelor of Music. Vorobiev completed his Master of Music at the Manhattan School of Music as a full scholarship student of Marc Silverman, and at graduation he was the winner of the Harold Bauer award. He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance from the University of Michigan School of Music, working with Arthur Greene.

One of his current projects is performing the complete solo piano works of Beethoven. He is also an active chamber music player and serves as co-founder and co-artistic director of the UNCSA Chamber Music Festival. Some of the other highlights include recordings of the complete sonatas for violin and piano and the complete piano trios of Bohuslav Martinů for the Naxos label. Currently, Vorobiev is an associate professor of piano at UNCSA and is on the faculty of the Vivace International Music Festival. He is in constant demand as an adjudicator and previously was on the piano faculty at the University of Northern Iowa, International Music Academy in Pilsen, Czech Republic and the Cambridge International String Academy in Cambridge, England.

UNCSA MANIFESTO

We Believe

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

Integrative **ART 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.

ART 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.

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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.

DEAN'S CIRCLES

The Dean's Circles support each of the five arts schools at UNCSA — Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music. Dean's Circle members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more in support of discretionary funds, scholarships, or other fundraising priorities. Members enjoy special events and opportunities to interact with the school's dean, faculty and students. If you are interested in joining one or more UNCSA Dean's Circles, please contact Shannon Wright, Director of Development for Leadership Annual & Family Giving, at wrights@uncsa.edu or **336-770-1427**.

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UNCSA FEST

Omar Thomas with the UNCSA Wind Ensemble and the Piedmont Wind Symphony

Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

STEVENS CENTER

The Piedmont Wind Symphony and UNCSA Wind Ensemble share the stage as UNCSA welcomes internationally acclaimed composer and musician Omar Thomas as artist-in-residence. Described as “elegant, beautiful, sophisticated, intense, and crystal clear in emotional intent,” the music of Omar Thomas continues to move listeners in concert halls the world over.

Thomas will work with the musicians in rehearsals and speak about his music from the stage at the concert. In addition, soprano Lindsay Kesselman will perform John Mackey’s “Songs from the End of the World” with the Piedmont Wind Symphony and the UNCSA Faculty Winds will be featured on Jeff Scott’s “Baile si quiere!”

Sweeney Todd

Nov. 10-12, 17-19 at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

FREEDMAN THEATRE

What’s in those steaming meat pies? When Stephen Sondheim, master of the musical, saw Christopher Bond’s 1973 play about 19th-century serial killer Sweeney Todd, he was inspired to turn it into “A Musical Thriller.”

With music and lyrics by Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler, “Sweeney Todd” opened on Broadway in 1979, winning the Tony Award for best musical, and has since had numerous revivals, as well as a 2007 movie adaptation by Tim Burton. With its macabre, dark humor, “Sweeney Todd” is generally considered Sondheim’s masterpiece. UNCSA graduate Lo Feliciani Ojeda ’20 directs with music direction by Dionne McClain-Freeney.