

Eighth Blackbird

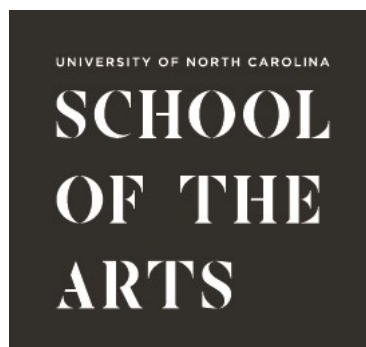
Nathalie Joachim, flutes
Zachary Good, clarinets
Matt Albert, violin
Nick Photinos, cello
Matthew Duvall, percussion
Lisa Kaplan, piano

Watson Chamber Music Hall
Saturday, October 5, 2019 • 7:30 p.m.

Presented by

UNC School of the Arts
Brian Cole, Interim Chancellor

School of Music
Tony Woodcock, Interim Dean



uncsa.edu/performances

Eighth Blackbird

ice 'n' SPICE (2018).....Nina Shekhar
(b. 1995)

Karakurenai (2007).....Andy Akiho
(b. 1979)

Eroding (2017).....Fjóra Evans
(b. 1987)

Lobster Tales and Turtle Soup (2016)Holly Harrison
(b. 1988)

INTERMISSION

Less is More (2017).....Molly Joyce
(b. 1992)

Electric Aroma (2017, arr. 2018)Viet Cuong
(b. 1990)

The Clarity of Cold Air (2013).....Jonathan Holland
(b. 1974)

Stay On It (1973)Julius Eastman
(1940 - 1990)

BIOGRAPHY

EIGHTH BLACKBIRD, hailed as “one of the smartest, most dynamic contemporary classical ensembles on the planet” (Chicago Tribune), began in 1996 as a group of six entrepreneurial Oberlin Conservatory students and quickly became “a brand-name defined by adventure, vibrancy and quality” (Detroit Free Press). Over the course of more than two decades, Eighth Blackbird has continually pushed at the edges of what it means to be a contemporary chamber ensemble, presenting distinct programs in Chicago, nationally, and internationally, reaching audiences totaling tens of thousands. The sextet has commissioned and premiered hundreds of works by composers both established and emerging, and have perpetuated the creation of music with profound impact, such as Steve Reich’s “Double Sextet,” which went on to win the 2009 Pulitzer Prize. The ensemble’s extensive recording history, primarily with Chicago’s Cedille Records, has produced more than a dozen acclaimed albums and four Grammy Awards for Best Small Ensemble/ Chamber Music Performance, most recently in 2016 for “Filament.” Longstanding collaborative relationships have led to performances with some of the most well-regarded classical artists of today from heralded performers like Dawn Upshaw and Jeremy Denk, to seminal composers like Philip Glass and Nico Muhly. In recent projects, Eighth Blackbird has joined forces with composers and performers who defy the persistent distinction between classical and non-classical music, including works by The National’s Bryce Dessner and Arcade Fire’s Richard Reed Perry, and performances with Justin Vernon of Bon Iver, My Brightest Diamond frontwoman Shara Nova, Will Oldham aka Bonnie “Prince” Billy and Iarla Ó Lionáird of The Gloaming, among others.

Eighth Blackbird first gained wide recognition in 1998 as winners of the Concert Artists Guild Competition. Since 2000, the ensemble has called Chicago home and has been committed to serving as both importer and exporter of world class artistic experiences to and from Chicago. A recent year-long pioneering residency at the Museum of Contemporary Art-Chicago, during which the ensemble served as a living installation

with open rehearsals, performances, guest artists and public talks, exemplified their stature as community influencers. Receiving the prestigious MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, Chamber Music America's inaugural Visionary Award, and being named Musical America's 2017 Ensemble of the Year have supported Eighth Blackbird's position as a catalyst for innovation in the new music ecosystem of Chicago and beyond.

Eighth Blackbird's mission—moving music forward through innovative performance, advocating for new music by living composers and creating a legacy of guiding an emerging generation of musicians — extends beyond recording and touring to curation and education. The ensemble served as music director of the 2009 Ojai Music Festival, has held residencies at the Curtis Institute of Music and at the University of Chicago, and holds an ongoing Ensemble-in-Residence position at the University of Richmond. In 2017, Eighth Blackbird launched its boldest initiative yet with the creation of Blackbird Creative Laboratory, an inclusive, two-week summer workshop and performance festival for performers and composers in Ojai, California.

The members of Eighth Blackbird hail from the Great Lakes, Keystone, Golden, Empire and Bay states. The name "Eighth Blackbird" derives from the eighth stanza of Wallace Stevens's evocative, imagistic poem, *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird*: "I know noble accents / And lucid, inescapable rhythms; / But I know, too, / That the blackbird is involved / In what I know."

Eighth Blackbird is managed by David Lieberman Artists.

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 Vice Chancellor for Advancement Ed Lewis at 336-770-3330 or lewise@uncsa.edu.

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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.

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.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

European Chamber Music of the 20th Century: Bountiful Diversity

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 • 7:30 p.m.
Watson Chamber Music Hall

Presenting works from Eastern and Western Europe from the second half of the century, this concert brings together faculty artists from three departments. Repertoire includes a viola / clarinet duo by Rebecca Clarke (1941), a trio for viola, clarinet and piano by G. Kurtag (1990), a trio for viola, bassoon and piano by S. Gubaidulina (1985), and a trio for viola, clarinet and piano by J. Francaix (1992).

nu Ensemble in Concert

Saturday, October 19, 2019 • 7:30 p.m.
Watson Chamber Music Hall

Student ensemble performances that reflect current trends and cultural thinking. Centered on 21st century repertoire, the nu Ensemble engages with composers from the recent past who have had a profound effect on contemporary music. Through intensive rehearsals, background readings and studies, the members of nu come to grips with the work of our time, giving them the tools and experience to have a positive impact on the music of the future.

Jazz Ensemble

Monday, October 21, 2019 • 7:30 p.m.
The Ramkat
Ron Rudkin, director

Directed by Ron Rudkin, the award-winning Jazz Ensemble performs a varied program of Big Band styles, including traditional swing, Latin, fusion and contemporary at The Ramkat in downtown Winston-Salem. The concert will feature the group's most talented soloists and highlight different sections of the band.

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