

Brilliance was written in 1974 for the Brussels Conservatory concours, an end of the year examination for students. The first movement, *Déclamé*, is declamatory as the title suggests. The movement is marked by a boisterous saxophone line on top of the mostly chordal piano accompaniment. The second movement is *Désinvolte*. While the first movement is largely a saxophone solo, *Désinvolte* is a sort of sinister game of cat and mouse between the two parts. The movement also features a few moments of mixed meter, a characteristic of Gotkovsky's writing. *Dolcissimo* is a hypnotic work, featuring a floating melodic line almost free of time. This freedom is achieved through a repetitive piano part that masks the underlying meter changes of 5/4 to 15/16 to 3/8, leaving the audience almost clueless to any distortion of time. The final movement, *Final*, is a flashy showpiece. Both the saxophone and piano part feature blazing fast lines and occasionally venture into the mixed meter for which Gotkovsky is known.

Paganini Lost for Two Alto Saxophones and Piano - Jun Nagao

Jun Nagao was born in 1964 in Ibaraki Prefecture, an area in northeastern Japan. He studied composition at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, and later went on to receive the Toru Takemitsu Award in composition. During Nagao's career he has composed for the wind ensemble, orchestra, a variety of solo and chamber settings, video games, and films. Several of his works for saxophone have been premiered by leading international soloists such as Nobuya Sugawa, and most have become standard in the classical saxophone repertoire, including his *Quatuor*, *La Lune in Paradis* for Alto Saxophone and Piano, and *Paganini Lost* for Two Alto Saxophones and Piano.

Paganini Lost was written in 2008 for Kenneth Tse and Nobuya Sugawa. *Paganini Lost* is based on the 24th Violin Caprice by Niccolò Paganini, a highly virtuosic work. Like the violin caprice, each part of *Paganini Lost* is filled with intricate and flashy melodic lines. The work is in four parts: a brief introduction, followed by two faster sections that sandwich an extended lyrical section. The piece is highly chromatic and features extensive syncopation throughout much of the work, creating an overall feel of unease.



presents

Davis Hale, saxophone

Student of Adam McCord

Adrienne Fontenot, piano

Senior Recital

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment
of the Bachelor of Music degree.*

**Friday Evening
April 20, 2018
8:30 p.m.
Comstock Concert Hall**

PROGRAM

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano (1988)

David Maslanka
(1943 – 2017)

- I. Moderato
- II. Very expressive
- III. Very fast

INTERMISSION

Brilliance for Alto Saxophone and Piano (1974)

Ida Gotkovsky
(b. 1933)

- I. Déclamé
- II. Désinvolte
- III. Dolcissimo
- IV. Final

Paganini Lost for Two Alto Saxophones and Piano (2008)

Jun Nagao
(b. 1964)

**WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE!
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE CONCERT THIS EVENING.**

*Smoking is not permitted in the School of Music building.
In the unlikely event of fire or other emergency, please walk to the nearest exit.
The use of recording devices and flash photography is strictly prohibited.
PLEASE SILENCE CELL PHONES & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
Thank you.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano - David Maslanka

David Maslanka was born in Massachusetts in 1943. After studies at the Oberlin College Conservatory, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, and Michigan State University, Maslanka began a teaching career throughout various schools in New York, which eventually gave way to a prolific composition career. Dr. Maslanka even had ties to the city of Louisville; his percussion ensemble work *Hurtling Through Space ...at an Unimaginable Speed* was commissioned by the Youth Performing Arts School. He is perhaps best known for his wind ensemble, percussion, and saxophone works. Among his most well-known works are his *Symphony No. 4* and *7* for wind ensemble, *Crown of Thorns* for percussion ensemble, *Wind Quintet No. 1* for woodwind quintet, *Recitation Book* for saxophone quartet, and his *Concerto* and *Sonata* for alto saxophone.

The *Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano* was composed in 1988 and commissioned by a consortium led by the North American Saxophone Alliance. It is organized in three movements: Moderato, Very expressive, and Very fast. The work is very traditional in form: the opening movement is in sonata form--exposition, development, recapitulation, and coda; the second movement is in ABA song form; and the final movement is a rondo. While traditional in structure, each movement is filled with extremes: dynamic markings from triple forte and triple piano (or more, in some cases) are found throughout; tempo markings range from quarter equals 42 to dotted quarter equals 180; and the compositional language vacillates between simple and tonal and violent, virtuosity. These markings are intentional and literal; extremes are the composer's wish.

Dr. Maslanka passed away unexpectedly in the summer of 2017 after a brief battle with colon cancer. His music has touched thousands of lives around the world and he is dearly missed.

Brilliance for Alto Saxophone and Piano - Ida Gotkovsky

Ida Gotkovsky was born in Calais, France in 1933, and is also of Russian heritage. She is a professor of music theory at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris. Both her French and Russian heritages are present in her music: she often employs weighted and dense accents on top of heavy chords, much like Shostakovich, and then moves to a colorful and soft musical landscape that resembles impressionism. Her music is also filled with starkly different characters and moods, which is reflected in the movements of *Brilliance*.