



department of music
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

STUDENT RECITAL SERIES

presents a

Senior Recital

featuring

Ethan Steber, clarinet

with

Ethan Hayward, piano

November 6, 2022, 1:00 pm
Doudna Fine Arts Center
Recital Hall

Program

Dance Preludes

- I. Allegro molto
- II. Andantino
- III. Allegro giocoso
- IV. Andante
- V. Allegro molto

Witold Lutoslawski
(1913-1994)

Capriccio

Heinrich Sutermeister
(1910-1995)

Solo de Concours

André Messager
(1853-1929)

André Messager was a French pianist, conductor, and composer during the late Romantic era. He was born on December 30th, 1853, in Montluçon, France. Messager took up piano at a very young age and later studied composition with Camille Saint-Saëns and Gabriel Fauré. Messager is most well-known for his eight ballets and thirty opéras comiques, as well as his prominent conducting posts in Paris and London. As an opera conductor, Messager became well-known for conducting a wide range of styles, from Mozart to Strauss, with a particular interest in Wagner. In 1902, Messager made the world debut of Claude Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*. Messager had a compositional style that was very Parisian with light and elegant melodies. After a long career, André Messager died on February 24th, 1929, in Paris, France.

Solo de Concours or "Contest Solo" was composed in 1899 as part of the Paris Conservatoire clarinet juries. This contest is meant to tax the performer's skills, to the limit with large dynamic sweeps, challenging technical passages, and overall showmanship. Composed in a ternary ABA' form, the piece begins with cheerful triplet figures that build to elongated trills before dying away for a much more subtle and very French-sounding, middle section. The B section consists of a smooth and lyrical melody being traded between the piano and the clarinet before reaching a lengthy cadenza, full of drama. The piece then ends in a similar way that it began, but in a new key.



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Dance Preludes

Witold Lutoslawski
(1913-1994)

- I. Allegro molto
- II. Andantino
- III. Allegro giocoso
- IV. Andante
- V. Allegro molto

Witold Lutoslawski, an internationally recognized composer and conductor was born on January 25th, 1913, in Warsaw Poland. At the age of 6, he began to take piano lessons, and by his teenage years, he was also taking lessons in violin and compositional techniques. Lutoslawski's first composition, *Dance of the Chimera*, debuted in 1930 as a part of the Warsaw Conservatory Project. He received diplomas in piano performance and composition from the Warsaw Conservatory in 1936 and 1937, respectively. He made his compositional debut with *Symphonic Variations* in 1938, but was hindered by the Second World War, where he stayed in Warsaw as a pianist at local coffee shops. After the war, Lutoslawski went on to have a fruitful composing career, as well as a conducting career beginning in 1963, and traveled around the world. Lutoslawski then died on February 6th, 1994, in Warsaw.

Capriccio

Heinrich Sutermeister
(1910-1995)

Lutoslawski composed the *Dance Preludes* in 1954, at the request of Tadeusz Ochlewski. Ochlewski commissioned this work for violin and piano and intended these as an easy song cycle of folk melodies for use in secondary schools. Lutoslawski found that it was much easier to write these melodies for clarinet instead. These dance preludes are grouped by odd and even numbers. The odd numbers have a lively and bright feel about them, rife with polymetric spontaneity. The even numbers have a much more lyrical and song-like feel to them and hold a steady triple meter.

Solo de Concours

André Messager
(1853-1929)

Heinrich Sutermeister was born on August 12th, 1910, in Feuerthalen, Switzerland. As a young student, he studied music history and German literature in Basle before moving to Munich in 1932. From 1932 to 1934 he studied at the Munich Academy of Musical Arts under the tutelage of Walter Courvoisier, Hugo Röhr, and Carl Orff. Sutermeister was a well-versed composer, writing operas for radio and tv, orchestral and chamber music, as well as religious music throughout his life until his death on March 16th, 1995.

The *Capriccio* is written for solo clarinet in A and was composed in 1946, towards the beginning of Sutermeister's compositional career. Composing this piece for A clarinet allows for a much darker and more rich texture, even in the clarinet's upper most range. Written in a loose rondo form, the principal theme is the anchor for the entire piece. In between each "anchor" section, there lies two lyrical sections, the first marked, *Con Eleganza* (with elegance), and *Espressivo Cantando* (expressive singing). Much like the previous piece, this *Capriccio* features rhythmic uncertainty during the anchor sections whereas the middle sections contain more rhythmic stability and expressiveness.