



department of **music**  
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## STUDENT RECITAL SERIES

presents a

### Senior Recital

featuring

Hope Eagan, clarinet

with

Shichao Zhang, piano

and

Alene Maxstadt, flute  
Brielle Dukovac, oboe  
Jay Dawson, horn  
Ben Schwarberg, bassoon

November 16, 2025, 2:00 pm  
Doudna Fine Arts Center  
Recital Hall

## Program

### Five Easy Dances

Denes Agay  
(1911-2007)

- I. Polka—Bright and happy
- II. Tango—Moderately
- III. Bolero—Animated
- IV. Waltz—with steady, gentle motion
- V. Rumba—very lively and rhythmically

Alene Maxstadt, flute  
Brielle Dukovac, oboe  
Hope Eagan, clarinet  
Jay Larson, horn  
Ben Schwarberg, bassoon

## Intermission

### Grand Duo Concertant

Carl Maria von Weber  
(1786-1826)

- I. Allegro con fuoco

Hope Eagan, clarinet  
Shichao Zhang, piano

### Histoire du Tango: Café 1930

Astor Piazzolla  
(1921-1992)  
Arr. Dmitriy Varelas

Hope Eagan, clarinet  
Shichao Zhang, piano

## Senior Recital Program Notes

### ***Histoire du Tango: Café 1930* - Astor Piazzolla Arr. Dmitriy Varelas**

The composer of *Café 1930*, Astor Piazzolla, was born in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on March 11, 1921 and passed away July 4, 1992 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His primary instrument was the bandoneon. In 1933, Piazzolla took music lessons with Hungarian classical pianist Béla Wilda, a student of Rachmaninoff. In 1939, he joined the orchestra of the bandoneonist Aníbal Troilo, which was eventually one of the greatest tango orchestras of the time. In 1941 he began to take music lessons with Argentine classical music composer, Alberto Ginastera. In 1944, Piazzolla left Troilo and joined the orchestra of tango singer and bandoneonist Francisco Fiorentino. He led Fiorentino's orchestra until 1946. This is when he formed his Orquesta Típica and also when he composed *El Desbande*, his first formal tango. Other ensembles he led included the 1955 Octeto Buenos Aires, the 1960 "First Quintet", the 1971 Conjunto 9 ("Noneto"), the 1978 "Second Quintet" and the 1989 New Tango Sextet.

After he left his orchestra in 1950, he began to compose musical scores for films. He eventually studied in Paris between 1954 and 1955. After his studies in Paris Piazzolla hit a turning point in his career, his new approach to tango titled *nuevo tango*. His most well known compositions include orchestral works such as the *Concierto para bandoneón, orquesta, cuerdas y percusión*, *Doble concierto para bandoneón y guitarra*, *Tres tangos sinfónicos* and *Concierto de Nácar para 9 tanguistas y orquesta*, pieces for the solo classical guitar, the *Cinco Piezas* (1980), instrumental tangos, *La chiflada* and *Color de rosa*, and classical works *Preludio No. 1 for Violin and Piano* and *Suite for Strings and Harps*.

Its four movements of *Histoire du Tango* trace the evolution of the tango in the 20th century. The second movement *Café 1930* is a slow and poignant French jazz ballad. This

movement depicts a newer age of Tango. People stopped dancing the tango as they did in 1900, most preferring to just listen to it. This is when tango music became more musical, and more romantic. The movements are slower with often melancholic harmonies.

### ***Five Easy Dances for Woodwind Quintet - Denes Agay***

The Hungarian-American composer Denes Agay was born on June 10, 1911 in Kiskunfélegyháza, Lands of the Crown of Saint Stephen, in Austria-Hungary and passed on January 24, 2007 in Los Altos, California, in the United States. As well as being a composer, he was also a music educator, arranger and author. He started his music at age three, when he first began learning on the piano. He completed his musical studies in 1934 at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. Because Agay was Jewish, he emigrated to New York in 1939 to flee the rise of Nazism. His parents, however, did not escape and were murdered in Auschwitz. When he became an American citizen in 1942, he joined the military. After the war Agay returned to music publishing.

Agay is most well known for more than 90 music books, including a multi-volume collection of piano arrangements, *The Young Pianist's Library*, the four volume *An Anthology of Piano Music*, and his collection titled *Best Loved Songs of the American People*. Agay also composed for the concert hall and for educational purposes, publishing many teaching collections, anthologies, and texts for piano study.

His five movement piece, *Five Easy Dances* (1956) is scored for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon. The piece has five short movements, each movement representing a different dance form. These movements include, *I. Polka*, *II. Tango*, *III. Bolero*, *IV. Waltz* and *V. Rumba*. The first movement, *Polka* is a fast paced and lively dance. The second movement, *Tango*, is

slower and features alluring melodies. The third movement, *Bolero*, is *slightly* faster than *Tango* and features repetitive rhythmic passages. The fourth movement, *Waltz* is a short, faster paced waltz with a constant intertwining waltz rhythm throughout. The fifth movement, *Rumba*, is another faster paced song with scalar movements and accented notes that match the style of dance.

## ***Grand Duo Concertant in Eb Major, Opus 48, J204, for Piano and Clarinet mvt.***

### ***1, Allegro con fuoco - Carl Maria Von Weber***

Carl Maria Friedrich Ernst von Weber was born in Eutin, Bishopric of Lübeck around November 18, 1786 and passed June 5, 1826, in London, England. Weber was well known for his work as a German composer, conductor, virtuoso pianist, guitarist, and critic in the early Romantic period. Weber was best known for the composition of his operas. In 1796, Weber began learning under the oboist Johann Peter Heuschkel. In 1798, Weber studied with Michael Haydn, the younger brother of Joseph Haydn. In 1798, Weber began to study singing with Johann Evangelist Wallishauser in Munich. In 1801 Weber resumed his studies with Michael Haydn. By mid 1803, Weber continued his studies with Abbé Vogler in Vienna. In 1811, Weber met and worked with Munich court clarinetist Heinrich Baermann and composed for him *the Concertino in Eb Major, Op. 26, J. 109*, as well as the two concerti *J. 114* and *J. 118*.

*The Grand Duo Concertant*, is a three-movement work for clarinet and piano composed by Carl Maria von Weber between 1815 to 1816. It is a virtuosic piece for both instruments, a true duet. It is believed that Weber likely composed the work for himself and his clarinetist friend Heinrich Baermann. It has alternatively been suggested that the intended clarinetist could have been Johann Simon Hermstedt. During the composition of the piece, Weber initially

designated it as a sonata, but eventually changed its title when it was completed, the title reflecting the work's character as a showcase of two virtuosos. Still, the first movement, *Allegro con fuoco* is written in sonata form. It is a fast and energetic movement which contains virtuosic passages in both clarinet and piano.