Upcoming VCU Music Events

JAZZ ORCHESTRA I with guest artist Bob McChesney
Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 8 p.m.
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Tickets $7 in advance, $10 at door. Free for VCU students with ID.

VCU OPERA
Saturday, April 30, 2016, 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, 2016, 7 p.m.
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
The VCU Opera presents two one-act operas: Gian-Carlo Menotti's tragedy "The Medium" and Gioacchino Rossini's comedy "La Cambiale di Matrimonio" ("The Marriage Contract").
Tickets $10 in advance; $15 at door.

VCU Guitar Ensemble
Sunday, May 1, 3 p.m.
Recital Hall, James W. Black Music Center
Free admission

For tickets and information, visit ARTS.VCU.EDU/MUSIC/EVENTS

Faculty Recital
AarK Duo
Tabatha Easley, flute
Justin Alexander, percussion

Saturday, April 16, 2016 | 8 p.m
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
Virginia Commonwealth University
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
922 Park Avenue | Richmond, VA
arts.vcu.edu/music
About the Composers

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, **Valerie Coleman** (b. 1970) began her music studies at the age of eleven and by the age of fourteen, had written three symphonies and won several local and state performance competitions. Today, Ms. Coleman is the founder, flutist and resident composer of the Grammy-nominated Imani Winds. Through her music and vision, she has created a legacy of innovation that breaks down cultural and social barriers in classical music. More information can be found at vcolemanmusic.com.

**John C. Griffin** is a professor of music at Western Michigan University and associate director of music at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Portage, Michigan. As a pianist, he has performed with the new music ensembles Opus 21 and Birds on a Wire, and currently serves as the accompanist for the Kalamazoo Singers choral group. As a composer he has been a finalist of the International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition 2011 and semi-finalist for the American Prize in Composition. His pieces have been performed at numerous festivals and conferences, including College Music Society International Conferences in Croatia, South Korea, Argentina and Scandinavia. More information can be found at johngriffin.com.

**Libby Larsen** (b. 24 December 1950, Wilmington, Delaware) is one of America’s most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 500 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over 15 operas. Grammy award-winning and widely recorded, including over 50 CD’s of her work, she is constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles, and orchestras around the world, and has established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertory. More information can be found at libbylarsen.com.

Program

**AarK Duo**

Tabatha Easley, flute
Justin Alexander, percussion

Three Jazz Intermezzi..............................John Griffin (b. 1979)

I. Sunny Valentin
II. Mellow Mann
III. Rowdy Laws

1 + 1 for flutes and percussion..............Marco Alunno (b.1972)

Stealing Silence for flute and marimba.......Michael Burritt (b.1962)

I. Stealing Silence
II. Streaming Echoes
III. Flashback

- INTERMISSION -

Hair, Cloth and Thread..........................Valerie Coleman (b.1970)

I. Mom’s Wisdom
II. Adrienne’s Roots / Jamilah Williams
III. Black Hair Flag
IV. Onigi 13
V. Iterations

Downwind of Roses in Maine...................Libby Larsen (b.1950)

**Charles West**, clarinet

La clave del viento.................................William Beaver Bausch (b.1972)
About the Performers

Justin Alexander is a dynamic and versatile percussionist and educator who currently serves on the faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University. Justin's recent highlights include collaborative performances in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and throughout the United States. He has performed and presented at conferences held by The Percussive Arts Society, The College Music Society, The National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors, numerous “Days of Percussion” festivals across the country, as well as with The Richmond Symphony, The Florida Orchestra, The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, The Eastern Music Festival Faculty Orchestra and the Tallahassee Symphony. Dedicated to the creation and performance of new music, Justin has commissioned, premiered, and recorded works by noted composers John Luther Adams, Christopher Adler, Blake Tyson, Halim El-Dabh, Ivan Treviño, Brian Nozny and Nathaniel Bartlett. Active in the Percussive Arts Society, Justin has published articles in Percussive Notes, the official research journal of the Percussive Arts Society, and currently serves on the PAS University Committee from 2009 to 2012. Justin holds the Doctor of Music Degree in Percussion Performance from The Florida State University. His primary teachers include Dr. John W. Parks IV, Dr. Blake Tyson and Prof. Leon Anderson.

Tabatha Easley is assistant professor of flute at Virginia Commonwealth University and director of Richmond Flute Fest. Currently performing with the Richmond and Virginia Symphonies, Ms. Easley has also served as principal flutist of the Charlottesville Symphony, played regularly with the Buffalo Philharmonic and Lancaster Symphony Orchestras, and was a member of the Fairbanks Symphony and Arctic Chamber Orchestras in Alaska. Having concertized and given masterclasses across the U.S., South America, Scandinavia and Japan, she has also been a soloist with the Fairbanks Symphony, Astoria Sinfonia in New York, the Cole Conservatory of Music Orchestra, Orange County High School for the Performing Arts Orchestra, Virginia Commonwealth University Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and the Orchestra “EAFIT” in Medellín, Colombia. Active in several professional organizations, Ms. Easley is the competition coordinator for the National Flute Association’s Collegiate Flute Choir Competition. College Music Society International Conferences have taken her to Finland, Sweden and Argentina. She has also performed at the Society of Composers Inc. National Conference, the International Double Reed Society Conference in Japan and the National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors National Conference. Additionally, she serves on the board of the Flute Society of Washington and was program chair for the Mid-Atlantic Flute Fair in 2009. Ms. Easley holds a doctoral degree from the Eastman School of Music; the first Alaskan to do so. Other degrees include California State University at Long Beach (M.A.) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (B. Music Education and Performance). Former teachers include Bonita Boyd, Michael Parloff, Martha Aarons, Dr. John Barcellona and Dorli McWayne. More information can be found at tabatheasley.com

About the Composers

Charles West is an orchestral, chamber and solo clarinetist and a conductor, performing throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Australia. His recorded repertoire ranges from standard sonatas to avant-garde, on labels which include Klaver, Wilson Audiophile, Centaur, CRI, Crystal and he is heard on a Grammy Award-winning 1993 Telarc CD. West holds a doctorate and three other university degrees, has been a Fulbright scholar, and he has served as president of the International Clarinet Association. His career has included nearly thirty years as principal clarinetist in six different professional orchestras and opera companies on two continents, and he has held teaching positions in three North American universities, with guest professorships in South America, Taiwan, Hong Kong, The People’s Republic of China and Australia. He has been conductor of orchestras and opera conductor at Virginia Commonwealth University, and has served as conductor or adjudicator throughout the U.S. During his seven-year tenure as conductor of the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra, the orchestra became recognized regionally for its standard of excellence. In 2008 Meredith Music Publications published his book, “The Woodwind Player’s Cookbook: Creative Recipes for a Successful Performance,” and in 2011 the VCU School of the Arts awarded him its highest faculty honor, the Award of Excellence.

Drummer/composer/educator William “Beaver” Bausch is a founding member of Grupo Los Santos, a quartet of New York City jazz musicians playing the music of Cuba and Brazil. Their first CD release, Noches en el Taller [Nights in the Workshop] features several of Beaver’s compositions and arrangements, including two solo drum pieces based upon the folkloric music of Cuban Santería.

Having performed on four continents and nearly forty states, Michael Burritt is one of the world’s leading percussion soloists. He is in frequent demand performing concert tours and master classes throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia and Canada. Also active as a composer, he has two concertos to his credit, numerous solo and chamber works for marimba and percussion as well as two books of etudes. Mr. Burritt is currently professor of percussion and head of the department at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. More information can be found at michaelburritt.com.