



VCU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
GUEST ARTIST TRIO:
DEBORAH BISH, clarinet
SHANNON THOMAS, violin
STIJN DE COCK, piano

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall | W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
922 Park Avenue | Richmond, VA

Three Nocturnes (2004).....Kevin Puts (b. 1972)
I. Con moto
II. Flowing; non troppo lento
III. Molto adagio (non rubato, senza espressione)

Verge (1997)Sebastian Currier (b. 1959)
I. Almost too fast
II. Almost too slow
III. Almost too mechanical
IV. Almost too dark
V. Almost too light
VI. Almost too fractured
VII. Almost too much
VIII. Almost too little
IX. Almost too calm

- Intermission -

Rain Waves (1997).....Joan Tower (b. 1938)

Trio for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano (1990).....Paul Schoenfield (b. 1947)
II. March
III. Nigun
I. Freylakh

About the Artists

Deborah Bish is Associate Professor of Clarinet at Florida State University. She has performed with orchestras throughout the United States, including the Arizona Opera (most notably in a production of the Ring Cycle), the Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra under the direction of Jeffrey Siegel, the Phoenix Symphony, the North Carolina Symphony, and the Arkansas Symphony. Currently, she performs as Principal Clarinetist with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra.

She has been featured as a recitalist, clinician, and chamber musician at several festivals and conventions including performances at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall; the Shanghai Conservatory in Shanghai, China; the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFests in Orlando, Baton Rouge, Lincoln, Austin, Vancouver, Atlanta, and Salt Lake City; the College Band Director's National Association Convention in Atlanta, Georgia; the Florida Music Educator's Association Convention in Tampa, Florida; and the Festival Internacional de Inverno in Vale Vêneto, Brazil.

Dr. Bish has taught at several summer music festivals, including Interlochen, Aria Academy, and the Lift Academy. She is currently on the faculty at the Belgian Clarinet Academy.

She is very active in the commission, research, and performance of new works. Her recent projects include a recording of the works of Gregory Wanamaker, featuring two pieces written for her by Wanamaker titled *clarikinetics* and *Sonata*; and a biography of clarinetist and composer William O. Smith.

Her biography appears in the twenty-fourth edition of the *Marquis Who's Who of American Women* and several editions of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. She has received the University Undergraduate Teaching Award at Florida State University, and has served as an adjudicator in a variety of competitions, including both the Young Artist's Competition and the High School Competition for the International Clarinet Association.

Assistant Professor of Violin **Shannon Thomas** has garnered a reputation for exciting, thoughtful performances as a chamber musician, soloist, and in recital throughout the United States and abroad. Recent performing engagements have taken her to the Kennedy Center, Spoleto Festival USA, Carnegie Hall, and the Banff Centre where she has collaborated with artists such as the St. Lawrence String Quartet, David Halen, Richard King, Wendy Chen, and Anita Pontremoli.

In addition to concerts with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and Naples Philharmonic, Shannon performs regularly with the IRIS Orchestra under the direction of Michael Stern. She has performed at festivals around the country including Kneisel Hall, ENCORE School for Strings, Sarasota Music Festival, and the Aspen Music Festival, working with musicians such as Joseph Silverstein, Laurie Smukler, Robert Lipsett, and members of the Juilliard, Blair, and Cavani String Quartets.

Prior to her arrival at Florida State University, Shannon also served on the faculties of the University of Southern Mississippi, the Cleveland Institute of Music Preparatory Division, Interlochen Arts Camp, and Lee University. Her students have been prizewinners and finalists at national competitions, including MMTA and the Sphinx Competition. She is on the violin and chamber music faculty of the Kinhaven Music School and serves as Education Director of the Innsbrook Institute Summer Music Academy and Festival.

Shannon earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she served as Paul Kantor's teaching assistant. She received her Master of Music from Yale University and a Bachelor of Music from Vanderbilt University, and also pursued graduate work at Arizona State University, where she was the first student to be accepted into the Artist Diploma program. Her principal teachers have included Paul Kantor, Cornelia Heard, Jonathan Swartz, and Ani Kavafian.

Stijn De Cock, Assistant Professor of Piano, hailed for his passionate and virtuosic piano playing by the East Hampton Star, maintains an active musical career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teaching artist in the United States and abroad. His playing has been described as "alternating between the stormy and sublime, while getting to the heart of the music" and was praised for its ability to create "a most compelling musical narrative" (Amalfi Festival concert review).

In recent years, Dr. De Cock's concert seasons have included concerts on four continents, from the North America to Europe, Asia, and Africa. As the founding director of the Brancaleoni International Music Festival, Dr. De Cock has created a large-scale international summer festival in Italy that offers a unique, intensive, and integrated artistic learning environment to aspiring young pianists, singers, and string players from around the world.

Dr. De Cock has taught and held faculty positions at the State University of New York Fredonia, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, the University of Michigan, Schoolcraft College, and Albion College. He holds an undergraduate degree from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels, and a Master's and Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan.