

**Illinois State University  
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts  
School of Music**

## **Guest Artist Recital**

### **From the Mythological Encyclopedia**

New music inspired by Polish poetry

Sarah Plum, *violin*  
Diane Phoenix-Neal, *viola*  
Carl Donakowski, *cello*

**This event is sponsored by the Harold K. Sage Fund.**

**Kemp Recital Hall  
October 14, 2026  
Wednesday Evening  
7:30 p.m.**

**This is the twenty-third program of the 2026-2027 season.**

# From the Mythological Encyclopedia

New music inspired by Polish poetry

## Program

Please silence all electronics for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

where each branch contains what is granted to kingdoms (2023) Ben  
Zucker  
*for two violas* (b. 1983)

Bucolics, *for viola and cello* Witold Lutosławski  
(1913-1994)  
I. Allegro Vivace  
II. Allegro Sostenuto  
III. Allegro Molto  
IV. Andantino  
V. Allegro Marziel

Absconditus (2011), *for string trio* Sidney Corbett  
(b. 1960)

From the Mythological Encyclopedia (2026), *for violin & viola* Carl  
Schimmel  
(b. 1975)

- i. Burners
- ii. Faucet
- iii. Ashtray
- iv. Table
- v. Cone
- vi. Candle

## INTERMISSION

Four in the Morning (2025), *for string trio* Ania Vu  
(b. 1994)

Streichtrio (1990/91), *for string trio* Krzysztof Penderecki  
(1933-2020)  
I. Allegro Molto  
II. Vivace

## Program Notes

*where each branch contains what is granted to kingdoms* was written for Sarah Plum and inspired by a poem by Don Domanski.

*Absconditus* was written for Sarah Plum before this Polish poetry project took shape, but Sidney Corbett has selected a poem by Czeslaw Milosz to pair with this piece.

*From the Mythological Encyclopedia* was written for Sarah Plum and Diane Phoenix-Neal and inspired by a poem by Jerzy Ficowski.

*Four in the Morning* was commissioned by James Madison University and is dedicated to Sarah Plum, Diane Phoenix, and Carl Donakowski. It was begun while in residence at Copland House, Cortlandt Manor, NY, as a recipient of the Copland House Residency Award in December 2024. It is inspired by a poem by the Nobel Prize winning poet Wislawa Szymborska.

## Guest Performer Biographies

**Carl Donakowski** pursues an international career in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Early in his career he was a finalist in the Mendelssohn Competition in Berlin. Since then, his recital performances have been enjoyed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; Merkin Hall in New York City; and aired on WQRS Detroit, WQXR New York, and Südwestfunk Baden-Baden. He has performed at the Manitou, Fontana, Staunton, Tanglewood, Blue Lake, and Beethoven music festivals. Mr. Donakowski has performed on four continents, most recently (2017) in Guangzhou, China. As a member of the Arcos Trio, he was awarded an Artistic Excellence grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to perform and record piano trios by Latin American composers on the Centaur label. Of his performances at the Fontana Festival a reviewer wrote “Cellist Carl Donakowski is ideally suited to perform these romantic

works. His tone is rich in resonance and passionate in approach, displaying the big sound that could sustain a charming longing.” Donakowski is Professor of Music (Cello and Chamber music) at the James Madison University School of Music in Harrisonburg, VA where he received the distinguished teaching award. For over a decade he was Artist-in-Residence at the Bay View Music Festival. He has served on the faculties of Central Michigan University School of Music and Alma College. He is a frequent presenter at the American String Teachers Association national conference and a contributor to *American String Teacher*. He served as president of the Michiana Cello Society and currently edits the Cello Forum for the Virginia String Teachers Association. Donakowski was a student of Janos Starker at Indiana University. He also studied with Timothy Eddy, Gary Hoffman, and William Pleeth.

Violist **Diane Phoenix-Neal** enjoys a vibrant teaching and performing career. She performs nationally and internationally as a collaborative chamber musician and as a soloist, and her performances have taken her to concert venues and music festivals throughout the world to four continents, including performances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Banff Centre, Bowdoin International Music Festival and the festivals of Evian and Spoleto. In France, she served as both the principal solo violist of Orchestre de Picardie and as violist of Quatuor Joachim. Her sound is described as “rich and sumptuous,” and “priceless as it was memorable” (*Cultural Voice of North Carolina*), and she is a longstanding principal performer and soloist with the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival as well as a collaborative performing artist and faculty member with the Eastern Music Festival. Originally from North Carolina, she received her training from the Juilliard School as a student of William Lincer and the Juilliard Quartet, from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, after a ten-year career as a performer and teacher in Portugal and France. An active member of the American Viola Society, she is passionate about teaching and exploring the broad

kaleidoscope of viola repertoire to perform and introduce to her students. A champion of new music for viola and of music by underrepresented composers, her recitals and commissioning projects featuring contemporary music for viola have been featured at James Madison University's Contemporary Music Festivals, the Northwestern University New Music Conference, the University of Wyoming, International Viola Congresses in Australia (IVC 35) and Poland (IVC 41 in and IVC 43), in the Music by Women Festival and the 50th Anniversary American Viola Society Festival. Her recent CD *When the Spirit Sings*, in collaboration with the chamber group Musica Harmonia, features the chamber music of Gwyneth Walker and explores American spiritual melodies and themes.

Praised by *textura* as “both an intrepid new music champion and a violin virtuoso,” **Sarah Plum** is an internationally recognized soloist and recording artist distinguished by her rigorous, long-term collaborations with contemporary composers. Through an expansive commissioning practice and an extensive performance and recording history, she has premiered a significant body of new literature, playing a definitive role in the evolution of the modern violin repertoire. Acclaimed for her “consistently stunning” artistry (*Third Coast Digest*), Plum has presented composer driven programs at leading global venues including Ankunft:Neue Musik (Berlin), Ars Musica Brussels, the Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh), the Center for New Music San Francisco, The CUBE at Virginia Tech, and Stanford University's CCRMA. Through academic residencies at Duke University, UC Davis, and Virginia Tech, among others, she actively mentors a new generation of creators, bridging the gap between pedagogy and professional practice. Plum's discography on Blue Griffin Recordings stands as a significant document of the composer-performer relationship. These releases, largely consisting of world-premiere recordings, have been described by *The Whole Note* as an “important addition to the contemporary violin discography.” Her fifth solo release, an expanding distance of multiple voices, continues this legacy by featuring works by six composers. These are pieces by long term collaborators as well as

newer composer partners, all of which are much performed favorites of her repertoire. Based in Chicago since 2018, Plum is a vital figure in the city's vibrant new music landscape. She has presented recitals at Constellation and Experimental Sound Studio, soloed with the Chicago Composers Orchestra, and performed at festivals including Ear Taxi, CHIME Fest, and Thirsty Ears, while collaborating with elite ensembles such as Fulcrum Point, Ensemble Dal Niente, and Access Contemporary Music.

## School of Music Faculty and Staff

Nana Hema Oforiwa Aduonum,  
*Ethnomusicology*  
Allison Alcorn, *Musicology*  
Mark Babbitt, *Trombone*  
Emily Beinborn, *Music Therapy*  
Lauren Bobarsky, *Asst. Director of Bands/  
Athletic Bands*  
Wesley Boehm, *Oboe Double Reeds*  
Jennifer Bolton, *Single Reeds*  
Andrew Bruhn, *Director of Choral Activities*  
Renee Chernick, *Group Piano*  
Sam Chen, *Orchestras*  
David Collier, *Percussion*  
Andrea Crimmins, *Music Therapy*  
Benjamin de Kock, *String Bass*  
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Anne Dervin, *Clarinet and Musicology*  
Geoffrey Duce, *Piano*  
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Tim Fredstrom, *Choral Music Education*  
Amy Fuller, *Voice*  
David Gresham, *Clarinet*  
Mark Grizzard, *Theory and Choral*  
Phillip Hash, *Music Education*  
Megan Hildebrandt, *Music Therapy*  
Rachel Hockenberry, *Horn*  
Martha Horst, *Theory/Composition*  
Igor Kalnin, *Violin*  
Galina Kiep, *Bassoon*  
John Koch, *Voice*

Katherine J. Lewis, *Viola*  
Roy Magnuson, *Theory/Composition*  
Anthony Marinello, III, *Director of Bands*  
Thomas Marko, *Director of Jazz Studies*  
Rose Marshack, *Music Business*  
Anne McNamara, *Trumpet*  
Shawn McNamara, *Music Education*  
Andrew Nogal, *Oboe*  
Paul Nolen, *Saxophone*  
Kim Risinger, *Flute*  
Cindy Ropp, *Music Therapy*  
Andy Rummel, *Euphonium/Tuba*  
Christine Schachtschneider, *Lead  
Academic Advisor*  
Tim Schachtschneider, *Stage Manager/  
Head of Sound*  
Carl Schimmel, *Theory and Composition*  
Lydia Sheehan, *Office Administrator*  
David Snyder, *Music Education*  
Alex Stephenson, *Theory/Composition*  
Ben Stiers, *Percussion and Theory*  
Erik Swanson, *Jazz Guitar*  
Cora Swenson Lee, *Cello*  
Alex Taylor, *Theory/Composition*  
Elizabeth Thompson, *Voice*  
Justin Vickers, *Voice*  
Michelle Vought, *Voice*  
Mack Wood, *Assoc. Director of  
Bands/BRMM*

## Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 15, 7:30 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Junior Recital: Alexander Cosat, saxophone

Sunday, October 18, 1:00 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Bachtober Festival: Guest Lecture and Concert

Friday, October 23, 6:00 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Senior Recital: Preston Pratali, voice

Friday, October 23, 7:00 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Senior Recital: Isabella Green, voice

Saturday, October 24, 4:30 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Junior Recital: David Quintana, bass

Sunday, October 25, 12:00 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Senior Recital: Wyatt Mastin, percussion

Sunday, October 25, 1:30 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
ISU Bluegrass Band

Sunday, October 25, 4:00 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Senior Recital: Katelynn Lesinksi, viola

Sunday, October 25, 6:00 p.m. in CPA Concert Hall  
ISU Saxophone Studio Recital

Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Guest Artist Recital: Beyond This Point

Sunday, November 1, 2:00 p.m. in CPA Concert Hall  
ISU Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Piano Studio Recital

Thursday, November 5, 7:30 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall  
Student Chamber Music Recital