
Guest Artist Series

2009-2010 Season

Monday, March 15
Sara M. Snell Music Theater
7:30 PM

Nicholas Phillips, Piano

Fantasy in F Minor, Op. 49 (1841) Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Inside the Hubble Toolbox (2009) Ethan Wickman
(b.1974)

Intergalactic Mambo

Busy! Busy! BUSY!

“...all work and NO play will fix the Multi-Object Spectrometer”

Imagining the Imaging Spectrograph

A Final Polish; Then We Rest

“O sieh, wie klar das Weltall schimmert!”

(“Look, how brightly the universe shines!”) – Richard Dehmel

Intermission

Excursions, Op. 20 (1944) Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

Un poco allegro

In slow blues tempo

Allegretto

Allegro molto

Eight Studies for Piano (1956) Boris Papandopulo
(1906-1991)

Vivacissimo

Tempo di Tango

Allegro moderato

Allegro vivace

Andante con moto

Con brio

Tempo di Blues

Allegro moderato

In order to ensure a pleasant concert experience for both performers and audience, please refrain from:

- Entering or leaving during the performance.
- Bringing food or drink into the concert hall.
- Taking flash photographs.
- Using electronic devices (please remember to turn off your cellular phone, pagers and watches that chime on the hour).

Children who are able to sit quietly during the performance are welcome to our concerts.

Tape/video recording of performances is strictly prohibited without permission of the performers!

Thank you!



Dr. Nicholas Phillips is Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he teaches applied piano, class piano, and piano ensemble. He is active as a soloist and collaborative artist; recent and upcoming performances include solo recitals in New York, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana, Shostakovich's First Piano Concerto with the Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra, Mozart's Piano Quintet with the Wisconsin Woodwind Quintet, and performance at the American Liszt Society's 2010 Festival.

Phillips has given lecture-recitals and presentations at a number of local, state, and international conferences, including: "Beyond a Wild Rose: the Intermediate-Level Piano Music of Edward MacDowell" and "Teaching Mendelssohn: Addressing Musical and Technical Problems Through the *Songs without Words*" at the 2008 and 2009 Wisconsin Music Teachers Association State Conference, and two separate programs on Mendelssohn's *Songs without Words* at the College Music Society 2009 International Conference in Croatia, and the Seventh Biennial Conference on Music in Nineteenth-Century Britain in Bristol, UK (July, 2009). He authored and presented a paper titled "The Influence of Technology in the Nineteenth Century on Piano Instruments, Technique, and Repertoire" at the 2007 Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, and is the author of "Mendelssohn's *Songs without Words* Revisited: Culture, Gender, Literature, and the Role of Domestic Piano Music in Victorian England," published by VDM Verlag in 2008.

A native of Indiana, Phillips began formal piano lessons at Indiana University at the age of ten. He holds degrees in piano performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music (Doctor of Musical Arts), Indiana University (Master of Music), and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Bachelor of Music, *summa cum laude*). His teachers include internationally-renowned pianists and pedagogues Karen Taylor, Paul Barnes, Karen Shaw, and Robert Weirich.

Inside the Hubble Toolbox by Ethan Wickman (b.1974)

Inspired by a documentary on the Hubble Space Telescope and its final repair service in May 2009, composer Ethan Wickman took as a premise the fantastic assortment of gadgets and space-age tools used by astronauts and wrote a work full of the energy, excitement, awe, and expanse of the final frontier itself. The piece is in four movements, with wonderful titles like "Intergalactic Mambo" and "Imagining the Imaging Spectrograph." In the words of the composer, this work "attempts to convey to even the most jaded a child's sense of discovery at opening a toolbox for the first time...Perhaps by opening Hubble's toolbox for the first time, the rest of us can discover anew the sheer pleasure of invention and novelty by grasping the common paraphernalia of an orbiting workshop."

Eight Studies for Piano by Boris Papandopulo (1906-1991)

I discovered these pieces while in Zagreb, Croatia, in the summer of 2009, and was given the score as a gift from the editor. Though virtually unknown in the United States, Boris Papandopulo is regarded by most all Croatians as their most important composer of the 20th century. He was extremely prolific and wrote these pieces – which are really eight separate etudes – between April 9 and July 4, 1956. They exhibit an extremely diverse cast of influences, including toccatas, tangos, waltzes, twelve-tone rows, circus polkas and blues. They are wonderful pieces at times alternately virtuosic, playful, ironic, and humorous.