

Wednesday Noon Hours

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

October 13, 2021 | 12:00pm

The Four Jays

Julia Nolan *saxophone*, Joan Blackman *violin*, Jodi Proznick *bass*, Jane Hayes *piano*

Programme

Three Preludes

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

- I. Allegro ben ritmico e deciso*
- II. Andante con moto e poco rubato*
- III. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso*

Couleurs d'un rêve
(trio for violin, alto saxophone and piano)

Jean-Luc Defontaine (b.1971)

Four Jays

Fred Stride (b.1953)

from Sonate pour violon et piano
II. Blues

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

from Sun Songs Suite (arr. Jodi Proznick, Daniel Hersog)
Ancient Yearning
Storm
So Near So far

Jodi Proznick (b.1975)

We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered together for this performance on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

Biographies

Julia Nolan saxophone

Pandemic time performances for Julia Nolan include the premiere of *Luminous Blue*, an unaccompanied piece for alto saxophone by Jeffrey Ryan, performances with the Vancouver Symphony including Gershwin (*Rhapsody in Blue* and *An American in Paris*), Weill (*Three Penny Opera*), and Milhaud (*Creation of the World*), and a concert called “Tango, Klezmer, and Jazz” for the Vetta Chamber Music Series (Joan Blackman, violin; Jane Hayes, piano; and Jodi Proznick, bass).

Over the summer of 2021, outdoor concerts with Saxophilia Saxophone quartet and the Ad Mare Woodwind quintet have kept Julia out of the sun and in the practice room. Days before lockdown in March 2020, Julia Nolan was the featured soloist with Sinfonia performing Stefan Hintersteiner’s *Saxophone Concerto*. As guest soloist with the West Coast Symphony Orchestra tour (2018), Julia presented this concerto in Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Macedonia. In 2016, Julia performed Jeffrey Ryan’s concerto *Brazen* with the Lubbock Symphony and premiered *Cool Cut* by John Oliver with the Turning Point Ensemble. She recorded with Denis Bedard (2014), the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy (2015) performing Robert Buckley’s *Prestidigitation*, and in 2018, released a cd with Jane Hayes and Joan Blackman (*Chromaticity*) and another cd with the Saxophilia Saxophone Quartet. She recorded with Alan Matheson’s jazz groups on the cd “Intrada” and with the CBC Orchestra as soloist (*Tableaux de Provence/Paule Maurice*, and two concertos by Fred Stride, and Ian McDougall).

In October 2019, Saxophilia Saxophone Quartet presented the Canadian premiere performance of Nicolas Scherzinger’s “Cross Court” with the Acadia University Wind Ensemble.

Dr. Nolan teaches saxophone at the University of British Columbia, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music. She is an Artist-Clinician for Yamaha, Canada and Rousseau Musical Products.

Joan Blackman violin

Joan Blackman, Artistic Director of Vancouver’s Vetta Chamber Music Society, enjoys a vibrant and varied musical life. She served as Associate Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony for many years and has performed and recorded as soloist with the Vancouver Symphony, Victoria Symphony, CBC Radio Orchestra, Turning Point Ensemble and the Banff Festival Orchestra.

Ms. Blackman is known throughout Canada and the US as a fine chamber musician and has performed with premier groups such as the Penderecki String Quartet, the Purcell String Quartet and the Gryphon Trio. She is most recently a member of the Sea and Sky collective which has recently released two CDs.

The Four Jays

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Joan has performed on numerous series including Music in the Morning, Music Fest Vancouver, the Jeffrey Concerts in London, Ont., and the American String Project. She has also appeared at summer festivals including the Hornby Island Festival, the Pender Harbour Chamber Music Festival, and the Victoria Summer Music Festival.

She is also a dedicated teacher. Besides her private studio, she has taught violin at Kwantlen University, UBC, Nanaimo Conservatory, Victoria Conservatory, VSO School of Music, Vancouver Academy of Music, and at the Symphony Orchestra Academy of the Pacific. Joan has also given masterclasses and adjudicated in festivals throughout Western Canada.

Jodi Proznick *bass*

Canadian bassist, composer, producer and educator Jodi Proznick has received many awards including the Western Canadian Music Award for Jazz Artist of the Year (2019), National Jazz Award for Bassist (2008, 2009), Album (2008) and Acoustic Group (2008) of the Year, and Galaxie Rising Star of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival (2004). Jodi was also nominated for two JUNO awards with her 2007 release, *Foundations*, and 2019 release, *Sun Songs*.

Jodi is in demand as a collaborative performer and has played with internationally recognized jazz artists such as Michael Bublé, George Coleman, Sheila Jordan, David “Fathead” Newman, Harold Mabern, Michael Feinstein, Peter Bernstein, Seamus Blake, Christine and Ingrid Jensen, Lewis Nash, Russell Malone, Ed Thigpen, Don Thompson, Dee Daniels, Phil Dwyer and Laila Biali as well as collaborators outside the jazz tradition including the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Mark Fewer with John Novacek, the Vetta Chamber Ensemble, Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson, Sal Ferreras’ Drum Heat, Musica Intima, Chor Lioni, Elektra Women’s Choir, Mohammed Assani, Celso Machado, Bill Henderson, and the Vancouver Chinese Music Ensemble. She has been featured in over 40 albums as bassist.

A dedicated and highly respected educator, Jodi is currently the chair of the Jazz Department at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music and Artistic Director of its Summer Jazz Workshop, Painting with Sound Workshop and Sister Jazz Day. She is also the Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Music Arts Collective, an online music education platform. Previously, she was part of the music faculty at Capilano University and Kwantlen Polytechnic University and during the 2019/2020 season, Jodi was the Manager of Education and Community Outreach for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Jane Hayes *piano*

Since her debut with the Toronto Symphony, Jane Hayes' concerts have taken her across Canada, the United States, Europe and Mexico. An active recording artist, she has over 20 CDs available on the Fanfare, EMI, Centrediscs, ATMA, Artifact, CBC-Musica Viva and CBC SM5000 labels. Jane moved to BC in 1993 to become a faculty member in the newly opened Music Department of Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Langley. Her passion for teaching was recognized when she received the 2015 Distinguished Teaching Award in the Faculty of Arts. Jane enjoyed a year-long sabbatical in 2017-2018 when she devoted her energy to two main projects: researching possibilities for long-distance music education in northern BC; and giving a series of recitals and master classes at universities and private music schools in the Henan and Guangdong provinces in China to foster professional development among Chinese piano professors. As a result of her work in China, she was appointed Guest Professor at Henan Polytechnic University. After 27 years, Jane has officially left Kwantlen to focus on her performing and mentoring passions.

In recent years she has appeared regularly on concert stages in every combination from duo through large ensemble, as soloist with orchestra to chamber collaborator. She has been a partner of such esteemed artists as cellist Harvey Shapiro, violinist Robert Davidovici, and flutists Julius Baker and Bonita Boyd among others. She is a founding member of Vancouver's Turning Point Ensemble, the Yarilo Ensemble and Sea and Sky (violinist Joan Blackman; clarinetist François Houle; saxophonist Julia Nolan). Amid Covid protocols, Jane will still be very active this concert season with many live-streaming performances and recording projects focused in the lower mainland. Most notable are Turning Point Ensemble legacy initiatives, a celebration of the tenth anniversary of Yarilo Contemporary Music and a memorial tribute to composer John Burke, to be held in Vancouver and Toronto. Her performance for Vetta Chamber has been recognized with a nomination for the 2021 Western Canada Music Awards.

Thank you for coming!

*Join us in two weeks on Oct 27 for E-Gré Competition Winner: Julien Siino, cello
Music by Ian Cusson, S.C. Eckhardt-Gramatté, and Benjamin Britten.*

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