

# Wednesday Noon Hours

Roy Barnett Recital Hall  
January 11, 2023 | 12:00pm

## Saxophilia Quartet

Julia Nolan *soprano saxophone*, Kris Covlin *alto saxophone*  
David Branter *tenor saxophone*, Colin Macdonald *baritone saxophone*

### Programme

Ciudades Guillermo Lago

*Addis Ababa*

Metamorphosis Fred Stride

*III. Mystics*

Homage to Robert Schumann\* Rodney Sharman

Divertimento for Saxophone Quartet Violet Archer

*I. Preludio*

*II. Meditation*

*III. Festive*

Four Stories David Branter

\* World Premiere – generously supported by the BC Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the SOCAN Foundation.

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

## Notes

Ciudades (Cities) is a series of musical sketches of cities that have a special meaning. *Addis Ababa* is an energetic description of the capital of Ethiopia and inspired by Lago's collaboration with the Ethiopian singer Minyeshu. (Lago)

Metamorphosis III: *Mystics* is part of a four-movement suite commissioned by Vancouver clarinet and saxophone enthusiast and chef, Chuck Currie. Originally written for clarinet quartet it was reworked for saxophone quartet. Saxophilia recorded this suite in May.

Homage to Robert Schumann is a meditation for saxophone quartet on "Auf einer Burg", from Schumann's *Eichendorff Lieder*. It begins with a fantasia on the song's first two notes, altering colour, harmony, rhythm, and scale degree. Ascending scale patterns from the song's piano part displaces the opening music and are eventually layered and integrated with it, employing fragmentation, quotation, musical saturation, and obsession, all features of Robert Schumann's music.

Homage to Robert Schumann was commissioned by Saxophilia with the generous support of the British Columbia Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the SOCAN foundation.

Divertimento for Saxophone Quartet was written in 1979 for the Edmonton Saxophone Quartet when Marvin Eckroth and Violet Archer were colleagues at the University of Alberta.

Four Stories, David Branter's newest work draws on inspiration from previous Saxophilia repertoire and puns on the idea of four-ness. A single-movement work with four distinct sections, it is influenced by the quartal harmonies (chords of stacked fourth) of Violet Archer, but also includes moments of blues and bebop jazz. Dense minimalist rhythmic textures and microtonal mutations characterize the transitions, while also bringing the piece to a satisfying close.

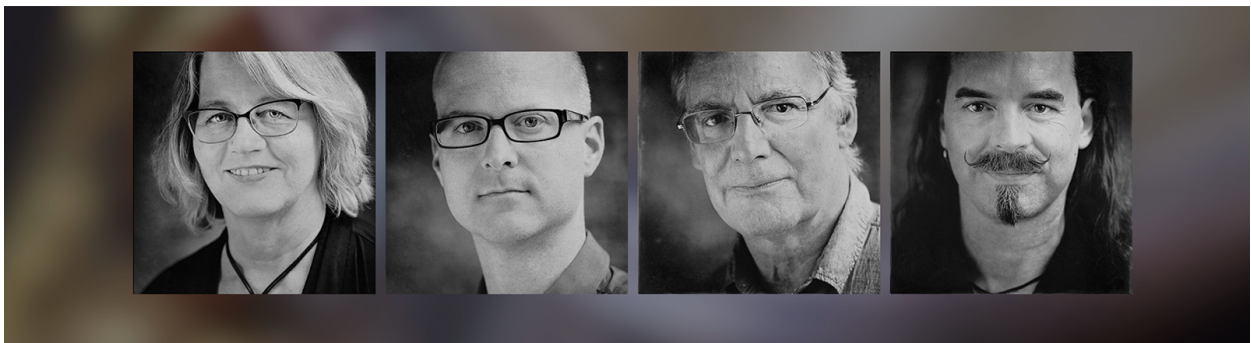
## Performer Bios

### Saxophilia Saxophone Quartet

Formed in 1996, the Vancouver-based saxophone quartet Saxophilia has been committed to giving the highest quality performances of classical saxophone repertoire. Its members include Julia Nolan on soprano saxophone, Kris Covlin on alto saxophone, David Branter on tenor saxophone, and Colin MacDonald on baritone saxophone. All of the quartet members are active performers in Vancouver's music community, as soloists and as band members in a wide variety of styles from classical to jazz to popular music. This appreciation of a diversity of music informs the group's choice of repertoire, which ranges from the standard repertoire of classical saxophone quartet, to contemporary music, to jazz arrangements and lighter fare.

The quartet has been active in the new music community, appearing in the Vancouver New Music Festival in 2004 and the Sonic Boom Festivals of 1999, 2000, and 2006. They were the featured saxophone section in Vancouver Opera's production of Nixon in China in 2010. Outside of Vancouver, the group has presented programs at regional conferences of the North American Saxophone Alliance held in Victoria and Saskatoon and has performed at the 12th World Saxophone Congress in Montreal.

Saxophilia commissioned John Burke (Canada Council) in 2004 for his piece Gyaling, assisted in the creation of Last Call by Derek Charke, and gave the Western Canada premiere of Peter Hannan's Fast Truck Bop. The group has also given the Canadian premiere of works by international composers such as Graham Fitkin, Erki-Sven Tüür, Helena Tulva, David Kechley, and Michael Torke. In 2018, the ensemble released their self-titled recording Saxophilia, featuring the music of BC composers Dorothy Chang, Peter Hannan, and Colin MacDonald. The second Saxophilia CD was recorded in May 2022 and will be released soon.



Saxophilia Quartet

UBC Wednesday Noon Hours | Roy Barnett Recital Hall | January 11, 2023 | 12:00pm

## Julia Nolan *soprano saxophone*

Remaining active as a performer in 2020-2021, Julia Nolan premiered *Luminous Blue*, an unaccompanied piece for alto saxophone by Jeffrey Ryan, performed with the Vancouver Symphony (Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and *An American in Paris*), Weill (*Three Penny Opera*), and Milhaud (*Creation of the World*), in addition to a concert called "Tango, Klezmer, and Jazz" for the Vetta Chamber Music Series (Joan Blackman, violin; Jane Hayes, piano; and Jodi Proznick, bass) that featured premiered works by Fred Stride and Jodi Proznick.

Days before lockdown in March 2020, Julia Nolan was the featured soloist with Sinfonia Orchestra performing Stefan Hintersteiner's *Saxophone Concerto*. In October 2019, Saxophilia Saxophone Quartet presented the Canadian premiere performance of Nicolas Scherzinger's "Cross Court" with the Acadia University Wind Ensemble.

As soloist with the West Coast Symphony, Julia performed Hintersteiner's concerto in Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Macedonia. In 2018, she released a cd with Jane Hayes and Joan Blackman (*Chromaticity*) and another cd with the Saxophilia Saxophone Quartet. Julia performed Jeffrey Ryan's concerto *Brazen* with the Lubbock Symphony in 2016 (previously premiered with the Vancouver Symphony and the Victoria Symphony Orchestra) and premiered *Cool Cut* by John Oliver with the Turning Point Ensemble. She recorded with Denis Bedard (2014), and with the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy (2015) performing Robert Buckley's *Prestidigitation*. 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 commissioned concertos by Fred Stride, and Ian McDougall).

## Kris Covlin *alto saxophone*

Kris Covlin is a professional saxophonist from North Vancouver, BC, Canada. As Musical Director of the Milleraires Big Band, the Mighty Fraser Big Band and the Royal City Concert Band, he is actively involved in the community, educating local musicians and promoting live music in the form of weekly concerts throughout the year. Kris has also gained a reputation as a brilliant interpreter of new music and has been featured as soloist and chamber musician in concerts throughout Canada and abroad. An upcoming recording as alto saxophonist with Saxophilia Saxophone Quartet will feature new works from Canadian composers Rodney Sharman and Beatrice Ferreira among others.

Saxophilia Quartet

UBC Wednesday Noon Hours | Roy Barnett Recital Hall | January 11, 2023 | 12:00pm

## David Branter *tenor saxophone*

Dr. David Branter has a BM, MM, and DM from Indiana University and performs as both a classical and jazz saxophonist and clarinetist. He has acted as Music Director for the

Pacific Symphonic Wind Ensemble (PSWE) from 1996-1999 and again starting in 2013. That ensemble premiered the Fred Stride work *Caverns* in July 2005 at the World

Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) conference in Singapore with Branter as tenor saxophone soloist. PSWE also premiered Branter's pieces *Cool* in

February 2007 and *Hip* in March 2012. A new piece, *The Tribe* part 1, was premiered in November 2014. In July 2015, Branter directed PSWE in two programs at the WASBE conference in San Jose, California. A new Branter piece, *Connections*, was premiered at that time. Another piece, *Essay on Origins*, premiered at a PSWE concert on 9 June 2018.

He performs regularly with jazz groups led by Alan Matheson including the CBC Jazz Orchestra and is featured on Matheson's cd *Intrada*. Branter also performs regularly and has recorded with John Korsrud's *Hard Rubber Orchestra*.

## Colin Macdonald *baritone saxophone*

Colin MacDonald is a freelance saxophonist, composer, and arranger living in Vancouver, BC. A former member of the new music chamber group Ensemble Symposium, and the Balinese gamelan Gong Gita Asmara, Colin regularly performs with the Saxophilia Saxophone Quartet and the Cascadia Reed Quintet.

He has also worked extensively with Vancouver New Music, the Redshift Music Society, the Erato Ensemble, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the West Coast Symphony, and the Kamloops Symphony. In 2006 he formed his own chamber orchestra, The Colin MacDonald Pocket Orchestra, to present his original compositions for large ensembles. Colin's debut CD *Circle of Wind* containing his chamber compositions for saxophone was released in 2011. His hour-long installation work for 16 saxophones, *The Sky is a Clock*, was released in 2020 on Redshift Records.

Saxophilia Quartet

UBC Wednesday Noon Hours | Roy Barnett Recital Hall | January 11, 2023 | 12:00pm

## Composer Bios

Guillermo Lago is musician Willem van Merwijk's composing alter ego. Lago's work is being performed all over the world and is found on numerous CDs and on streaming platforms. He receives commissions from a wide array of (chamber music) ensembles, orchestras, and choirs, from both within the Netherlands and abroad. Yet he does not only compose on commission but also devotes time to compositions of his own wish, and – being self-taught – develop ideas in complete freedom. In 2010, I wrote a suite called 'Ciudades' (Cities). That suite is now considered a standard piece in the saxophone quartet repertoire. I am very happy that I have been able to contribute to the repertoire of my beloved ensemble and instrument in this way. It did create a lot of interest in my music. *(Edited from Lago's website)*

**Fred Stride:** Equally at home arranging or composing, a few arranging highlights over the years have been: "The Music of Hoagy Carmichael" with singer Dee Daniels (CBC Radio), a pops show with the Winnipeg Symphony, the cd recording "Showboat" (CBC Records), "1936: A Year and its Music" (CBC Radio), "Jazzy Bassoons Theme" for CBC's Disc Drive, "The Jazz Composers Suite" for the Curio Ensemble, a Paul Anka TV series (working with Don Costa), symphony shows for singer Almeta Speaks and The New Orleans Connection, recording with Aerosmith, the musicals "Unforgettable: The Music Of Nat King Cole" and "The Apprenticeship Of Duddy Kravitz," the Vancouver Symphony and CBC Orchestras, the Wildroot Orchestra and the 1984 Papal Visit to Vancouver.

Fred has received numerous commissions from many performers and ensembles over the years including much of the music for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics and original music for the Opening Ceremonies of Expo 86. Fred has also composed works for the Vancouver Symphony, Pacific Symphonic Wind Ensemble, several Canadian Armed Forces bands, the Brampton Concert Band, the CBC Orchestra, saxophonist Julia Nolan, and french horn soloist Martin Hackleman. Fred's jazz compositions have been played and recorded around the world.

Fred teaches jazz theory, jazz arranging, and directs the Jazz Ensemble I at the University of British Columbia and is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre and a member of the Canadian League of Composers.

**Rodney Sharman** lives on traditional Musqueam territory in Vancouver, Canada. He teaches composition at the Vancouver Symphony School of Music and is the Victoria Symphony's Mentor-Composer. He has been Composer-in-Residence of Early Music Vancouver's "New Music for Old Instruments", the Victoria Symphony, National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and Composer-Host of the Calgary Philharmonic's New Music Festival, "Hear and Now". His chamber opera, *Elsewhereless*, with text and direction by Atom Egoyan, was staged in Toronto, Vancouver, and Ottawa, and performed in concert excerpts in Amsterdam, New York City, Montreal, Victoria, and Rome. Sharman was awarded First Prize in the 1984 CBC Competition for Young Composers, the 1990 Kranichsteiner Prize in Music (Darmstadt, Germany), the 2013 Dora Mavor Moore Award for outstanding sound design/composition (Toronto) and is the recipient of the 2017 Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts. Website: [www.rodneysharman.com](http://www.rodneysharman.com)

**Dr. Violet Balestreri Archer:** a seminal figure in Canadian composition, created a distinguished body of work during a career that spanned over six decades. Her music was heralded and performed around the world and earned honours and awards for her both in Canada and abroad. It was in 1946 that her first work was published: *Habitant Sketches* for piano. The following year she went to Yale University where she obtained the Master of Music degree in Composition. There she studied for two years with composer Paul Hindemith. Dr. Archer wrote more than 280 compositions ranging from music for solo flute to electronic music, with an emphasis on chamber music, choral music, and songs for solo voice and piano. Her teaching career was an extensive one and active in guiding young composers. Many of her former composition students both in Canada and the United States are now professionals and recognized in their field.

**David Branter:** (see performer bio)

*Thank you for coming!*

Join us next time on **Jan 25** when we present **Duo Concertante** featuring champions of new Canadian music, violinist **Nancy Dahn** and pianist **Timothy Steeves**.

View all School of Music and Chan Centre events on [chancentre.com/events](http://chancentre.com/events)

University of British Columbia School of Music | [music.ubc.ca](http://music.ubc.ca)  
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts | [chancentre.com](http://chancentre.com)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
School of Music

