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Gary Nash

Greetings to all SCL composers!

I hope that you are all safe and well in your respective dwellings. Unfortunately, there was no Southeastern Composers League Forum in Spring 2022, mostly due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic; nonetheless, there are tentative plans for an alternative event, including possibly a Fall, 2022 SCL Forum. Stay tuned.

We need a host for the 2023 Southeastern Composers League Forum. And so, those of you who can, should indicate that to me as soon as possible. For those possibly interested in hosting and have never hosted an SCL Forum before, the minimum requirements/expectations are:

1. Secure an appropriate performance venue at your institution.
2. Provide a forum schedule/itinerary, including concerts, programs for each concert and a meeting time and place for the SCL business meeting.

The forum host is expected and strongly encouraged to provide small ensembles and/or solo performers for participating composers to have their works performed. The host is also expected to create a call for scores. In that call for scores, please give reasonable time to receive the scores, in order to allow performers ample time to prepare for the upcoming performances.

The host institution will receive \$1,000 stipend from SCL to assist with all related expenses.

I want to acknowledge and congratulate Mr. Donavon Hamlett of Freed-Hardeman University, a student of Alan Kinningham and Mr. Wesley Heflin of University of Louisiana, Monroe, a student of Mel Mobley as 1st and 2nd Prize Awardees of the 2021 Salop Slates Student Composer Composition Contest.

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And so, I am wishing all of you the best of compositional activities, artistic growth, and music performances. Keep writing great music and stay safe!

Warmest regards,

Gary P. Nash

President

Southeastern Composers League

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Member News



Douglas Hedwig

Composer Douglas Hedwig has recently returned from Italy where his new octet for strings and winds (*Canzoni Antifonali*) was premiered in October 2021 by the Dèdalo Ensemble in Brescia. Other recent performances and premieres in Italy have taken place in Milan (*I'Altre Stelle* for solo guitar, premiered at the Verdi Conservatory in November 2021, presented by the Società Italiana Musica Contemporanea), and Desenzano del Garda (*La lieve Fatica dell'Amore* for soprano & piano performed by the Nuova Ensemble di Disenzo, June 2021). His string quartet, *Journey*, was a Finalist in the 2021 Concorso Internazionale di Composizione "Sinestesia fra le Arti" (Parma OperArt).

Other recent international premieres and performances have taken place in Brussels, Belgium (*Muse Noir* for 3 cellos presented by Festival Osmuse, November 2020), South Korea (*TransSonic Awakenings*, October 2020 at the Seoul International Electronic Music Festival), and England (*Its Soul of Music Shed* for solo horn & narration, London New Wind Festival, November 2020).

Closer to home, Dr. Hedwig has enjoyed many recent commissions, premieres and residencies. In September 2021 his trio for trumpet, soprano & piano (*New Worlds*), and a new song-cycle for soprano & piano (*A Species Stands Beyond*) were premiered by faculty artists at Lee University (Cleveland, TN). Additionally, *New Worlds* was recently recorded for international release and distribution in 2022. *Onyx* for brass quintet was performed in April 2021 by the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, and three other recently completed commissions received their world premieres in 2021: *Obsidian* for solo trumpet in March (commissioned by the Knoxville Symphony), *Trombone Sonata* at the International Trombone Festival in June (commissioned by Adam Johnson), *Uddmayā* for six trumpets at the 7th Annual William Adam Trumpet Festival in July (commissioned by Eric Siereveld and Altus Trumpet Ensemble), and *Chesapeake Overture* for brass band in Newark, Delaware in November (commissioned by the Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band).

In early 2020 (prior to the pandemic "lockdown"), he was Composer-in-Residence at the University of Louisiana at Monroe where two full concerts of his music were performed. Included in these programs were three premieres for concert band - *Promenade* for a Great City, and band versions of *Dia de la Fiesta* and *Hodie Canamus* - as well as performances of several chamber works, including his 4-movement wind quintet *Four Third Streams* (commissioned and premiered by the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra in 2019), the award-winning, *A Certain Slant of Light* for brass quintet, organ and percussion, and the Emily Dickinson song cycle, *Rowing in Eden*.

Plans for the near future are well underway too. He is currently completing a commission for brass quintet, *Heliodor*, and in early 2022 he begins work on a major new work for symphony orchestra (for premiere in 2023, TBA). In June 2022 he will be co-producing a recording of his compositions for international release on the MSR Classics label - *Vibrant Colors: The Brass Music of Douglas Hedwig*.

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Larry Barnes

Larry Barnes, professor of music at Transylvania University, was awarded the Bingham Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Kentucky Music Teachers' Association Composer Commission for 2022.

Jonathan McNair (Chattanooga) hosted a concert including two of his works, *In Memoriam* (clarinet and piano), and *Having It Out with Melancholy* (clarinet, violin, cello, piano) on March 21, 2022. The latter work was composed in response to a poetry cycle by Jane Kenyon, with the same title. The performances were by the Unheard-of//Ensemble, and were part of a mental health advocacy program. Video of that concert is available currently at utc.edu/music. Look for "A Speck of Light."

McNair has upcoming performances in April including:

- a chamber orchestra version of his *these three*, performed by the Berry College Orchestra, April 7;
- *Follow the Drinking Gourd* for string quartet, performed by The Marian Anderson String Quartet, in Bryan, TX on April 3 and 7, and at the 92nd Street Y in NYC, April 22.
- The Boston Conservatory Orchestra will perform the orchestra-plus-string-quartet version of *Follow the Drinking Gourd* on April 28.

His solo violin work *Be Ignited* was performed by Sarah Off at the University of Northern Colorado on October 1, 2021.

Videos of a solo piano work *Rabun Gap*, a solo clarinet work *Letters from Quarantine*, a solo cello work *What Have We Done?*, along with *In Memoriam* are available on McNair's YouTube channel.



Jonathan McNair

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R. Michael Daugherty

R. Michael Daugherty's *A Florida Story* (2019, full orchestra and narrator) will be premiered in Melbourne, Florida, on April 23, 2022, and in Vero Beach, Florida, on April 24, 2022, by the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, Aaron Collins, conductor, as part of a program entitled *Coast to Coast*. It is the narrated story of Waldo and Elsebeth Sexton's early years as they took up residence in the young Vero Beach (the 1920s). The piece uses the full resources of the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra and features Sean Sexton, local rancher, and Vero Beach's Poet Laureate, as narrator. The narration is drawn from letters that Waldo wrote to Elsebeth. Waldo had a major impact on Vero Beach history. He developed McKee Botanical Gardens and built the Driftwood Inn, the Ocean Grill, and the Patio Restaurant. The program also includes Copland's *An Outdoor Overture*, Gershwin's *Cuban Overture*, and Grofe's "On the Trail" from *Grand Canyon Suite*. In addition to my world premiere, other works by living composers include the world premiere of *Canco del Mar* by Orlando-based composer Christopher Marshall and *Atlantic Riband* by Kenneth Fuchs.

Daugherty's *The Golden Goose* (2021, narrated fairytale for clarinet quartet) will be premiered at the Vero Beach Museum of Art by Aaron Collins, narrator, and members of the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra on April 30, 2022, as part of a program entitled *Once Upon an Orchestra*. The *Golden Goose* tells the story of a young man who is called a "simpleton" and considered by his family to be worthless. The adventure begins when he goes to the woods to cut down a tree and comes across an elderly man who asks for food. The boy offers the man all he has and in return, the man reveals to him the location of the golden goose.

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Harvey Stokes

A performance of Harvey Stokes' *String Quartet No. 9* occurred on 3/10/2022 by the Kincaid Quartet in Beall Concert Hall, Eugene, Oregon (University of Oregon School of Music and Dance). Also, his *Concerto for Orchestra: Luray Caverns* has been published recently (3/24/2022) by the Ars Nova Music Press of Seattle, Washington.



Mark Francis

Mark Francis' *Turner on the Coastal Bend* for piano, 4 hands was premiered, March 25, on the opening concert of Piano Celebration Week at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi by pianists Dino Mulic and Sangmi Lim. Turner paintings were projected during the performance. The four-movement work musically describes the similarities between the Turner sea paintings and the Gulf Coast of Texas.

His Second Guitar Concerto, *In Somnis Veritas*, was performed at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio on March 30 by Lux Musicae. The conductor was John Godoy and the soloist, Ray Tamez. It was part of a concert of music by Texas Composers.

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Gary Nash

Gary Powell Nash's *Three Argemarillo Fantasies* (2006) piano solo, movement 1 was performed for the Young Composers Festival at the Brooklyn Public Library, December 12, 2021, Brooklyn, NY.

Nash's *On the Battlefield, With Certainty* (2022) symphonic wind ensemble, commissioned by the Vanderbilt University Wind Ensemble received its premiere on February 15, 2022, Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music, Nashville, TN.

Nash's *Nine New York City Miniatures* (2020) oboe solo was performed for the CMS Southern Regional Conference, February 18, 2022, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS.

Nash's *Deformation and Tranquility* (1987) clarinet and piano and *Bricks Up Close* (2014) saxophone quartet were performed on a recital of music by Black composers as part of the University of Tennessee, Martin Civil Rights Conference, February 27, 2022.

Papilionian Dance (2011) oboe, clarinet and bassoon was performed on a Guest Artist Recital on March 4, 2022 at Murray State University, Murray, KY.

Nash's *A Fraternal Prelude* (1997) band/wind ensemble was performed by the University of the Cumberland's Wind Ensemble for their Spring Concert, April 8, 2022, Williamsburg, KY.

Nash was recently appointed Interim Director of Bands at Fisk University for the remainder of the 2021-22 academic year. Nash conducted the Fisk Wind Ensemble on their Spring Concert, April 12, 2022 and for Fisk University's 148th Annual Commencement Exercises, May 2, 2022.

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Betty Wishart

Betty Wishart's - *Preludes in Memoriam*: 1 (Audrey Hepburn), 2 (Amelia Earhart), 4 (Jane Austen), 7 (Sylvia Plath), 8 (Anna Pavlova); and two suites: *Illusions*, and *Vibes* were performed by Jeri-Mae Astolfi on Women Composers of the 19th-21st Centuries at Methodist University, March 18 and UNC-Pembroke, March 20, 2022. Wishart spoke about each piece before it was performed.

Wishart's *Fanfares No.1, 2, 3 and 4* for brass quartet were premiered at the Cape Fear New Music Festival at Methodist University on April 6.

Wishart's *Phantasmagoria* for piano solo was a semi-finalist in the American Prize Chamber Music Division.

Wishart received a 2022 Artist Support Grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

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About SCL

The Southeastern Composers League

Founded in 1950, the Southeastern Composers' League is an organization comprised of serious classical modern new scored and electronic art music composers and scholars located throughout the southeastern United States. It is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in America. Many of our members fill distinguished faculty positions throughout the universities and educational institutions in the southeastern states (AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV). Membership is for, but is not necessarily limited to, these states and Washington DC. Membership options include Composer, Associate and Student Memberships. Any SCL member can assist you in answering questions or in recommending you for a membership. If you are unfamiliar with the organization and would like information, contact one of the Current Officers (below) with your comments and questions. To obtain an application, click the member-new application under Site Navigation. Look for us on the Web: <http://www.southeasterncomposersleague.org> or Facebook – search for “Southeastern Composers League”

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