2019
Southeast Horn Workshop
Western Carolina University
**Directions:**
When arriving on campus through the main entrance off Hwy 107, follow the traffic circle around the LEFT onto Memorial Drive. Go past the track area (on your left) and then turn RIGHT to continue on Memorial Drive.

**Free Campus Wi-Fi:**
Select “WCU Guest” from the available networks and accept the terms. No password is required.

**Exhibits:**
Exhibitors are located on the 3rd floor of the A.K. Hinds University Center. Exhibits are open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (closed for lunch from 1-2) on Friday and Saturday, and from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Sunday.

**Workshop Logo:**
Designed by T.J. Bullock.
Southeast Horn Workshop
Schedule of Events

CO = Coulter Building
UC = A.K. Hinds University Center
RH = Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Friday, March 15

8:00 a.m.  Registration opens  UC, 3rd floor

High Horn Mock Auditions  CO 102
Low Horn Mock Auditions  CO 203
College Solo Competition  CO 357

9:00 a.m.  Exhibits open  UC, 3rd floor

11:00 a.m.  Bach Suites Explained (30 min) Daniel Katzen  CO 173
(Band Room)

12:00 p.m.  Welcoming Remarks, Regional Artists Recital #1  RH

1:00 p.m.  Regional Artists Recital #2  RH

Mock auditions, final round (if needed)

Practicing and Preparing for Success (50 min) - Skip Snead  CO 358

Women Composers: Strategies for Diverse Programming (50 min) - Dr. Kaylene Beal  CO 375

2:30 p.m.  Horn Ensembles Recital #1  RH

4:00 p.m.  Steven Cohen and the Capstone Horn Quartet  RH

7:30 p.m.  Featured Artist Recital: Susan Welty  RH
Saturday, March 16

8:00 a.m. Building a Warm-up: Developing a Well-Rounded Routine to Start the Day (Bring your Horn!) (50 min) - Jonas Thoms

8:30 a.m. High School Solo Competition

College Solo Competition Final Round
(open to audience)

Quartet Competition

9:00 a.m. Just Breathe! Understanding and Overcoming Performance Anxiety (45 min) - Robert Palmer

Transformation in Richard Strauss' Concerto No. 1 (30 min) - Dr. Peter Riggs

Kopprasch Impossible: Improving Etude Practice Through Microlearning (45 min) - Dr. Catherine Roche-Wallace

10:00 a.m. Regional Artists Recital #3

Mosaic Quintet Lecture (50 min)

Exploring the Design of Performance Structure Rituals: The Why and How (30 mins) - Sam Gowen

11:00 a.m. Horn Ensembles Recital #2

2:00 p.m. Susan Welty Masterclass

3:30 p.m. Mosaic Quintet
Saturday, March 16, continued

5:00 p.m. Unaccompanied Repertoire for the Horn - A User's Guide (45 min) - Dr. Timothy Thompson CO 357

Habits for the Balanced Musician (30 mins) - Rusty Holmes CO 358

“The Few, the Proud, the Hornists” (50 mins) - Sergeant Josh Wagner and Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Phagan CO 351

7:30 p.m. Chris Castellanos Recital RH

Sunday, March 17

8:00 a.m. Professors' breakfast meeting Dogwood Room (UC, 2nd floor)

9:00 a.m. Mass Horn Choir reading session (all are welcome!) - Dr. James Naigus RH

Long Tones, Answering the What, Why, How, When, Where, Who (30 mins) - Christopher Griffin CO 375

The Well-Rounded Musician: A New Degree for Horn in Jazz (30 min) - Dr. Lauren McKinney Braud CO 357

10:00 a.m. Regional Artists Recital #4 RH

A Pedagogical Approach to Expanding the Horn's Repertoire Through Creative Arrangement (30 min) - Andrew Sehmann CO 375

Applications of Mindfulness in Music Performance, Practice and Pedagogy (30 mins) - Dr. Anne-Marie Cherry CO 358

11:00 a.m. Chris Castellanos Masterclass RH

12:30 p.m. Final concert featuring more Regional Artists, competition winners, and awards presentations RH
Regional Artists Recital #1
Friday, March 15th, 2019
12:00 p.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Welcoming Remarks.................................................Travis Bennett, host

Passages (2016)..................................................Paul Basler (b. 1963)
Kristen Johns, horn
Elizabeth Goode, flute
Paul Basler, piano

Song of a New World........................................Richard Bissill (b.1959)
Joshua Williams, horn
Lillian Buss Pearson, piano

Castel del Monte.................................................Nino Rota (1911-1979)
Nick Kenney, horn
Barbara Lamont, piano

The Great Migration..............................................Gina Gillie (b. 1981)
Kaylene Beal and Archie Diaz, horns
Lillian Buss Pearson, piano
Regional Artists Recital #2

Friday, March 15th, 2019
1:00 p.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Tango Etude No. 4...........................................Astor Piazzolla (1933-1990)
   Anne-Marie Cherry, horn

Notturno, Op. 112...........................................C. Reinecke (1824-1910)
   Karen Robertson, horn
   Lillian Buss Pearson, piano

Tanguito.....................................................Dante Yenque (b. 1964)
   Rusty Holmes, horn

Sechs Gesänge, Op. 34.................................F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
1. Minnelied
   trans. Gumpert/Wright
2. Auf Flügeln des Gesanges
4. Suleika
6. Reiselied
   Derek J. Wright, horn
   Lillian Buss Pearson, piano

Nevertheless, She Persisted............................Edward Knight (b. 1961)
   Ellie Jenkins, horn
   Lillian Buss Pearson, piano

España.......................................................V. Buyanovsky (1928-1993)
   Jonathan Gannon, horn
Horn Ensembles Recital #1
Friday, March 15th, 2019
2:30 p.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Fanfare & Antiphon....................................................Bruce Frazier (b. 1948)

Water Night............................................................Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)
arr. Kelseigh Bien

Western Carolina University Horn Choir
Travis Bennett, director
Kelseigh Bien, guest conductor

Capricorn.............................................................James Naigus (b. 1987)

Harvest Light..........................................................James Naigus
soloist: Jean Martin-Williams

White Mountain Fanfare.............................................James Naigus

University of Georgia Horn Ensemble
James Naigus, director

Fanfare....................................................................Robert Palmer

Bohemian Rhapsody....................................................Mercury/Martin

Rhythmic Etude #6.....................................................Vizutti/Boisvert

Silverado...............................................................Broughton/Mahper

The Florida State University Horn Choir
Benjamin Lieser, guest artist
Michelle Stebleton and Robert Palmer, directors
Sessions...............................................................Noah Marney (b. 1999)

Between Sunlight and Shadow.........................Andrew Savage (b. 1997)

University of North Carolina Greensboro Horn Choir
soloist: Martin King (Washington State University)
Abigail Pack, director
Guest Artists Recital:
Capstone Horn Quartet and Steven Cohen

Friday, March 15th, 2019
4:00 p.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Sonata for Four Horns.................................Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)
Fugato, sehr langsam
Lebhaft

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square...........M. Sherwin (1902-1974)
arr. Alan Mattingly

Blessing and Honor (from The Messiah).........G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
arr. Lowell Shaw

Cinq Miniatures...........................................Jan Koetsier (1911-2006)
Petite Marc
Final

Casbah of Tetouan (tone poem for 5 horns).......Kerry Turner (b. 1960)
with Josh Williams, horn

Sonata for Horn and Piano.............................James Naigus (b. 1987)
With Feeling
Reflective
Spirited

Steven Cohen, horn
James Naigus, piano

Cruise Control...........................................Adam Wolf (b. 1986)

Steven Cohen, horn
Lillian Buss Pearson, piano
Jonathan Myers, August DuFresne, Noah Williams, percussion
Featured Artist Recital: Susan Welty

Friday, March 15th, 2019
4:00 p.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Susan Welty, horn
with
Elizabeth Pridgen, piano
Helen Hwaya Kim, violin

Interstellar Call........................................Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Villanelle..........................................................Paul Dukas (1865-1935)

Sonata for Horn and Piano, Op. 24..............Trygve Madsen (b. 1940)
I. Allegro
II. Quasi menuetto
III. Moderato, e poco rubato

--Intermission--

Trio, Op. 40.....................................................Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
I. Andante
II. Scherzo: Allegro
III. Adagio mesto
IV. Finale: Allegro con brio
Regional Artists Recital #3

Saturday, March 16th, 2019
10:00 a.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Two Pieces for horn and fixed media
Coming Home (1994).........................................Matthew Nicholl (b.1956)
Soundings (2013)...............................................James Naigus (b.1987)

Paul Basler, horn

Nachtpoëma.............................................Prosper Van Eechaute (1904-1964)

Robert Fant, horn
Vance Reese, piano

Golden Fantasy................................................Randall Faust (b. 1947)

Robert Palmer, Wagner tuba
Vance Reese, piano

Cool Breeze....................................................Paul Basler (b. 1963)

Jean Martin-Williams and James Naigus, horns
Paul Basler, piano

Odyssey.....................................................Drew Phillips (b. 1989)

Drew Phillips and James Naigus, horns
Vance Reese, piano
Horn Ensembles Recital #2

Saturday, March 16th, 2019
11:00 a.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Idylle und Jägerlust im Wienerwald.................................Rudolf Huber

Im Fluge (Galopp)....................................................Anton Wunderer (1850-1906)

Kirte Marsch..............................................................Anton Wunderer

University of Florida Gator Horn Choir
Paul Basler, Director

Jagd-Chor from "Tannhäuser"..........................Richard Wagner (1813-1883)
arr. Franz Liftl

Six Quartets..............................................................N. Tcherepnin (1873-1945)
I. Nocturne
II. Ancienne chanson allemande
III. La chasse
IV. Choeur dansé
V. Un chant populaire russe
VI. Un choral

Young Harris College Horn Quartet
Peter Riggs, director

Melee.................................................................James Naigus (b. 1987)

Barbara Allen......................................................Kerry Turner (b. 1960)

Hymn of Acxiom.....................................................Vienna Teng (b. 1978)
arrr. Doug Throw

Hornplayers Retreat and Pumping Song.......David Stanhope (b. 1952)
University of Louisiana, LaFayette Horn Ensemble
Catherine Roche-Wallace, director
Dos Danzas..........................................................Paul Basler (b. 1963)
  Paul Basler, piano

Chorale and Ceremony.................................James Naigus (b. 1987)
  Valdosta State University Horn Ensemble
  Kristen Johns, director

Tico-Tico........................................................Z. de Abreu (1880-1935)
  arr. Roger Harvey
  University of Alabama Horn Choir
  Josh Williams and Matt Meadows, solo horns
  Skip Snead, director

Thy Hand Hath Provided..................................arr. Jason Wyse

Mountain Spires..........................................Gary Kuo
  Horn Society of the Carolinas
  Jill Wyse, director
Guest Artist Recital: Mosaic Quintet

Saturday, March 16th, 2019
3:30 p.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Amr Abulnaga, horn
Saber Abdel Sattar, lute & qanun
Mahmoud Mekhemar, piano
Ahmed Osman, double bass
Hisham Kamal Ali, percussion

Selections to be announced
Featured Artist Recital: Chris Castellanos

Saturday, March 16th, 2019
7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Chris Castellanos, horn
with
Lillian Buss Pearson, piano
Michael Jefry Stevens, piano
Rusty Holloway, bass
Rick Dilling, drums

Concerto in F..................................................Henri Kling (1842-1918)
I. Allegro con brio
II. Andante semplice
III. Allegro moderato

Blues and Variations for Monk.........................David Amram (b. 1930)

--Intermission--

Selections to be announced

Mr. Castellanos’ appearance is sponsored in part by a Visiting Scholar Grant from the Provost's Office.
Regional Artists Recital #4

Sunday, March 17th, 2019
10:00 a.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

You, Create a Diversion........................................Travis Alford (b. 1983)
Martin King, horn

Zugzwang!....................................................Thomas Dempster (b.1980)
Hanna Peters, horn
Bryce Richardson, bassoon

Hearken (Blue Ridge Airs III).........................Kenneth Frazelle (b. 1955)
Maria Serkin, horn
Allison Gagnon, piano

Caprice...............................................................J. F. Gallay (1795-1864)
Stephen Lawson, natural horn

Songs of Sorrow.................................................James Naigus (b. 1987)
Melissa Harris, horn
James Naigus, piano

Solstice...............................................................James Naigus (b. 1987)
Ben Lieser, horn
James Naigus, piano
Final Recital
Sunday, March 17th, 2019
12:30 p.m.
Recital Hall, Coulter Building

Episodes..............................................................James Naigus (b. 1987)
   I. New Beginnings
   II. Child’s Play
   III. Amour
   IV. Drive
   V. Reflection
   VI. Joy
   VII. Resolve
      Patrick Smith, horn
      James Naigus, piano

Halle Habana: A fantasy on Cuban folk song..............Michelle Stebleton
      Michelle Stebleton, horn

Nocturne......................................................................Alfred Rasmussen
      Kristen Hansen, horn
      Lillian Buss Pearson, piano

Laudatio.................................................................Bernhard Krol (1920-2013)
      Chris Griffin, horn

Selections to be announced:

High School Solo Competition winner

College Solo Competition winner

Quartet Competition winners

Awards presentations
Travis Bennett

Travis Bennett joined the faculty of Western Carolina University in 2006, where he teaches lessons in the horn studio, conducts the Horn Choir, and coaches chamber music ensembles.

In addition to his teaching activities, Dr. Bennett maintains an active performing schedule, playing more than 50 concerts a year in orchestral, chamber, and recital settings. He has performed with orchestras throughout the southeast, including the Asheville, Greenville, Macon, Columbus, Tuscaloosa, Huntsville, and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestras. As a member of the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, he made his Carnegie Hall debut in June 2007, and has played concert tours in China, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Jamaica, Mexico, and South Africa. In February of 2010, he was a guest performer and teacher at Isla Verde Bronces, an international brass festival held in Córdoba, Argentina.

Dr. Bennett is an active member of the International Horn Society and his writing has been published in their journal, The Horn Call. He has performed and presented lectures at the Southeast Horn Workshop and the International Horn Symposium. In 2009, he hosted the Southeast Horn Workshop at WCU.

Dr. Bennett earned degrees from Florida State University (BM) and the University of Alabama (MM, DMA). When he's not making music, he enjoys spending time with his wife Julie and their two sons.

WCU Horn Studio

The WCU Horn Studio is currently comprised of 15 undergraduates majoring in Music Education, Performance, and Commercial & Electronic Music. The WCU Horn Choir, which also includes non-majors, rehearses twice a week and performs a wide variety of music. In addition to a couple of on-campus performances each semester, the group has performed many concerts at high schools around the region, has played Christmas music while shivering outdoors at the Dillsboro Lights & Luminairies, and has performed frequently at the annual Southeast Horn Workshop.
Artist Biographies

Susan Welty

Susan Welty joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as Associate Principal Horn in 1988. The Illinois native received her Bachelor of Music in Music Performance from Northwestern University, where she studied with Dale Clevenger, Norman Schweikert and Richard Oldberg. Welty was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago while studying there.

In addition to being a featured artist at the 1999 International Horn Workshop, she also served as a guest artist at the 2011 and 2012 National Brass Symposia. Welty has been a member of the Bellingham Music Festival Orchestra since 2009, and she has performed at the Grand Teton, Highlands-Cashiers, Astoria and Amelia Island Music Festivals.

Outside of music, Welty has a passion for houses, interior design and furniture. She was the winner of the 2013 “Kitchen of the Year” award in Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles. Susan Welty lives in Atlanta with her husband Brice Andrus and their two longhaired dachshunds.

Chris Castellanos

A native of Las Vegas, Nevada, Chris Castellanos has enjoyed a prosperous and eclectic career as a world class hornist. Upon joining the Las Vegas Philharmonic at the age of 18, Chris quickly established himself as a top call freelancer on the Las Vegas Strip, playing 1700 shows over a 6-year run of Phantom – The Las Vegas Spectacular, with many additional shows for Spamalot and The Lion King as well as backing countless headliners on the Las Vegas Strip—most notably: Plácido Domingo, Pavarotti, Frank Sinatra Jr., Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Peter Cetera, Kenny G, Yes, Josh Groban, Michael Bublé, Ricky Martin, David Foster (“Hit Man” live album and DVD), and toured with Andrea Bocelli.

In late 2003, Chris found his passion as a chamber musician after joining the Dallas Brass for a 6-year tenure touring the U.S. and abroad. In 2009 Chris joined the prestigious Boston Brass as hornist, arranger and co-owner of the group, with whom he presently tours the world over 180 days per year.
In addition to his duties with the Boston Brass, Chris serves as principal horn of the Sinfonia Salt Lake and has frequently performed with the Utah Symphony, Nevada Pops, Las Vegas Jazz Connection, Miami Ballet, Boca Sinfonia, and the TAD Wind Symphony of Japan, to name a few.

As an educator, Chris has covered every state in the U.S. as well as over 30 countries. Clinics and masterclasses include The Juilliard School, Eastman School of Music, the Sibelius Academy (Finland), the Bruckner Academy of Music (Austria), Yong Siew Toh Conservatory (Singapore), Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, The Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, and many more. Chris is a Yamaha Performing Artist and currently resides in Utah where he enjoys spending all his spare time with his wife and two children.

Steven Cohen

Steven Cohen has been heard internationally as an orchestral, Broadway, and chamber musician. A freelance horn player based in New York, he is a frequent guest with orchestras throughout the Unites States and regularly performs with various national touring Broadway shows. From 2010–2012, Cohen was Principal Horn with The New 25th Anniversary Production of Les Misérables. Prior to his appointment with Les Misérables, he was Principal Horn of the Manhattan Symphonie. He is featured by Mannheim Steamroller on their latest release, “Mannheim Steamroller Live.” Cohen was a Contributing Artist at the 2013, 2016 and 2018 International Horn Symposia.

As a chamber musician, Cohen has performed with the Inverness Chamber Players, as well several chamber and horn ensembles. He is a member of the Ad-Venturi Horn Duo. Together with Jeb Wallace, Horn Professor at Wichita State University, the duo has performed in recital throughout the United States.

A proponent for the creation of new music, Cohen's debut album, Cruise Control, presents five new works for horn as part of a major commission collaboration with five American composers. Additionally, he has the privilege of overseeing a project which commissions new works for horn ensemble. Composers who have contributed to the project include Kerry Turner, Eric Ewazen, Daniel Baldwin, James Naigus, and Jenni Brandon. He has had the opportunity to have presented the premieres of these works on recitals at the 2015, 2017 and 2018 International Horn Symposia.
Cohen's love of the horn far extends just being a performer. As a lecturer, his presentations, “from ON stage to UNDER it: Transforming from an Orchestral to Pit Hornist,” and “J.S. Bach: An Exploration of Teaching and Performance Practice,” have been presented at numerous International Horn Symposia, various national workshops, and universities worldwide. Aside from his scholarship, Cohen is sought after as a clinician, presenting masterclasses and recitals at universities across the country.

From 2015–2016, Cohen served as the Maurice Faulkner Doctoral Fellow in Horn at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He holds a Master of Music and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Cohen's principal teachers include Philip Myers, Dr. Alan Mattingly, and R. Allen Spanjer.

**Capstone Horn Quartet**
The Capstone Horn Quartet is rapidly establishing itself as one of the up-and-coming young horn quartets on the national scene.

After winning the quartet competition at the Southeast Horn Workshop in 2018, and following that up as the winners in the quartet competition at The International Horn Society Symposium in the summer of 2018, the CHQ has been performing regularly in a number of venues throughout the region.

The members of the quartet include Matthew Meadows, Antonio Padilla-Denis, Anthony Parrish, and Charlie Snead, all students at the University of Alabama. Other credits among the members of the group include a Southeast Horn Workshop solo competition winner, Southeast Horn Workshop low horn competition winner, and multiple finalists in other competitions both at the Southeast and the Mid-South horn workshops.

The group performs a wide variety of literature ranging from the established horn quartet repertoire through new and innovative pop selections. They also enjoy being known by their more familiar subtitle, “Tater and the Tots.” Matthew Meadows received the name “Tater” while still in high school. It seemed to fit well with him and his colleagues, hence the Capstone Quartet is better known as “Tater and the Tots”: one tater, three tots.
Rusty Holloway
After more than three decades as one of the top bass players in the Southeast, Rusty Holloway retired from his position at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Early in his professional career, Holloway accompanied R&B artists such as The Tams, The Platters, The Drifters, and The Coasters, as well as Fats Domino, Martha Reeves, and Percy Sledge. He focused more on jazz in the 1970s, living and working in the Northeast. His experience included playing with jazz icons Dizzy Gillespie and Woody Herman, as well as modern masters like Joe Lovano.

He was a founding member of the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra and has performed with such legendary jazz pianists as Hank Jones, Tommy Flanagan, Mulgrew Miller, Roland Hanna, Monty Alexander, Harold Mabern and Donald Brown. Also on Holloway’s resume are performances with saxophonists Jimmy Heath, James Moody and Eric Alexander.

Rick Dilling
Rick Dilling has performed professionally with the likes of Clark Terry, Herb Ellis, Ernie Watts, Joe Temperly, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Margaret Whiting, Billy Taylor, and the Unifour Jazz Big Band.

Rick is a graduate of Appalachian State University's Music Industry Program and has been an adjunct faculty in the jazz program for 30 years, teaching jazz drum set. Rick is an active freelance jazz player as well as member of the Asheville Jazz Orchestra, Todd Wright Quartet, Michael Jefry Stevens Trio, Richard Shulman Group and the Wendy Jones Quartet.

Michael Jefry Stevens
Pianist, Composer and “Steinway Artist” Michael Jefry Stevens performs extensively in Europe, Latin America and North America.

An active band-leader for over 30 years, his current working musical ensembles include the “Conference Call Quartet,” the Hungarian “Eastern Boundary Quartet,” his collaboration with New Orleans horn man, Brian “Breeze” Cayolle, “the Generations Quartet” featuring saxophonist Oliver Lake and his most recent collaboration with Dame Evelyn Glennie.
Michael has released over 90 CDs featuring his own music and has performed and/or recorded extensively with many of the top names in jazz, including Dave Liebman, Oliver Lake, Dave Douglas, Leo Smith, Matt Wilson, Han Bennink, Mark Feldman, Pheeroan akLaff, Charles Moffett Sr., Dame Evelyn Glennie, Billy Martin and many others.

In 2016, Michael was voted “Best Composer of WNC” by the Mountain Xpress, and received a 2017 Regional Artist Project Grant from the Toe River Arts Council. He is currently an adjunct professor at Eastern Tennessee State University.

**Amr Abulnaga**

Amr Abulnaga received his BM from the Cairo Conservatoire, Master of Music from the University of Southern Mississippi, and DMA from the University of Alabama in 2007. He appeared as a soloist with the Cairo Conservatoire Orchestra, Cairo Symphony Orchestra, Cairo Opera Orchestra, Cairo Festival Orchestra, Alexandria Bibliotheca Chamber Orchestra, and Orchestre Pour La Paix. He also appeared as a soloist on the recording of Mozart's Symphonie Concertante with Orchestre Pour La Paix, and Saint Saëns's Romance with the Alexandria Bibliotheca Chamber Orchestra.

Dr. Abulnaga's orchestral engagements include positions as principal horn with Meridian, Tupelo, Mississippi, Tuscaloosa, Macon, Columbus, Huntsville, Huxford, and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestras, as well as being a member of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra under the baton of Daniel Barenboim, Orchestre Pour La Paix, and l'Orchestre des Jeunes de la Méditérranée with appearances at the biggest venues in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

Dr. Abulnaga is the winner of many national and international horn competitions, amongst which is the Ministry of Culture Prize for horn and brass area, and an honorable mention for the high horn mock audition at the Southeast Horn Workshop 1999. He has appeared as a soloist since the age of 17, and performed many works for horn and orchestra that span throughout the standard repertoire of the instrument, and with orchestras in Egypt and internationally through European concert tours. He also has experience as a clinician. He has been invited to give masterclasses and lectures in Egypt, Oman, and USA.
Dr. Abulnaga is currently the principal horn with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra, and serves as the horn professor in the Cairo Conservatoire. He also serves on the faculty of the American University in Cairo’s music department as the brass area instructor and teaches introduction to music and music fundamentals courses.

Dr. Abulnaga plays on a Dieter Otto custom-made 180JN gold-plated double horn.

**Hisham Kamal Ali**
Born in Cairo, Egypt, Hisham Kamal Ali studied percussion at the Arab Music Institute from 1982 to 1985. He also studied classical guitar at the Leonardo Da Vinci Institute in affiliation with the Italian Cultural Center from 1985 to 1989. In 1994, he became a percussionist in the Cairo Opera Orchestra and from 2003 to 2009 he became principal percussionist in the same orchestra.

Since 2009 he has been an assistant principal with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra. Ali has performed with many orchestras inside Egypt like Cairo Celebration Choir, Bibliotheca Alexandria Orchestra, Akhnaton Orchestra, and the United Philharmonic Orchestra. International engagements include Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra; Orchestre Pour La Paix with concert tours in France, the Netherlands, and Jordan; Geneva Chamber Orchestra; and the famous Russian Bolshoi Orchestra.

In 2016, Ali has obtained the equivalent degree for classical percussion from the Royal Academy of Music.

**Ahmad Osman**
Ahmad Osman started playing the double bass at the Cairo Conservatoire and earned his BM in 1998 with excellence in double bass performance, followed by a diploma for graduate studies in 2001, and a master degree in performance in 2009. He has been on the faculty of the Cairo Conservatoire as an instructor for bass since 1999, and as an associate teacher till now.

Osman has performed in many concerts with orchestras in Egypt and other countries.
**Saber Abdel Sattar**

Saber Abdel Sattar is among the most renowned qanun musicians of Egypt and the Middle East. He holds a doctorate degree in qanun and has been a longtime qanun instructor at the Cairo Opera House. Saber is also a composer. He has composed contemporary works that test the traditional bounds of the qanun.

Saber performs a wide range of musical genres. He has been the main qanun player at the Egyptian broadcasting from 1998 until now.

Dr. Abdel Sattar has performed as a soloist with several orchestras such as Cairo Symphony Orchestra, Alexandrina Bibliotheca Orchestra, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, the Italian Philharmonic in the island of Corsica, the Bulgarian orchestra for *Mozart In Egypt* in Paris and Marseille, and others.

Dr. Abdel Sattar has authored many contemporary musical works that highlight the techniques of the qanun instrument and its ability to perform different musical colors. He has performed in a lot of concerts and international festivals inside and outside Egypt as a solo performer or accompanied by his musical group.

He has performed at numerous national and international concerts. Saber’s first album was released in 2011 produced by Binoma in Madrid, Spain. The album includes pieces written in the traditional Arab style with its various maqamat and genres, and also contemporary selections.

**Mahmoud Mekhemar**

Mahmoud Mekhemar was born in Cairo and joined the Cairo Conservatory at the age of eight. He studied piano with Prof. Aisha Hamdi (Egypt), Prof. Demidov (Russia), and Douglas Wicks (USA). He graduated from the piano department of the Conservatoire with excellence, as well as a postgraduate diploma, and a doctorate degree from the Cairo Conservatory all with excellence. He participated in many concerts at the Cairo and Alexandria Opera House, international cultural centers and the Citadel Festival for Music and Singing.
Dr. Mekhemar has appeared as a soloist with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra and the American University of Beirut in 1995, the Chamber Music Ensemble in Kuwait in 2001, the Arab Music Orchestra in Lebanon in 2002 and the Opera Orchestra at the Egyptian Opera House in 2004. He played with the Cairo Conservatory Big Band between 2005–2012 with concerts in Egypt, Italy, and Tunisia.

He participated in the musical festivals in Jordan in 2005 and 2009, with the Arab Orchestra in Qatar in 2010 as part of the participation of musicians from all Arab countries. He was awarded the Opera House Prize for solo performance on the piano.

Dr. Mekhemar is currently working as a lecturer at the Department of Piano in the Conservatoire–Academy of Arts.

**Elizabeh Pridgen**

Pianist Elizabeth Pridgen has distinguished herself as a soloist and chamber musician. Named Artistic Director of the Atlanta Chamber Players in 2014, she recently celebrated the group’s 40th anniversary and has performed both new and standard chamber works to critical acclaim.

Recent highlights include her solo debut with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra conducted by Robert Spano, a multi-city tour with violinist Robert McDuffie, and the release of three albums.

She received her Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School where she studied with Joseph Kalichstein and earned her bachelor’s degree at the Peabody Conservatory of Music as a student of Ann Schein.

**Helen Hwaya Kim**

Helen Hwaya Kim made her orchestral debut with the Calgary Philharmonic at the age of six, and has gone on to become a respected and sought-after artist. She has appeared as a soloist with the Boston Pops at Boston’s Symphony Hall, as well as with the Milwaukee and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras.
Ms. Kim earned her Bachelor and Master’s Degree from the Juilliard School, where her teachers included Cho-Liang Lin and Dorothy DeLay. While at Juilliard, she served as Concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra and was the winner of the Juilliard Concerto Competition at both the pre-college and college levels. She is the recipient of more than one hundred national and international awards. She won the prestigious Artists International Competition in New York and, as a result, gave debut recitals at Carnegie Weill Hall and the Aspen Summer Music Festival.

A native of Canada, Ms. Kim has been engaged by many of Canada’s leading orchestras, including the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, McGill Chamber Orchestra, and the Windsor, Regina, Victoria and Prince George Symphonies. She has also appeared with the DeKalb, New Orleans, Aspen and Banff Festival Orchestras, and with orchestras in the United Kingdom, Germany and Poland.

Ms. Kim has toured extensively throughout Canada and the United States, including performances at Alice Tully Hall and the Santa Fe and La Jolla International Music Festivals, where she performed with Cho-Liang Lin, Gary Hoffman, André Previn, and the Orion String Quartet. She performed Bach’s Double violin concerto with Hilary Hahn at the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival. She most recently made her debut performance at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Other festival highlights include performances at the Highlands-Cashiers, Banff, Zenith and Sitka International Chamber Music Festivals.

An avid performer of new music, she can be heard on the recent CD release of the works of Alvin Singleton on Albany Records. Helen performed the world premiere of the Concertino by Chen Yi, scored for solo violin and orchestra that was commissioned especially for her and the KSU Orchestra and was recently released by Centaur in 2016.

Ms. Kim currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where she served as Assistant and Associate Concertmaster for the Atlanta Symphony for three seasons. She is currently the Assistant Concertmaster of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and serves as Professor of Violin and Chair of the String Department at Kennesaw State University.
**Lillian Buss Pearson**

Pianist Lillian Buss Pearson has appeared throughout the United States, England, Costa Rica and China as a soloist and collaborative artist. From 1988 to 2007, she was the head of the keyboard area at Western Carolina University. Pearson's solo orchestral appearances include performances with the Jacksonville and Asheville Symphonies, the Breckenridge Festival Orchestra, the Western Carolina Civic Orchestra, National Chamber Players, and the Brandenburg Ensemble.

Dr. Pearson's principal teacher was Hungarian trained pianist Edward Kilenyi. She also studied historically informed performance practice on harpsichord and fortepiano. Pearson worked with pianist and Alexander Technique specialist Nelly Ben-Or of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. She also trained with Alexander Technique expert Missy Vineyard and received certification as an Alexander Technique teacher in 2010. Dr. Pearson has performed at many conferences and workshops, including the 2016 national flute and international clarinet conferences.

**Vance Reese**

Dr. Vance Reese lives and works as a musician in the Brevard and Asheville areas. He is currently a professor in the music department at Brevard College.

He has served as organist (and sometimes choir director) at several area churches, and is currently organist at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Brevard. He is a co-principal double bass player with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, and serves as the congregational cantor at Congregation Beth Ha Tephila for the High Holidays.

Dr. Reese has served as chapel organist at Christ School, Arden; has served in various capacities with the Asheville Lyric Opera and Opera Creations; and has served as accompanist to the Wildacres Flute Camp for fifteen years.
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