



Mizzou New Music Initiative
University of Missouri

**University of Missouri School of Music
2022-2023 Series**

Duo Axis, Guest Ensemble

Zach Sheets, flute

Wei-Han Wu, piano

7:30 PM Friday, October 21, 2022
Sheryl Crow Hall

Program

Adrift (2022)* Alex Stephenson

Alma (2007) Tania León

Pruning (2021)* Carolina Heredia

Intermission

My simple measured steps Christine Burke
have brought me here (2022)

Axis Mundi (2022) Anthony Cheung

*Duo Axis commission

About Duo Axis's commissions

Carolina Heredia's work *Pruning* was written for Duo Axis and commissioned by the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition at Brigham Young University.

Alex Stephenson's *Adrift* stages a dialogue between what I've called narrative and spatial music—between music, in other words, that seems outwardly communicative and expressive, and music that seems only to curate an ambiance in which outward expression might (or might not) happen. Over a bed of sonorous piano harmony, the flutist and the electronics continually negotiate their place in the texture, drifting between ambient oscillations and far more active textures. Despite the continuous flux underlying the music, much of the piece presents itself as calm, focused, and meditative.

About the ensemble

Duo Axis is comprised of Zach Sheets, flute, and Wei-Han Wu, piano. Sought after for recitals and residencies across the US, Duo Axis has been featured by a wide range of presenters, including the University of California, Davis, University of Chicago, Brown University (Providence, RI), Qubit (NYC) the Knutson Masters Series (Sioux Falls, SD), EQ Concerts (Boston, MA), Æpex Contemporary Performance (Ann Arbor, MI), Houston Flute Club (Houston, TX), Cape Symphony Chamber Series (Cape Cod, MA), Valencia International Performance Academy (Spain), Creative Arts Initiative (Buffalo, NY), University at Buffalo, Buffalo Strings Works, and more.

This year, Duo Axis launch Duo@50, a landmark commissioning project celebrating the 50th anniversary of Copland's Duo for Flute and Piano with four new commissioned works by Anthony Cheung, Carolina Heredia, Christine Burke, and Matthew Ricketts. Duo Axis projects are generously supported by the Amphion Foundation, Ditson Fund, Copland Fund, Koussevitzky Foundation, Barlow Endowment, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and more.

Wei-Han Wu, piano

Described as "brilliant" by the *Pittsburgh Tribune*, pianist Wei-Han Wu has performed in such venues as the Chicago Cultural Center, the Kennedy Center, and Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. He has been a featured performer at the Tanglewood, Aspen, Castleton, Lake George, and Walla Walla Chamber Music Festivals. Dedicated to the performance and promotion of new music, Mr. Wu is currently pianist for the [Switch~ Ensemble]. He previously served as pianist for the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and the president of OSSIA New Music. A member of Pi Kappa Lambda, he is the recipient of a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Juilliard School, the Felicia Montealegre Fellowship from the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Collaborative Piano Fellowship from Bard College. Mr. Wu holds degrees from Northwestern University and University of Michigan, and a double DMA degree in Piano Performance and Collaborative Piano from the Eastman School of Music. Currently a freelance pianist in Washington, DC, Mr. Wu is on faculty at Peabody Conservatory and Shenandoah University, and has collaborated with artists from the National Symphony, Washington National Opera, and more.

Zachary Sheets, flute

Zachary Sheets enjoys a multifaceted life as a chamber musician, composer, orchestral flutist, and arts administrator. He has performed as guest Principal Flute with the Boston Ballet, Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, Portland Symphony, Albany Symphony, and Phoenix Chamber Orchestra, and as a guest of the Boston Pops, Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, and Cabrillo Festival. He was named principal flute of the Cape Symphony Orchestra at age 23, and is a founding member of Duo Axis and the [Switch~Ensemble]. Festival engagements as a soloist or chamber musician include Royaumont (FR), SinusTon (GER), Aldeburgh (UK), Britten-Pears (UK), Klangspuren Schwaz (AUS), Spoleto USA, IRCAM Mani-Feste (FR), June in Buffalo (US), and CulturaUNAM (MEX). Also a dedicated administrator and educator, Sheets is the Senior Director of Major & Institutional Gifts for Community Music Center of Boston, the largest outside provider of music education to the Boston Public Schools. He has spoken about arts policy and funding partnerships state-wide and nationally, including before the Massachusetts Legislature and Mass Cultural Council; at the Chamber Music America National Conference; and the National Guild for Community Arts Education. He holds degrees from Harvard University and the Eastman School of Music.

Mizzou New Music Initiative

The Mizzou New Music Initiative brings together an array of programs intended to position the University of Missouri School of Music as a leading center in the areas of composition and new music. The Initiative is the direct result of the generous support of Dr. Jeanne and Mr. Rex Sinquefield, and the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation. The Sinquefields' vision is to create an incubator for the composition and performance of new music, and to position Missouri as a major center for the music of tomorrow.

Upcoming MNMI events

María Chávez Residency, November 7-11

Thursday, November 10, Whitmore Recital Hall (FAB building)

Turntable Demonstration during Convocation

Friday, November 11, Rm. 383 (SMC building)

3 p.m. Presentation during Composition Seminar

Visit newmusic.missouri.edu for a full list of events and opportunities.

Requests for accommodations related to disability need to be made to building coordinator, Susan Worstell, 206 Sinquefield Music Center, 573-884-2604, at least seven days in advance of the event. Events are subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit our web site: www.music.missouri.edu

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