

University of Missouri School of Music
Flute Performance Recital • 2024-2025 Series

Lexie Cheek, flute
Dr. Rachel AuBuchon, piano

Monday, March 31 • 7:00 P.M. • Sheryl Crow Hall

Program

Some People are Flowers..... **Yoshi Weinberg**
(b.1993)

Duos for Flute and Clarinet **Robert Muczynski**
(1929-2010)

Ava Rittgers, Clarinet

- I.
- II.
- III.
- IV.
- V.
- VI.

Flute Concerto in E Minor **Franz Xaver Richter**
(1709-1789)

Allegro Moderato
Andantino
Allegro Non Troppo

Intermission

Minuet and Dance of the Blessed Spirits **Christoph Willibald Gluck**
(1714-1787)
Arr. Robert Cavally

Carnival of Venice, Op. 78 **Giulio Briccialdi**
(1818-1881)

*This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the BM
degree in music performance. Lexie Cheek is a student of Professor Alice K. Dade.*

Yoshi Weinberg is a New York based flutist, harpist, and composer who identifies as non-binary. This piece represents the tensions that can arise when parts of one's identity conflict with their concept of status-quo. The piece features extended techniques that push past the boundaries of what 'normal' sounds like on the flute. Just as Weinberg is queer-identifying, the piece represents breaking the status quo as queer identities do. Their identity plays a huge role in their compositions, as many are inspired by their experience as an LGBTQ+ Jewish person. *Some People are Flowers* is based off a poem by Will Farris. The poem reads:

Violets soft
beneath my hands
I want to be
some velvet thing
when I was young
I might have been
a flower
might have thought
bodies were bells
we shape to hold
more bodies, not
meat melting over
screwy bones
some people are flowers
we rend and want

Robert Muczynski was a 20th-century American composer known for his lyrical yet rhythmically-driven chamber music. His Duos for Flute and Clarinet, Op. 34 (1973) is a vibrant set of short character pieces that highlights both the interplay and independence of the two instruments.

The work consists of six contrasting movements, each showcasing Muczynski's distinctive blend of neoclassical clarity, jazz-inspired syncopation, and expressive lyricism. From playful, rhythmic exchanges to moments of lyrical introspection, the duos explore a wide range of textures and moods while maintaining a concise and engaging structure. This work remains a staple of the flute and clarinet duo repertoire, admired for its inventiveness and energetic dialogue between the instruments.

Franz Xaver Richter was a key figure of the Mannheim School, a group of composers known for pioneering orchestral techniques that influenced the Classical style. Though best remembered for his symphonies and sacred music, Richter also wrote several concertos, including his Flute Concerto in E Minor, a work that showcases both Baroque expressiveness and early Classical elegance. Finding the piece itself, let alone any information on it, was nearly impossible, so being able to perform it is just short of a miracle. As far as research has determined, this will be the premier of the piece in the United States.

The concerto follows a traditional three-movement structure: an expressive and dramatic opening movement, a lyrical and intimate slow movement, and a lively, virtuosic finale. Throughout the piece, the solo flute creates intricate melodies, contrasting with the orchestra's dynamic textures. Richter's rich harmonic language and bold orchestral writing give the concerto a distinctive character, making it a compelling yet underappreciated work in the flute repertoire.

Richter himself was a contemporary of Mozart, and the latter described him as talented, but with a strong vice for liquor.

Christoph Willibald Gluck was a pivotal composer of the Classical era, best known for his operatic reforms that emphasized expressive clarity and dramatic integrity. Minuet and Dance of the Blessed Spirits is one of the most well known orchestral excerpts from his opera *Orfeo ed Euridice*.

This piece occurs in Act II, set in the Elysian Fields—the serene paradise of Greek mythology—where Orpheus encounters the spirits of the blessed. The Minuet, a stately and elegant dance, is followed by the Dance of the Blessed Spirits, a gently flowing and lyrical flute melody, symbolizing the purity and tranquility of the afterlife. Characterized by its delicate orchestration and ethereal quality, this music captures a sense of divine beauty and peaceful transcendence, making it a timeless favorite in both concert halls and ballet repertoire.

Giulio Briccialdi, often called the "Paganini of the flute," was one of the most celebrated flutists of the 19th century. His virtuosic *Carnival of Venice* is a dazzling set of variations based on the popular Italian folk tune of the same name.

A showcase of technical brilliance, the piece begins with a lyrical introduction before launching into a series of increasingly elaborate variations. These variations highlight the full range of flute techniques, including rapid scales, arpeggios, and leaps, all while maintaining a playful and spirited character. Briccialdi's rendition is celebrated for its wit, charm, and breathtaking virtuosity.

Requests for accommodations related to disability need to be made to building coordinator, Mark Anderson, 203 Sinefield Music Center, 573-882-2606, at least seven days in advance of the event. Events are subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit our web site:
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