

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents the

**44th
Contemporary Music Festival**

Viet Cuong, *guest composer*

Concerts I, II and III

Sunday, October 19, 2025

I - 2:00 pm (Concert Hall)

II - 4:00 pm (Recital Hall)

III - 7:00 pm (Concert Hall)



There will be no intermissions in Concerts I and II. There will be one 15-minute intermission in Concert III.

Concert I Program - 2:00pm (CH)

Electric Aroma (2018)

Viet Cuong

Beth Chandler Cahill, *flute* | Šarūnas Jankauskas, *clarinet*
Casey Cangelosi, *percussion* | Paulo Steinberg, *piano*

Lilac Tears (2022)

Jennifer Jolley

Anthony Cincotta, *alto saxophone*
Esther Nyberg, *piano*

Apparition (2017)

Viet Cuong

Geneva Maldonado, *clarinet*

Prized Possessions (2014-15)

Viet Cuong

Madison Saxophone Quartet

Tyrique Payne, *soprano saxophone* | Tyler Huffstetler, *alto saxophone*
Adam Army, *tenor saxophone* | Sean Wyatt, *baritone saxophone*

How Do I Love Thee? (2014)

Eric Nelson

Measure Me Sky! (2022)

Elaine Hagenberg

The Madison Chorale

Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*
Adam Shenk, *collaborative pianist*
Addison Walton, *graduate conductor*

Program Notes (scan QR code)



Concert II Program - 4:00pm (RH)

Blink (2024)

Casey Cangelosi

Casey Cangelosi, Aaron Trumbore, *percussion*
with electronic playback

Unveiling (2025)

Ania Vu

Patrick Shaughnessy, Zachary Windsor, *violin*
Diane Phoenix-Neal, *viola* | Carl Donakowski, *cello*

Rhapsody No. 2 (2021)

Jessie Montgomery

Diane Phoenix-Neal, *viola*

from Preludes for Piano

Jason Haney

No. 4 (2002)

No. 5 (2024)

No. 6 (2024)

Jason Haney, *piano*

Among the Trees (2025)

David DeVasto

Bluestone Contemporary Ensemble

Joshua Brancalone, Daniel Esperante, *flute*
Geneva Maldonado, *clarinet* | Steven Brancalone, *piano*

Painting with Knives (2022)

Andre Myers

Otoño (2021)

Armando Bayolo

Anthony Cincotta, *alto saxophone*
Esther Nyberg, *piano*

Program Notes (scan QR code)



Concert III Program - 7:00pm (CH)

from Three Latin American Dances (2004)
III. The Mestizo Waltz

Gabriela Lena Frank

JMU Symphony Orchestra

Kira Omelchenko, *JMU director of orchestras*

Noelle Singleton, *graduate conductor*

Oriente Tonality Suite (2025)
(North American première)

Reiko Nomura

Combined JMU Symphony Orchestra and Harrisonburg High School String Orchestra

Kira Omelchenko, *JMU director of orchestras*

Blazing Ichor (2025)
(Première)

David Kang

Harrisonburg High School String Orchestra

Brian Incheck, *director*

15-Minute Intermission

John and Jim (2024)

Viet Cuong

JMU Symphonic Band

Chris DeVona, *director*

Moth (2013)

Viet Cuong

Re(new)al (2019)

Viet Cuong

JMU Wind Symphony

Chris Cicconi, *director*

Program Notes (scan QR code)



Guest Biography

Described as “alluring” and “stirring” by *The New York Times*, the “arresting” (*Gramophone*), “irresistible” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), and “exhilarating” (*Chicago Tribune*) music of Vietnamese-American composer **Viet Cuong** (b. 1990) has been commissioned and performed on six continents by musicians and ensembles such as the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Eighth Blackbird, Kronos Quartet, Sandbox Percussion, Alarm Will Sound, Sō Percussion, PRISM Quartet, and Dallas Winds, among many others. Cuong’s music has been heard at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and Lincoln Center, as well as on NPR Music’s Tiny Desk and PBS NewsHour. His works for wind ensemble have garnered over a thousand performances worldwide, including at Midwest, WASBE, and CBDNA conferences.

A composer known for his imagination and colorful voice, Cuong strives to blend the whimsical and profound by finding new expressive possibilities through unexpected instrumental pairings and textures. His works thus include concerti for tuba and dueling oboes, percussion quartets utilizing wine glasses and sandpaper, and pieces for double reed sextet, cello octet, and solo snare drum. This eclecticism extends to the variety of musical groups he writes for, and he has worked closely with ensembles ranging from middle school bands to Grammy-winning orchestras and chamber ensembles. His wind ensemble works are widely performed by leading groups such as the Dallas Winds, top U.S. military bands, and premier university ensembles at UT Austin, Michigan, Northwestern, North Texas, LSU, Miami, and Michigan State. Passionate about bringing all these different facets of the contemporary music community together, his notable works include *Vital Sines*, a concerto for Eighth Blackbird and the United States Navy Band; *Re(new)al*, a concerto for percussion quartet with a variety of ensemble accompaniments; and a saxophone quartet concerto entitled *Second Nature*.

Currently the Pacific Symphony’s Composer-in-Residence, Cuong was also the California Symphony’s Young American Composer-in-Residence from 2020-23. He has held artist residencies at Copland House, Yaddo, Ucross, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and at Dumbarton Oaks, where he served as the 2020 Early-Career Musician-in-Residence. His music has been awarded the Barlow Prize, William D. Revelli Prize, Frederick Fennell Prize, Walter Beeler Memorial Prize, Barlow Endowment Commission, ASCAP Morton Gould Composers Award, Theodore Presser Foundation Award, Suzanne and Lee Ettelson Composers Award, Cortona Prize, New York Youth Symphony First Music Commission, and Boston GuitarFest Composition Prize.

Cuong serves as Assistant Professor of Music Composition and Theory the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he teaches composition, orchestration, and music theory. He has also served on the faculties of the Eighth Blackbird Creative Lab, Juilliard Summer Composition, and Newfound Chamber Winds Tidewater Composition Workshop. He holds degrees in music composition from Princeton University (MFA/PhD), the Curtis Institute of Music (Artist Diploma), and the Peabody Conservatory (BM/MM). His mentors include Jennifer Higdon, David Serkin Ludwig, Donnacha Dennehy, Steve Mackey, Dan Trueman, Dmitri Tymoczko, Kevin Puts, and Oscar Bettison.

List of Ensemble Members

The Madison Choral

Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*

Adam Shenk, *collaborative pianist*

Addison Walton, Colin Cossi, *DMA conductors*

Ivan Godoy, *MM conductor*

Leah Brown, Mac Creswick, Alex Dickerson, Kelly Donlan, Emmie Stepp, *managers*

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Abby Spencer	Addison Walton	Anthony Bassett	Alex Dickerson
Allie Ranton	Ciara Theisz	Brian Garmendia	Colin Cossi
Christina Santiago	Grace Hollowell	Jacob Walton	Ian Amos
Emalee Stepp	Isabelle Rhodes	Garrett Gass	Dan Klein
Emma Jones	Jackie Copeland	Jeffrey Ruiz	Habib Jaafar
Helen Albiston	Jaya Whaley	Joshua Nieves-Arbaiza	Ivan Godoy
Izzy Layman	Katy Lange	Luke Brooks	Johnny Park
Kimberly Aikens	Kelly Donlan	Mac Creswick	Kevin Landry
Marlow Lewis	Leah Brown	Thomas Stachelski	Michael Tsougranis
Nancy Walker	Madeleine Parr		Roman Leonard
Natalie Carter	Olive Poole		Takoma Williams
Paige Driver	Rebecca Imbasciani		Will Palestrant
Sophie Osmani	Savannah Whitley		
Sydney Ashworth	Sydney Parow		

JMU Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Kira Omelchenko, Director and Conductor
Noelle Singleton, Orchestra Manager TA, Graduate Conductor
Dalton Guin, Graduate Conductor
Danny Postlethwait and Johnny Park, Librarians

*Denotes section leader/co-leader

Flute/Piccolo

Joshua Brancalone
Daniel Esperante
Emma Lisson

Oboe/English Horn

Cady Litteral
Azaleigh Smith

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Geneva Maldonado
David Kriete
Valerie Alvarado

Bassoon/Contrabassoon

Charlie Andress
Michael Ross

Horn

Joshua Short
Chloe Starling
Isabel Ricciuto
Kendall Hicks

Trumpet

Allie Woodbury
Taylor Lowry
Charlotte Connolly

Trombone

William Shanahan
Adriana Dryden

Bass Trombone

James Colmie Wilson

Tuba

Ian Wallace

Percussion

Emily Stevens*
Thomas Creighton VI
Logan Douglas
Ryan Secrist
Lizbeth Stephan
Rowan Lane
Tommy Crossley

Piano

Ryan Walker

Harp

Elsbeth McNulty

Violin I

Johnny Park*
Victor Winterstein
Zike Qi
Felicity Banner
Nick Poxon
Noelle Singleton

Violin II

Alexandra Goodell*
Roman Rousek
Erin Choi
Anthony Parone
Zoe Lovelace
Anniah Craun
Aidan Coleman

Viola

Ana Mooney*
Elliot Drew
Sunny Robertello
Julia Johnson
Thien Phan
Rose Guevara
Sawyer Degregori

Cello

Christopher Hall*
John Meshreky
Danny Postlethwait
Hailey Hotek
Marlie Dela Cruz
Will Hayes
Theron Rath
Tessa Kuta
Diego Hernandez
Augusta McNulty

Double Bass

Gabriella Bieberich*
Frankie Sellars
Grey Sheridan
Michael Dean
Kaylin Yates
Kiki Protopsaltis
Jolie Prasad

Harrisonburg High School String Orchestra

Brian Incheck, Director

Violin I

Ella Horst
Eliza Godshall
Zion Hunter
Asher Kauffman

Violin II

Tamarah Al Bayati
Maryam Karim
Riyon Loku Umagiliyage
Billy Perritt
Haiden Madden
Leslie Claros Torres

Viola

Claudia Allemeier
JC Bueno
Gabriela Buare-Bustamante

Cello

Jared Mayfield
Nathaniel Kvernén

Double Bass

Penny Brett
Ava Thompson

JMU Symphonic Band

Chris DeVona, Director
Joshua Holsinger, Graduate Assistant
Katie Berlin, Graduate Assistant

*Denotes principal/co-principal

#Denotes graduate student

^Denotes reserve player

Flute

Gaby Bryson
Michael Discenza*
Emily Hughes
Addison Lewallen

Oboe

Kayn Goetz*
Orion Mathews

Bassoon

Sam Beall
Miguel Resendiz-Perez*

Clarinet

Jona Benson*
Breanna Boyd
Jacob Schenkein
Samuel Sheehan
Grey Simpson
Liam Wagner

Bass Clarinet

Delaney Starkey

Alto Saxophone

Connor Dunford
Luke Lerner*

Tenor Saxophone

Joshua Wiseman

Baritone Saxophone

Jaylen Swafford

Trumpet

Victoria Buhl
Emerson Camat
Nathan Domine
Nessa Malone*
Natasha Myers*
Leah Petronella

Horn

Katie Berlin*#
Ethan Boswell*
Cheyenne Bragg
Kendall Hicks
Riley Truong

Trombone

Jack Birdsong
Brett Eye
Jackson Frease
Orion Guerra

Bass Trombone

Aiden Williams

Euphonium

Andrew Donaldson*
Devin Hubbard
Zachary Kovats

Tuba

Jackson Lee*
Ryan Payne
William Swatman

Double Bass

Kiki Protopsaltis

Piano

Ying Zhang#

Percussion

Tommy Crossley
Benjamin Domanski
Andrew Harper
Levi Rosenberry^
Wright Stokes
Kayden Taliaferro
Brian Willey*

JMU Wind Symphony

Dr. Christopher M. Cicconi, Director
Hannah Caraker, Graduate Assistant

*Denotes principal/co-principal

#Denotes graduate student

^Denotes reserve player

Flute

Vanessa Britton
Michael Discenza
Emma Lisson*
MaryKate Mandeville
Isabelle Pearson#

Oboe

Mark Guillen-Maluquish
Cady Litteral^
Lynette Salins*

Bassoon

Charlie Andress
Hannah Gerick
David Kang*

Clarinet

Valerie Alvarado
Rob Christianson
Kelsey Davis
Ian Graff
Clara Jacob
Geneva Maldonado*##
Grace Trembl

Bass Clarinet/Contra

Preston Davis
Emerson Garmendia-Arevalo
Ian Graff

Alto Saxophone

Connor Dunford^
Tyler Huffstetler
Tyrique Payne*

Tenor Saxophone

Adam Army

Baritone Saxophone

Sean Wyatt

Trumpet

Connor Fink
William Meadows
Noah Spinicci
Ayden Suber
Micah Wingfield
Allie Woodbury*##

Horn

Katie Berlin#
Alexander Childs*
Joshua Short
Chloe Starling
Will Rapp

Trombone

Nikhil Argade
CJ Brown
Quin Robinson
Jack Waters*

Bass Trombone

Gavin Torrence

Euphonium

Hannah Caraker*##
Jennifer Carden#

Tuba

Marluce Gardner
Zikeria Gray
Anders Helvey*

Double Bass

Jack Choi

Piano

Chyh Leng Low#

Percussion

Thomas Creighton VI^
Radley Hofmann
Zane Johnson^
Aiden Koehler
Olivia Miller
Josh Sheppard*##
Lizbeth Stephan
Emily Stevens
Brian Willey^

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Thank you for attending this School of Music performance, we appreciate your support! The QR code below will take you to a page where you can donate to the Marlon Foster Scholarship. Marlon Foster ('82, '95) served in the United States Air Force, taught in Harrisonburg City Public Schools for 26 years, and taught percussion in the JMU School of Music. Marlon was awarded Teacher of the Year from Harrisonburg City Public Schools, and he was inducted into the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association's Hall of Fame.

