



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**[®]

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,
THEATRE, AND DANCE**

**Faculty Artist Recital:
Telling a Story**

Dr. Dan Graser, soprano saxophone

12:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Sherman van Solkema Recital Hall

Haas Center for Performing Arts

GVSU Allendale Campus

Program

Six Metamorphoses after Ovid Op. 49 (1951) Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

- I. PAN: *who played upon the reed pipe which was Syrinx, his beloved*
- II. PHAETON: *who rode upon the chariot of the sun for one day and was hurled into the river Padus by a thunderbolt*
- III. NIOBE: *who, lamenting the death of her fourteen children, was turned into a mountain.*
- IV. BACCHUS: *at whose feasts is heard the noise of giggling women's' tattling tongues and shouting out of boys*
- V. NARCISSUS: *who fell in love with his own image and became a flower*
- VI. ARETHUSA: *who, flying from the love of Alpheus the river god, was turned into a fountain*

Inner Song (1992)

Elliott Carter (1908 – 2012)

*“But existence is still enchanting for us; in hundreds of places, it is still pristine,
**A play of pure forces, which no one can touch without kneeling and adoring.
Words still peter out into what cannot be expressed...**
And music, ever new, builds out of the most tremulous stones her divinely
consecrated house in unexploitable space.”*

Phoenix Rising (2016)

Stacy Garrop (b. 1969)

- I. Dying in Embers: *An ancient phoenix, at the end of his life, settles down on a pile of embers – the phoenix takes his last breath*
- II. Reborn in Flames: *The embers explode into flames – A newborn phoenix rises from the flames – The young phoenix gracefully soars – Climbing ever higher with wings gleaming in the sun*

Song (1995)

Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962)

Traditional Set/Arrangements by Dan Graser

Caoineadh Cú Chulainn (Lament)

Bill Whelan (b. 1950)

Reel Around the Sun

Bill Whelan (b. 1950)

Devil's Dream

Traditional

Ashokan Farewell

Jay Ungar (b. 1946)

Performer Bio

Described by The Saxophonist Magazine as being “in rarefied air possessing world-class musicianship and super-human technique,” Dan Graser is one of the most active performers and pedagogues of his generation. A recipient of the Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan, Dan served as Teaching Assistant to legendary saxophone pedagogue Donald Sinta having completed undergraduate work in performance and music history/theory with saxophone virtuoso Timothy McAllister at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.

As soprano chair of the world-renowned Sinta Quartet, Dan has been featured internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. SQ are among the most successful ensembles on the chamber music competition circuit having received the Gold Medal of the Fischhoff Chamber Competition, 1st Prize of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition (the first time awarded to a saxophone group), 1st Prize in the M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition, the Alice Coleman Grand Prize at the Coleman Competition and 1st Prize at the North American Saxophone Alliance Quartet Competition. SQ have performed throughout the world, and were the featured soloists with the Michigan Symphony Band during an historic tour through China. In addition to performing great string quartet works and saxophone standards, SQ sponsor an annual composition competition for young emerging composers. This competition has generated the premieres of dozens of new works for saxophone quartet. General Arts Touring manages SQ internationally. Their recordings can be heard on the CAG and Bright Shiny Things labels. www.sintaquartet.com

As a soloist, Dan has been featured with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra, GVSU Concert Band, University of Michigan Symphony Band, Oakland Wind Symphony, Crane Wind Ensemble, South Oakland Concert Band and in recital at the Kennedy Center as part of the Millennium Stage series. As an orchestral performer, Dan has performed on numerous occasions with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under Leonard Slatkin. For several years Dan was the saxophonist with the New World Symphony in Miami under Michael Tilson Thomas, Teddy Abrams, John Adams, and J.D. Gersen, and performed several chamber works, premieres, and large orchestral works with that prestigious group. Dan has also performed as saxophonist with the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Kalamazoo Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Royal Oaks Symphony, as well as the

University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Orchestra.

A highly sought-after pedagogue, Dan is the author of the Chops series of method books, which are now in use by thousands of saxophonists throughout the world in both the jazz and classical realms. Dan has given master class performances and clinics at numerous schools throughout the world including the Paris Conservatory, Shanghai Conservatory, Beijing Central Conservatory, China Conservatory, Versailles Conservatory, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina Greensboro, West Virginia University, and Oakland University. Dan has also held teaching positions at Oakland University, Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, and the Expressions Music Academy. For more information about the GVSU saxophone studio please visit: www.gvsu-saxophone.com

Dan is a Selmer Paris artist and performs on Selmer Saxophones and Mouthpieces exclusively.

Upcoming MTD Events

- December 5 at 7:30 p.m. - GV Arts: Holiday. Fountain Street Church
- December 7 at 7:30 p.m. - Faculty Recital: Sookkyung Cho #1. SVS, PAC
- December 9 at 7:30 p.m. - Faculty Recital: Sookkyung Cho #2. SVS, PAC
- December 10 at 7:00 p.m. - Fall Dance Concert. LAT, PAC
- December 11 at 2:00 p.m. - Fall Dance Concert. LAT, PAC

For updated information on Music, Theatre, and Dance events, please visit www.gvsu.edu/mtd.

If you are interested in supporting Music, Theatre, and Dance programs, please consider contacting Grand Valley's University Development Office at 616-331-6000 or universitydevelopment@gvsu.edu.

The use of cameras, video cameras, or recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please remember to turn off your cell phones.