

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

School of Music

presents the Faculty Recital of

Diane Phoenix-Neal, *viola*

Sam Suggs, *double bass*

with

Paulo Steinberg, *piano*

David Berry, *piano*

Thursday, March 11, 2021

8 pm

Recital Hall



There is no intermission.

Program

Escapade for viola and bass (2018)

Rufus Reid
(b. 1944)

Diane Phoenix-Neal, Sam Suggs

Poème, Op. 20 (1933)

Leo Ruygrok
(1989-1944)

Sonatine for viola and piano (1939)

Ulysses Kay
(1917-1995)

Diane Phoenix-Neal, Paulo Steinberg

Variations in B minor (1905)

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
(1875-1912)
arr. Sam Suggs

Sam Suggs, David Berry

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personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

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of this production is strictly prohibited
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Biographies

Violist **Diane Phoenix-Neal** performs nationally and internationally as a collaborative chamber musician and as a soloist. She also enjoys her roles as a clinician and educator nationwide. Her performances have taken her to concert venues and festivals throughout the world, most recently to France and Poland. In France, she served as both the principal solo violist of l'Orchestre de Picardie and as violist of Quatuor Joachim, finalists at Banff International String Quartet competition. Her sound is described as “rich and sumptuous” (Classical Voice of North Carolina) with “an admirable combination of precision and fire” (The New York Times). She is a longstanding performing faculty member (and alumna) of Eastern Music Festival, a premiere summer festival in North Carolina, and currently holds the position of principal violist with the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival. A champion of new music for viola, her recent recitals and projects featuring contemporary music for viola have been presented at James Madison University’s Contemporary Music Festivals, the Northwestern University New Music Conference, the University of Wyoming, International Viola Congresses in Australia and in Poland, and the Music by Women Festival at Mississippi University for Women. She received her training from the Juilliard School as a student of William Lincer and of the Juilliard Quartet, from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and received her doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A recently released CD, *When the Spirit Sings*, features her performances of the chamber music of Gwyneth Walker. Dr. Phoenix-Neal holds the position of Assistant Professor of Viola at James Madison University.

Sam Suggs is the first solo bassist in 36 years to join the Concert Artists Guild roster, and was recently recognized with an award for Extraordinary Creativity at the 2017 Bradetich Foundation International Double Bass Competition. A paradigm-shifting bassist-composer, Sam was named ‘New Artist of the Month’ (October 2015) by Musical America after winning 1st place at the 2015 International Society of Bassists Solo Competition while performing many original works. As a collaborative bassist, he has performed at the Mostly Mozart Festival, Yellow Barn, Chamber Music Northwest, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and with the Argus Quartet, PUBLIQuartet, Founders, Frisson Ensemble (composer-in-residence), and his contemporary jazz trio Triplepoint. A native of Buffalo, NY and doctoral graduate from the Yale School of Music, Sam spends his time between the Northeast and the Shenandoah Valley performing with various chamber, crossover, and contemporary groups, giving recitals and masterclasses, and teaching full-time as Assistant Professor of Bass at James Madison University, as well as at the Heifetz Institute, Peabody Bass Works, Sewanee Summer Music Festival, and the Juilliard Summer Strings Program in Shanghai.

David Berry is an active concert pianist and chamber musician whose performances have been featured in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, the Kimmel Center, as well as live broadcasts of WQXR (New York City). An avid collaborator, David has performed with members of many of the nation's leading orchestras, including the New Jersey, Houston, St. Louis, Dallas, and Seattle symphonies. He has toured and regularly concertized as a resident member of the Jacksonville, Florida based Ritz Chamber Players, The Harlem Chamber Players, and the innovative chamber music theater group, the Core Ensemble. David received his Bachelor of Music with High Distinction from the Eastman School of Music, and Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in piano performance from the Juilliard School. David is currently Assistant Professor of Music and Director of the Music Department at Eastern Mennonite University.

Paulo Steinberg has performed as a soloist and as a collaborative pianist across the U.S., Canada, South America, and Europe, including venues such as the Theatro Municipal de São Paulo in Brazil, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. In the Spring of 2017 he undertook a European recital tour stretching from the U.K. to Latvia including Ireland, Scotland, Luxembourg, Austria, Germany, and Sweden. A winner of several national competitions in his native Brazil, Dr. Steinberg was also the recipient of a prestigious scholarship from the Brazilian Government while pursuing his advanced degrees in piano performance. He holds a Bachelor's degree in piano from Universidade de São Paulo, a Master's degree from Arizona State University, and a Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University. Among his distinguished teachers are Brazilian pianists Gilberto Tinetti and Paulo Gori, and Belgian pianist Ms. Evelyne Brancart. Besides his love for teaching and performing, Steinberg has served in several administrative positions, most recently as president of the Virginia Music Teachers Association. He often serves as an adjudicator in competitions, and offers master classes, lectures, workshops and performances in the U.S. and abroad, and teaches at the Saarburg Chamber Music Summer Festival in Germany. Three CD albums have been released recently – *The Recital Clarinetist* in collaboration with clarinetist Dr. Janice Minor, *Time, Place, Spirit* in collaboration with flutist Dr. Beth Chandler Cahill, and his solo CD *Alma Brasileira*. Dr. Steinberg is Professor of Piano at James Madison University.

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Dear Patron,

Thank you for attending today's performance. The opportunity to hear live music is a refreshing change during these times of social distancing. As demonstrated today, the performing arts are faced with unprecedented challenges. Despite these difficult times, the JMU School of Music continues to educate the finest musicians from around the world. Our commitment to our students has not wavered in the face of this pandemic. Preparing artist and arts educators of the future is our mission.

Scholarship contributions help young musicians blossom into mature musical artists. With your support, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. If you are interested in supporting our students' passion and dedication, please consider contributing to the [Music Scholarship Fund](#) at James Madison University.