

IOWA

School of Music



GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

SYMBIOSIS DUO

Gail Robertson, *euphonium*

Stacy Baker, *tuba*

Kazuo Murakami, *piano*

Friday, March 27, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Concert Hall, Voxman Music Building

PROGRAM

DREAMS, DANCES, AND DESTINATIONS FOR EUPHONIUM, TUBA AND ELECTRONICS (2023)

Eduardo Nogueroles (b. 1972)

- I. Living is Only Dreaming
- II. Dreams and Destiny
- III. The Dream of Freedom

HEAVEN OR HELL: TRILOGY FOR 2 BASS TROMBONES & PIANO (2025)

Steven Verhelst (b. 1981)

- Devil's Waltz (2010)
- Angel's Tango (2016)
- Limbo Dance (2025)

INTERMISSION

**NANON FOR EUPHONIUM, TUBA,
AND OPTIONAL ELECTRONICS**

(2022)

Joanna Hersey (b. 1971)

BIG CITY DREAMS (2024)

Gary Kuo (b. 1965)

FUNK CENTRIC (2023)

Gail Robertson (b. 1965)

**SUITE FOR EUPHONIUM, TUBA &
PIANO: "DANCING WITH MYSELF"**

(2008)

Barbara York(1949-2020)

I. Bohemian Evening

II. Tango

V. Past Midnight

PROGRAM NOTES

DREAMS, DANCES, AND DESTINATIONS

Dreams, Dances and Destinations, set in the dances of the time, proposes a reflection on our dreams and destiny through the Soliloquy of Segismundo from *La vida es sueño* (1635) by Spanish author Pedro Calderón de la Barca (1600-1681), one of the most important theatre authors of the Golden Age of literature in Spain. The piece begins with a joyful binary dance in 2/4 time, with a medium-fast tempo and a single eight-bar theme that is repeated with variations interrupted by verses recited by the soloists. The slower second movement is an expressive sarabande in 3/4 time presenting a melancholic melody charged with deep reflection, contrasted by a second intense and emotional theme. The piece ends with an energetic dance in 6/8 + 3/4 time and reiterative character, which later leads to a joyful jácara, a lively and jovial dance that closes the work showing the enormous virtuosity of the euphonium and tuba. – Eduardo Nogueroles

Eduardo Nogueroles combines performance with teaching, composition and conducting. He is Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the Professional Conservatory of Music of Va-

lencia, member of the Spanish Tuba Quartet, member and management team of the Spanish Association of Tubas and Euphoniums AETYB, International Representative of the International Tuba and Euphonium Association ITEA, and Conductor of the Symphonic Band of the Societat Musical d'Alboraia.

He studied at the conservatories of Jávea, Valencia, Madrid, and Perpignan, Arizona State University, the Polytechnic University of Valencia, and the Royal School of Music. He is in demand as an adjudicator and international clinician and collaborates with numerous Spanish orchestras. He has recorded three solo albums: Escenas latinas, Una mirada atrás and Rock & Tuba. His award-winning compositions have been commissioned, performed, and recorded worldwide. Eduardo Nogueroles is an Eastman performing artist and plays the EBF866 and EBC836 tubas. <https://linktr.ee/EduardoNogueroles>

HEAVEN OR HELL: *DEVIL'S WALTZ*

Devil's Waltz was written for Martin Schippers and Tomer Mashkowski in 2010. After a short introduction, a floating bass line sets the waltz rhythm. Both players are tempted to their maximum capacity. The character of the piece

turns “devilish” when the Waltz rhythm makes for a technical challenge. It’s only in the end where both players meet each other again to end a satanic journey. Angel’s Tango (2016) and Limbo Dance (2025) are the second and third chapters in a trilogy of duets for 2 bass trombones by Belgian composer, arranger, and trombonist, Steven Verhelst. <https://www.stevenverhelst.com/>

NANON

In 1755, a young woman sailed to Paris from the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, to be reunited with her son, Joseph. Nanon was enslaved, and her courage inspired this work. Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745-1799) was a central figure in the Classical musical scene, but we do not know enough about the woman who made that possible. This work was commissioned by Gail Robertson and Stacy Baker. The score is presented in graphic format, as a map of the city of Paris at the time Nanon arrived, beautifully drawn by Qiudi Zhang. The players choose from melodic material placed around the city, and the river Seine flows serenely through the center. Through this honoring, the story of Nanon and Joseph allows us to broaden our

understanding of the history of music, as well as our shared responsibility to showcase the stories of all. – Joanna Hersey <https://joanna-hersey.com/product/nanon-2022/>

Dr. Joanna Hersey began her career as Principal Tubist with the U.S. Coast Guard Band, stationed at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Her solo albums, *O quam mirabilis*, and *Zigzags*, feature diverse music by female composers, in combination with her own works, and she has collaborated on five recent chamber music albums. Dr. Hersey holds Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in addition to her music degrees from New England Conservatory and University of Hartford's Hartt School, and focuses her scholarship on inclusion in American music. Her composition, *Nanon*, composed for Drs. Gail Robertson and Stacy Baker, received the ITEA Mary Ann Craig Focus on Women Award. Dr. Hersey has served on the faculty at East Carolina University, UNC Pembroke, Eastern Connecticut State University, and the University of Hartford, and now serves as Director of Student Success and Applied Instructor of Tuba at Gordon College.

BIG CITY DREAMS

Big City Dreams (2024) is the latest concert work from American and Emmy award-winning composer Gary Kuo. Written for SymbiosisDuo artists Dr. Gail Robertson and Dr. Stacy Baker, it is a programmatic composition following the hopes, emotional journey, and achievements of two characters, portrayed by the euphonium and tuba. With the piano playing the third character of the calling metropolis, Big City Dreams is a tribute to individuals everywhere, whose aspirations, tenacity, and tireless spirit make our world a better and happier place. – Gary Kuo

“Big City Dreams” composed by Gary Kuo. © 2024 Gary Kuo. Published by Electric Violin Music (BMI). All rights reserved.

Violinist and Emmy award-winning composer Gary Kuo began his musical journey in his home state of Connecticut. After completing his studies at The Juilliard School and the University of Miami, Gary worked as a Los Angeles session musician, performing on over 100 motion picture soundtracks including The Rock, Enemy of the State, and Finding Nemo. Mr. Kuo’s work as a composer for media has aired on over 160 programs, including As the World Turns and All My Children, for which he

won six Emmys. Performances of his compositions have been given at some of the world's finest concert venues, including Carnegie Hall, and featured by notable soloists and ensembles including the United States Army Field Band, the Osakan Philharmonic Winds, and the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine. Since 2015, Gary has been producing music regularly for *The Young and the Restless*, the long-running daytime drama on American television. garykuo.com

FUNK CENTRIC

Gail Robertson's *Funk Centric* is a work for tuba and euphonium with fixed media. It is dedicated to Robertson's long-time friend and Disney's Tubafours partner, Willie Clark. Robertson and Clark worked together full-time at Walt Disney World from 1989-1999. Since fresh out of college, Gail and Willie have remained close friends. This work celebrates Willie's retirement from the United States Air Force "Ceremonial Band" in Washington, D.C. after 20 years of service. Clark, also known as "night-time Willie," is a man full of style and groove. This funk-centered work uses descriptive texts such as "strut along," "dig in with style," "make it happen," "like a nighttime stroll,"

and “sassy” . . . all words that describe Willie Clark. The unison lines that occur in this work are a symbol of our close friendship and love of playing together. – Gail Robertson <https://www.cimarronmusic.com/funkcentric>

SUITE FOR EUPHONIUM, TUBA & PIANO: “DANCING WITH MYSELF”

Barbara York writes, “This is my ‘take’ on a more traditional dance movement suite, but with a slightly more contemporary and even psychological twist. The movements are all in dance meters and rhythms, but the piece itself is very much interconnected in thematic material and almost cinematic in quality. In that sense, the movements make sense individually but will often have a slightly unfinished quality to them unless they also proceed to the next one. You will notice that the first and third movements begin with the same thematic material but wind up in different places through their development. I have also chosen to end the piece with the slowest and most introspective of the movements. To my own mind, the Suite is rather moody and even ‘quirky’ at times without, hopefully, going over the top in that respect. For me it is a bit of the ‘Bohemian Barbara’, coming out of the bars and cafes of my youth into the misty, late-night streets of cosmopolitan Montreal . . . As always, the dance goes

on.” – Barbara York <https://www.cimarronmusic.com/suiteforeuphoniumandtuba>

Barbara York was a beloved Canadian-American composer, collaborative pianist, and educator. She completed a bachelor’s degree in music education from McGill University and worked in theatre in Toronto for a decade before moving to Kansas in 1993. Cherished as a composer by the tuba and euphonium community, she created over 40 works for these instruments. She was awarded the Harvey Phillips Award for Euphonium in Chamber Music in 2006 for her “Conversations” for alto saxophone, euphonium, and piano. Barbara York was also commissioned to compose works for the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. Her works have been premiered at numerous conferences including the United States Army Band Tuba and Euphonium Workshop and the International Women’s Brass Conference. In 2021, Barbara was posthumously awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Tuba Euphonium Association. Beu, AJ. “Biography.” Barbara York.com, August, 2021, <https://www.barbarayork.com/>

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



SYMBIOSIS DUO

SymbiosisDuo highlights the artistic achievements of two of the most accomplished musicians in the field of low brass performance and pedagogy. Gail Robertson (euphonium) and Stacy Baker (tuba) formed SYMBIOSIS-DUO in 2007 to increase awareness of the tuba/euphonium duo as a performance medium and to promote and disseminate new works for this unique combination of instruments. They released albums Symbiosis in 2009 and Playground in 2015. They were honored with the 2025 Mary Ann Craig Focus on Women Award from the International Tuba Euphonium Association (ITEA) for their 3rd

album, *Dreams, Dances, and Destinations*. Through their commissions and premiere performances, they have emerged as true vanguards of this genre.

GAIL ROBERTSON

Dr. Gail Robertson is Associate Professor of Tuba/Euphonium at the University of Central Arkansas, Visiting Professor of Music (Euphonium) at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She also teaches euphonium at Boston University and the American Band College. She is Past President of the International Tuba Euphonium Association and International Women's Brass Conference; Vice President of the Athena Brass Band; a Willson and Warburton International Euphonium Artist; a member of the Brass Band of Battle Creek; and is on the Board of Directors for the Falcone Festival. Robertson serves on the faculty of the Rafael Méndez Brass Institute and is a member of the Summit Brass. She was honored with ITEA's Clifford Bevan Award for Excellence in Research for "Restoring the Euphonium's Legacy as Cello of the Wind Band." Dr. Robertson's compositions and arrangements are available at Cimarron Music Press.

STACY BAKER

Dr. Stacy Baker is Professor of Music - Tuba/Euphonium at Morehead State University (KY) and is MSU's 2017 Distinguished Creative Productions Award recipient and 2014-2015 Distinguished Teacher. Originally from Harsens Island, MI, she graduated with her B.M. and M.M. degrees from the University of Michigan, and her D.M.A. from the University of Illinois. Baker has toured throughout North America, Europe, China, Brazil, and Japan as a soloist, clinician, and founding member of Symbiosis-Duo, the R.S.V.B. and JUNCTION tuba/euphonium quartets, Monarch Brass, and the Athena Brass Band. She is a member of the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra, the Baird Brass quintet, and performs with Brass Band of Battle Creek. Baker has served on the Board of Directors of the International Tuba Euphonium Association and the International Women's Brass Conference, and as co-editor of the IWBC Newsletter.

KAZUO MURAKAMI

Dr. Kazuo Murakami is Lecturer II of Piano/Coordinator of Collaborative Piano, University of Central Arkansas. He studied at Kyoto City University of Arts in his native Japan, won the Sadie Zellen Piano Prize from the Cleveland

Institute of Music, and earned a D.M.A. in Piano Performance/Pedagogy from the University of Iowa.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most current listing of concerts, recitals, and other School of Music events, visit the events calendar.

EVENTS CALENDAR 