

Iovi Saxophone Quartet
April 4, 2022
8:00 p.m.
Hughes Hall Auditorium

Todd Gaffke, soprano
Michael Rene Torres, alto
Heidi Radtke, tenor
J. Adam Briggs, baritone

Quartette (1879)
I. Andante
II. Allegro

Caryl Florio (1843-1920)

Quartet for Saxophones (1974)

Marilyn Shrude (b. 1946)

Andante et Scherzetto (1942)
I. Andante
II. Scherzetto

Pierre Lantier (1910-1998)

Summa (1977)

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

– Intermission –

Other Worlds (2020)
I. In the Hourglass
II. Lacus Mortis
III. Antennae
IV. Looking Back

James Wilding (b. 1973)

Performer Biographies:

Todd Gaffke enjoys a diverse musical career as a performer and educator. He has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and in Europe performing a variety of modern saxophone works as well as classics and transcriptions. His playing has garnered numerous awards including: Downbeat Magazine's Outstanding Classical Soloist, the Liberace Foundation Scholarship Competition winner, and 1st prize in the Plowman Chamber Music Competition. He has appeared as a member of the wind sections in the Flint, Saginaw, Midland, Jackson, and West Michigan Symphony Orchestras. Dr. Gaffke is also adept in jazz repertoire. He performs frequently with The University of Akron Jazz Faculty Ensemble. He has performed at the Detroit Jazz Festival and Lansing Jazz Festival, and with the Harry James Orchestra and Lansing Symphony Big Band. Dr. Gaffke is Assistant Professor of Saxophone at The University of Akron. Before coming to UA, he was Adjunct Instructor of Saxophone at Grand Valley State University and held Graduate Teaching Assistantships at Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. Dr. Gaffke earned a Bachelor of Music degree in saxophone performance from Central Michigan University, and a Master of Music in performance and Doctor of Musical Arts in saxophone performance with jazz cognate from Michigan State University. His primary teachers include Joseph Lulloff, John Nichol, and Rob Smith.

Saxophonist, composer, educator and curator **Michael Rene Torres** currently serves as saxophone assistant professor of practice at The Ohio State University; during the summer he teaches saxophone at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Michigan. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the Columbus Ohio Discovery Ensemble (CODE); a 501(c)3 non-profit contemporary music ensemble that is dedicated to the promotion, performance and perception of new music in Central Ohio. Additionally, Michael serves as the Program Director and an Advisory Board member of the Johnstone Fund for New Music which advances the performance of new music for the benefit of the Central Ohio community. Torres has presented recitals, clinics and master classes at conferences and universities throughout the USA. As an advocate of contemporary music, Torres has commissioned and premiered several works for the concert saxophone and is an active chamber musician as a member of the Tower Duo with flutist, Erin Helgeson Torres. Tower Duo specializes in creating engaging musical experiences and commissioning new concert works by living composers to advance the growing repertoire of the flute and saxophone duet. A winner of the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award and the Greater Columbus Arts Council Composition Fellowship, Torres' compositional interests are in chamber music that explores the juxtaposition of consonance and dissonance and is often inspired by psychology and poetry. He describes his music as dramatic and theatrical with complex, intricate moments and calm, introspective moments. He has served as Lecturer of Saxophone and Composition at Muskingum University (2011–2021), Artist-in-Residence with the Wexner Center for the Arts Pages Program (2017–2018), Assistant Dean of Students at the Brevard Music Center Festival and Institute (2010–2015), Executive Committee member of the Society of Composers, Inc. as the Editor for the bimonthly national SCI Newsletter (2012–2016), Instructor of Music at Ohio Dominican University (2014–2015), Assistant Event Coordinator for The Ohio State University Contemporary Music Festival (2010–2012), and as the General Manager of the 2013 National Conference of the Society of Composers, Inc. Torres holds degrees from The Ohio State University (DMA–saxophone, MM–composition), Northwestern University (MM–saxophone), and Stetson University (BME–education). He has studied saxophone with James Bishop, Frederick L. Hemke, James Hill and Joseph Lulloff and studied composition with Thomas Wells and Kari Juusela. Torres is a Conn-Selmer Endorsing Artist and performs exclusively on Selmer Paris saxophones. Visit Dr. Torres' website for more information.

Dr. Heidi Radtke maintains an active career as a saxophonist and pedagogue. She is the Instructor of Saxophone at Butler University in Indianapolis and provides applied saxophone and chamber music instruction for the Carmel High School band program. Since arriving in Indianapolis in 2014, Heidi has performed with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, several regional orchestras, at local recording studios, and area churches. She also frequently collaborates with her fellow Butler University colleagues. In the spring of 2018, Heidi gave the Indiana premiere performance of Stacy Garrop's Saxophone Concerto "Quicksilver" with the Butler University Wind Ensemble under the direction of Michael Colburn. She is on the review team for the online periodical thesaxophonist.org and has written reviews for the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors Journal. Heidi's passion for chamber music led her to complete her doctoral dissertation on the topic of saxophone quartet pedagogy and she has given presentations on chamber music coaching strategies and resources at the Indiana Music Educators Association Conference, the American Single Reed Summit, and North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference. Prior to pursuing her advanced degrees in saxophone, Heidi worked as a Music Librarian, Assistant Professor at the University of Miami, Florida Frost School of Music. She completed undergraduate degrees in political science and saxophone performance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, graduate degrees in library science and music performance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University

Bloomington, where she also served as an Associate Instructor of Saxophone. Her primary teachers include Professor Debra Richtmeyer and Dr. Otis Murphy. Dr. Heidi Radtke is a Vandoren Regional Artist and plays exclusively on Selmer Paris saxophones.

Saxophonist **J. Adam Briggs** is an active classical soloist, chamber musician, and jazz artist. Briggs previously served on faculty at Hope College, Albion College, and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, along with a large private studio in west Michigan. He is currently a member of Duo Corcra, a bassoon-saxophone duo with his wife, Genevieve Beaulieu, and serves as Instructor of Saxophone at the DePaul University Community Music Division. Briggs completed his DMA at Michigan State University with Professor Joseph Luloff. His solo recording Transcension was released on the Blue Griffin label.

Gaffke / Torres / Radtke / Briggs