

Ms. McPherson has extensive experience as a chamber music performer and coach. Her acclaimed TriMusica trio (with pianist John Cozza and cellist Susan Lamb Cook) has performed extensively throughout northern California and has premiered numerous works written specifically for the group. She has performed with numerous other chamber music ensembles at the Harris Center for the Arts, the Crocker Art Museum Sunday Series, Sacramento State's Festival of New American Music, Chamber Music Alive!, and the Capital Chamber Players Series. Ms. McPherson received degrees from California State University, Fresno and University of California, Santa Barbara in music education, clarinet performance, and musicology, and has published articles on early-American clarinet literature.

**Dr. George Benton England** is a highly sought-after guitarist, known for his exceptional skills as both a soloist and chamber musician, proficient in playing both modern and historical instruments. In New York City, George has performed with distinguished groups such as the Cantanti Project, Ensemble Musica Humana, and the Brooklyn Composers' Collective. On the West Coast, he is frequently engaged in projects with Backyard Baroque and Sinfonia Spirituosa in Sacramento, and as a soloist at Oregon State University.

George was the recipient of a Fender Instruments Corporation Grant through the Berklee School of Music and honored with the prestigious Andrés Segovia Memorial Endowment at California State University, Northridge. In 2005, George was selected to participate in the Grammy Foundation's Master Class Sessions with the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet in Beverly Hills. He earned 1st Prize in the Sacramento State Festival of New American Music Student Performance Competition and was a finalist in the 2007 Sierra-Nevada International Guitar Competition.

George holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University, where his culminating studies focused on the analysis and interpretation of French and Italian lute works of the 17th century, as well as 20th-century serial compositions for the guitar. He earned his Master of Music degree from Sacramento State and his Bachelor of Music, cum laude, from CSU Northridge. His teachers have included Jerry Willard, Richard Savino, Steven Thachuk, Gyan Riley, and Brandon Yip.

THE 46th ANNUAL  
FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSIC

LOCAL VOICES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 7:00 P.M.

Of the Water (2023) Kailer Bibbins  
Noah Blevins, clarinet; Kailer Bibbins, piano

Spiel (2020) Andy Akiho  
(b. 1979)  
Jordan Shippy, glockenspiel

Itsuki Ballade for violin solo (2023) traditional  
adapt. by Masatoshi Mitsumoto  
Anita Fetsch Felix, violin

Three Pieces for violin and piano (2023) Masatoshi Mitsumoto  
(b. 1937)  
I. Pacifica Beach  
II. PlayThirds  
III. Mini Masquerade  
Anita Fetsch Felix, violin; John Cozza, piano

Dances for Clarinet and Guitar (1997) Daniel Kessner  
(b. 1946)  
I. Sicilienne  
II. Balkan Dance  
III. Sarabande  
IV. Fire Dance  
Sandra McPherson, clarinet; George England, guitar

Frost Fire Brass Quintet Eric Ewazen  
(b. 1954)  
I. Bright & Fast  
Hornet Horns  
Mason Rogers & Marilette Brooks, trumpets  
Ryan Datar, horn; Michael Mencarini, trombone  
Aaron David, tuba

**Noah Blevins** is principal clarinetist of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra at Sacramento State. He has been playing the clarinet for thirteen years and started primarily on bass clarinet, under the direction of Charlene Harrison. Noah continues to study under Professor Sandra McPherson and is president of the Klarinet Klub at Sacramento State. He has been awarded the John Philip Souza award and the Benny Goodman scholarship. Noah intends to continue his education in graduate school and have a career performing music.

**Kailer Bibbins** is a local pianist and composer, studying piano performance and composition at Sacramento State School of Music. The late Dr. Hoover once described his music as "if Gershwin and Scriabin had a kid". While he primarily writes for piano, he has written chamber and jazz music throughout his studies as a composer. Outside of music, Kailer enjoys a nice cup of coffee and spending time with his elderly dog.

Percussionist **Jordan Shippy** is an active performer and educator that has presented in venues across the United States including Lindenwood University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Arkansas Tech University. Most recently, he was a featured presenter and performer at the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy hosted at the University of Memphis. Jordan also performs with the Colour Me Crimson percussion trio, and Metaphor percussion duo, and Music in the Mountains. In addition to performing, Jordan serves as the percussion faculty at Sacramento State and American River College and conducts clinics at local high schools in the greater Sacramento area. He holds a DMA and MM in percussion performance from the University of Oklahoma and Sacramento State respectively.

**Anita Fetsch Felix** began her violin studies under the tutelage of her mother, violinist Nicholette Fetsch. She joined the Stockton symphony at age 16. Currently in her thirteenth season as the Folsom Lake Symphony's concertmaster, Anita also is a member of the Sacramento Philharmonic and performs regularly with the orchestras of the Sacramento Opera, Sacramento Choral Society, and Sacramento Ballet. She was formerly assistant concertmaster of the Stockton Symphony and concertmaster of the Gold Country Chamber Orchestra, and a member of the Omaha Symphony and Omaha String Quartet. Anita's desire to perform the virtuosic violin and piano chamber music literature resulted in the

formation of Duo Concertante with her pianist father, Wolfgang Fetsch. From 2008 to 2015, Anita performed as a member of the Sierra Ensemble, a trio consisting of violin, piano and French horn. The Sierra Ensemble was invited to perform in Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey, in 2013. Recently Anita has joined with Folsom Symphony oboist Curtis Kidwell and Sacramento State faculty member John Cozza in the ensemble Tres Musicos.

After completion of a Master of Music degree, summa cum laude in violin performance with Ian Swensen at Sac State in 2016, Anita was hired as adjunct assistant professor of violin at American River College. In 2023, Anita was invited to perform a recital for *Violins of Hope*, a touring exhibit of Holocaust instruments from Israel.

**John Cozza** is in demand throughout California as teacher, coach/accompanist, chamber musician, adjudicator and clinician. He has been the Staff Accompanist at Sacramento State University since 2004, and took over as Music Director and Pianist/Organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Carmichael in January of 2018. Collaborating with singers and instrumentalists throughout the United States, Dr. Cozza's international engagements have included performances as soloist, accompanist and chamber musician in such European cities as Vienna, Bologna, Milan, Cologne, and Budapest.

Dr. Cozza holds a DM degree in piano performance, vocal accompanying and chamber music from Northwestern University. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at USC, where he was named Valedictorian of the School of Music. He originally attended Vienna's prestigious Hochschule für Musik as a Rotary Foundation Scholar in 1986-87, then returned for further study from 1988-1991 when he received the coveted Diplom in both Piano Performance and Chamber Music.

**Sandra Moats McPherson** is in wide demand as a clarinetist and educator. She is the professor of clarinet at Sacramento State's School of Music and Cosumnes River College and performs frequently as principal clarinetist and bass clarinetist in numerous Northern California orchestras, including the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, and Choral Society Orchestras. She has performed orchestral and chamber music in Eisenstadt and Vienna, Austria as part of the annual Classical Music Festival, and has been on the coaching and performing staff of the InterHarmony Festival in Arcidosso, Italy.