



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
SENIOR RECITAL

**Reuben Rampen, saxophone**  
**John Cozza, piano**

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Sonata for Soprano Saxophone and Piano (1984)

Ronald Caravan

- I. Prologue
- II. Allegro
- III. Song
- IV. Dance Finale

(b. 1946)

Until Next Time... (2025)

Tyree Nesbitt

(b. 2002)

Dancing Shadows (2025)

Zander Westphal

(b. 2001)

INTERMISSION

Level Up! (2024)

Chris Evan Hass

- I. Adventure Awaits
- II. Moonlit Village
- III. Final Boss

(b. 1993)

Daniel Hernandez, soprano saxophone  
Dr. Keith Bohm, alto saxophone  
Reuben Rampen, tenor saxophone  
Gabriel Zaragoza, baritone saxophone

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Education.  
Reuben Rampen is a student of Dr. Keith Bohm.*



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WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.  
FEBRUARY 25, 2026  
CAPISTRANO HALL 151

## PROGRAM NOTES

### **Sonata for Soprano Saxophone by Ronald Caravan**

Ronald L. Caravan is an American classical performer, teacher, composer, and arranger from Pottsville, Pennsylvania. He currently holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education from the Eastman School of Music. Caravan taught clarinet and saxophone at the Syracuse University from 1980 to 2015 and directed the Syracuse University Saxophone Ensemble. Composed in 1984, *Sonata for Soprano Saxophone and Piano* is one of Caravan's most frequently performed contemporary sonatas for this instrument. Structured in four movements, the piece blends lyrical expressiveness with modal harmonic language, drawing much of its melodic and harmonic material from the Dorian, creating a mysterious yet compelling experience. The first movement, Prologue, serves as an introduction to the sonata. It is expressive and lyrical, allowing the performer to establish tone and mood and sets a reflective atmosphere that prepares the listener for what follows. The second movement, Allegro, contrasts the opening with rhythmic energy and forward momentum. Lively articulation and dynamic interplay between the saxophone and piano create excitement and showcase technical skill. Song provides a lyrical and expressive centerpiece. The saxophone sings long, flowing phrases, emphasizing dynamic contrast and musical sensitivity. Dance brings the sonata to a spirited conclusion. Rhythmic drive and playful exchanges between the performers create a sense of motion and celebration, ending the work with energy and brilliance.

### **Until Next Time... by Tyree Nesbitt**

Tyree Nesbitt is an American composer who recently received his master's degree from the University of Indiana. Though very little has been published about the composer, Nesbitt has expressed his thought process and reasoning for composing *Until Next Time*. *"Until Next Time is a piece that I wrote in honor of my great-grandmother, Victoria Hampton. She was the kindest and most genuine person I knew, and she was always there for me when I needed her. Her death devastated me, and even now I am unable to completely get over it. It was very shocking and unexpected because I saw her not too long before her passing and she was doing great. She had just left the hospital and was recovering well. She seemed healthier, more active, and brighter overall only for her to pass in her sleep a little over a month later. To see her lie in her casket filled me with various emotions that I struggle to put into words. The despair of knowing I will never see her again, and the fear of not living up to her expectations. The happiness I felt while recalling the good times we shared, only to be crushed by the reality that I will never see her again. Until next time is my way of honoring her, her favorite music, and the hope that I will one day see her again".* – Tyree Nesbitt

### **Dancing Shadows by Zander Westphal**

Zander Westphal is an American saxophonist, composer, and educator active in contemporary classical and chamber music. He has degrees in both saxophone performance and music education from the University of South Alabama and currently serves as the director of Gulf Coast Chamber Ensembles. As a performer, he has appeared with ensembles including the Appalachia Wind Symphony and has participated in prominent saxophone symposiums and ensemble premieres. Composed in 2025, *Dancing Shadows* reflects both dramatic contrast, juxtaposing delicate, atmospheric passages with more energetic, rhythmic material. The piece contains a repeating chord progression that shapes and develops through passionate lines from the saxophone. The piece contains impressions of Latin music with hints of flamenco or montuno in its highly syncopated and triplet figures.

### **Level Up! by Chris Evan Hass**

Chris Evan Hass is an American composer, arranger, and conductor from Ann Arbor, Michigan. In addition to composing, his works have been performed around the world by professional ensembles, including the New York Philharmonic and the U.S. Air Force Band. He earned degrees in composition from Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University. *Level Up!* was composed in 2024. The piece is Hass's love letter to video games, specifically JRPGs such as *Final Fantasy* or *Dragon Quest*. The piece unfolds in three movements, each dedicated to a feel or setting one would find in such a genre. *Adventure Awaits'* upbeat style represents the start of a hero's journey, *Moonlit Village* mimics the cozy atmosphere of the player's home, and *Final Boss* heightens tension with battling parts to give a climactic send off for the "game".