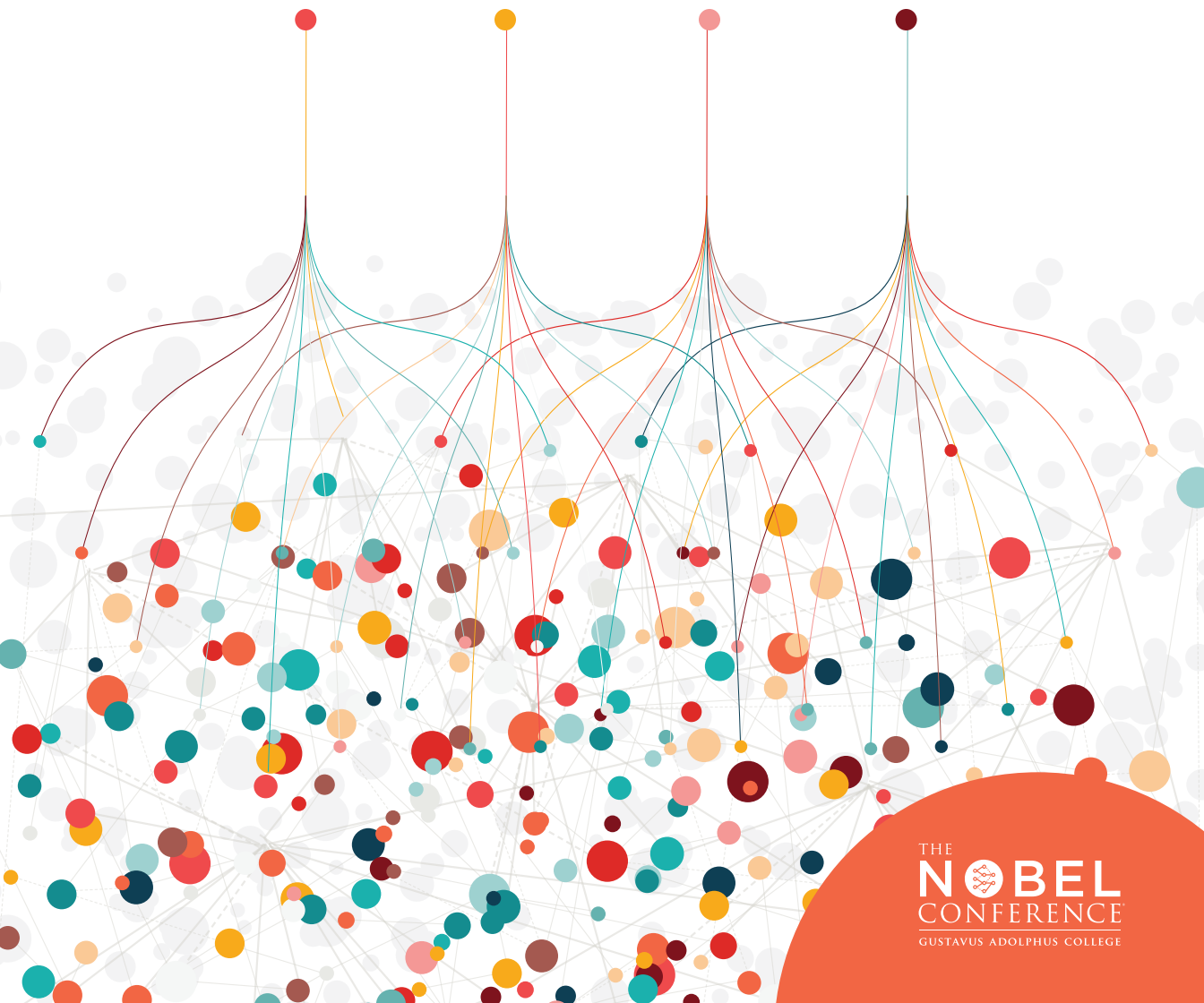


NOBEL CONFERENCE CONCERT | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

OboeBass

presents American Vein: New Music for Oboe and Bass

Carrie Vecchione, oboe, Rolf Erdahl, double bass



THE
NOBEL
CONFERENCE
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE



Nobel Concert Program

OboeBass! presents American Vein: New Music for Oboe and Bass

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Introduction

Chad Winterfeldt

Cantor of Christ Chapel

A Walk in the Park (2006)

Timothy Goplerud (b.1960)

The Many Faces of Cy DeCosse (2019)

Promenade Interludes

Timothy Goplerud (b. 1960)

I. Maisie

Randall Davidson (b. 1953)

II. Pavane for a Little Dandelion

Steve Heitzeg (b. 1959)

III. Arrival of the Snow Birds

David Evan Thomas (b. 1958)

IV. Resurrection

Sarah Miller

V. Mister Flowers

Timothy Goplerud

VI. Night Blooming

Mary Ellen Childs (b. 1957)

Stephen Foster's A Most Knowing Woman

Randall Davidson (b. 1953)

(An Exposition of the Seven Elements of Comedy) for Oboe and Bass (2019)

American Vein (2020)

Valerie Coleman (b. 1970)

I. The Redwood Forest

II. On Route 66

III. Woodstock: Summer of 1952

IV. The Melting Pot

V. Barn Raising, Bourbon and Bluegrass (BB&B)

OboeBass!



Carrie Vecchione, oboe, and **Rolf Erdahl**,

bass, are OboeBass! Called “pioneers” by Minnesota Public Radio, they concertize widely around the U.S., and toured Norway in 2017. They have commissioned over forty new oboe/bass pieces and recorded six CDs, effectively creating the oboe/bass duo genre. Awards include grants from the American Composers Forum, and teaching, performing, and Artist Initiative grants from Metropolitan Regional Arts

Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board. They won a Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant for Valerie Coleman’s *American Vein* and a 2020 Fromm Commissioning grant for a new piece by Mary Ellen Childs about climate change based on sounds and impressions from her expedition to Svalbard. Carrie teaches at the MacPhail Center for Music. Rolf teaches at Gustavus Adolphus College.

oboebass.com | facebook.com/oboebass | [@OboeBassDuo](https://twitter.com/OboeBassDuo)



PROGRAM NOTES

What do the arts and big data have in common? How do they intersect? Is the creative act uniquely human? This concert features works composed for OboeBass! since 2019 by composers who provide points of departure for these questions.

A Walk in the Park

Timothy Goplerud

Timothy Goplerud (b. 1960) composes at the intersection of classical and vernacular musical traditions. A former bassist with years of jazz and symphonic experience, he studied composition with David Diamond and Robert Hall Lewis, bass with Homer Mensch and Eugene Levinson, and jazz bass with Miroslav Vitous and Dave Holland, at Yale, Juilliard, and Peabody. He has written numerous works for OboeBass!, including *Rondo Buffo*, the first oboe/bass concerto, commissioned and premiered by the Duo with the Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra. *A Walk in the Park* is a whimsical rumination on the scenes and people one might encounter on a walk in New York's Central Park.

timgoplerud.com



The Many Faces of Cy DeCosse

Composers: Randall Davidson, Steve Heitzeg '82,
David Evan Thomas, Sarah Miller,
Timothy Goplerud, and Mary Ellen Childs

Commissioned for OboeBass! by:
Penny and Bill George & the George Family Foundation

The Many Faces of Cy DeCosse traces the highly successful advertising, publishing, and photography career of Cyrille “Cy” DeCosse. His numerous creative enterprises, which have evolved over more than six decades, demonstrate a keen talent for recognizing significant technological and cultural shifts at the intersection of art, design, and media. Over a hundred objects assembled for this exhibition chart the artistic and entrepreneurial ambitions and achievements of Cy DeCosse while providing unique insights into historical shifts in the overlapping fields of advertising, marketing, book publishing, and photography from the 1950s to the present, including examples of print advertisements, storyboards, package designs, and television commercials from DeCosse’s earliest ad agency years through the founding of Cy DeCosse, Inc. He created familiar ad campaigns including Mr. Bubble, the Hamms Beer Bear, Pillsbury’s Funny Face juice flavors, Downy Fabric Softener bouncing on towels, and a legacy of mouth-watering food ads for General Mills and others that set the current standards for food photography. DeCosse’s accomplishments as a fine art photographer occupy the largest footprint of the exhibition. His love of working up-close and intimately, which suited his art directing so well for decades, developed in tandem with his philosophy on photography. Whether it is the platinum prints featured in his earliest exhibition *Images of Florence* (1993), his innovative *Off the Wall* series (1998), the sensuous and chromatic fruit and flower still lifes (2002–2008), or his celebrated portfolio and ongoing series *The Midnight Garden* (2012–present), DeCosse has dedicated himself to finding the “hidden life in everyday objects” with superlative skill and care. At the same time, the fruits, flowers, garden gates, and other objects convey a sense of timelessness—photographed without specificity in terms of time and place. They exist outside of the contemporary moment, which adds to their uniqueness and beauty. The exhibition culminates with examples of DeCosse’s luminous egg tempera paintings and a selection of his cartoons and caricatures, another talent much in evidence in his early advertising work, such as his hilarious Mr. Bubble and Malt-o-Meal commercials. This playful side of DeCosse is just one more “face” of an artist who continues to make the ordinary, extraordinary.



Maisie from the *Off the Wall* collection

Randall Davidson

Music of humor and passion are the hallmarks of Randall Davidson's catalogue. His works in many and varied genres have enjoyed hundreds of performances throughout the U.S. and Europe and have attracted the attention of critics, performers and audiences alike for their dramatic and accessible musical language. "My music is used in everyday settings where performer and audience participate ... Some of the repertoire is designed to accompany arts experiences: theater, dance, film, and sound environments. On rare occasion, compositions are performed in featured listening experiences with orchestras, recitals, opera productions, house parties and concerts." Randall composed an OboeBass! piece around Maisie, the literally moving photo of a girl on a swing.

randalldavidsonmusic.com

Dandelion from the *Off the Wall* collection

Steve Heitzeg

The title of his piece is *Pavane for a Little Dandelion*, inspired by the small dandelion photo/sculpture from Cy's *Off the Wall* collection. Emmy Award-winning composer Steve Heitzeg is known for evocative music that celebrates nature and addresses social and ecological issues with vision and purpose. His wide-ranging body of works includes compositions for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensemble, ballet and PBS films. "Lakes and oceans, stone beaches, arboreal forests and wild fields, birdsong—these are the original symphony, the first music."

steveheitzeg.com

Arrival of the Snow Birds from the *Frost Garden Series*

David Evan Thomas

The music of David Evan Thomas has been praised for its eloquence, power, and craft. Critics note Thomas's loving ties to tradition, made evident in clear forms, smart instrumental writing, and skillful orchestration. Audiences respond to the music's warmth, lyricism, and sense of play. He has chosen to compose an OboeBass! piece based on Cy's *Frost Garden* photo, Arrival of the Snow Birds.

davidevanthomas.com



Resurrection — egg tempera painting

Sarah Miller

Sarah Miller is composition coordinator and piano instructor at the MacPhail Center for Music. “I am passionate about the creation of evocative music. Each piece I write is crafted to meet the needs and desires of those who have asked for the music. I am excited by challenges to make something unlike what I have done before.” This is the second piece Sarah has written for OboeBass!, following her charming *Just So Stories*. Describing her music for Cy’s *Resurrection* painting, “The opening features the bass being the waves and the oboe being the gentle hand lifting up. Then it goes into the dancing and cavorting figures and wraps up with a laugh or chuckle.”

sarahmillermusic.com

Flower Self-Portrait

Timothy Goplerud

Timothy Goplerud is a sought-after composer of music for piano, orchestra, band, and chamber ensembles. As a bassist, he has performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony, Delaware Symphony, Richmond Symphony, and the Aspen Chamber and Festival Orchestras. His music is frequently performed at recitals and music festivals around the world. Tim derived the promenade music for this performance from the letters of Cy E. DeCosse’s name, assigning letter values to notes. Tim’s oboe-bass duo *Mr. Flowers* follows its protagonist as he walks through a garden. One flower in particular attracts his interest. He plucks it, inhales deeply, savors its fragrance, and then slowly and blissfully exhales.

timgoplerud.com

Queen of the Night and King of the Night

from *Midnight Garden Series*

Mary Ellen Childs

Mary Ellen Childs has been acclaimed for creating both rhythmic, exuberant instrumental works and bold, kinetic compositions that integrate music, dance and theater in fresh and unexpected ways. This new movement for OboeBass! will be a new installment of her “EAR + NOSE” pieces, an ongoing research and a series of new works that combine music and scent. Speaking of this project she writes, “Definitely would like to add a touch of scent to the performance and I’ve found some interesting fragrances designed around the scent of the night-blooming cereus.”

maryellenchilds.com



A Most Knowing Woman

Randall Davidson

Randall Davidson writes, “Commissioned by OboeBass!, this work is an adaptation of one of Stephen Foster’s least performed songs, *My Wife is a Most Knowing Woman*. In the #MeToo era, the lyrics are problematic; the lyrics have been adapted from the original; this version of the song creates an alternate narrative on the relationship between men and women. The subtitle (An Exposition on the Seven Elements of Comedy) suggests to performers how to approach this work: make it funny. Like Berio’s *Sequenzas*, the work challenges performers to create “business” and a physical performance beyond the musical notes. The seven elements of comedy are taken from the former Barnum & Bailey Clown College and are: exaggeration, repetition, The Forbidden, wordplay, Little over Big, Spirit in the Object, and surprise.”

randalldavidsonmusic.com

American Vein

Valerie Coleman

Described as one of the “Top 35 Female Composers in Classical Music” by critic Anne Midgette of the *Washington Post*, and named 2020 “Classical Woman of the Year” by NPR’s Performance Today, Valerie Coleman is among the world’s most performed living composers. Her works are highly regarded as a deeply relevant contribution to modern music. She is creator and former flutist of the Grammy® nominated Imani Winds, one of the world’s premier chamber music ensembles, and is currently assistant professor of performance, chamber music, and entrepreneurship at University of Miami. Coleman has received commissions from Carnegie Hall, American Composers Orchestra, The Library of Congress, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Music Northwest, and the Interlochen Arts Academy. *American Vein* is Valerie’s vision of the great things America has to offer everyone. It’s a road trip through time and geography across America from the Redwoods to the Statue of Liberty. Unless otherwise noted, texts preceding movements were written by Valerie Coleman. *American Vein* has been made possible by the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program, with generous funding provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

vcolemanmusic.com

Banuelion from the Off the Wall collection



Malsie from the Off the Wall collection



Arrival of the Snow Birds from the Frost Garden Series





Flower Face Self-Portrait of Cy DeCosse



Resurrection egg tempera painting



Queen of the Night from Midnight Garden Series



King of the Night from Midnight Garden Series

