College of Fine Arts presents

**NEXTET**
The New Music Ensemble of the 21st Century
Virko Baley, music director
Featuring the music of Shulamit Ran, composer-in-residence
Guest performers Timothy Bonenfant and Cory Tiffin

**PROGRAM**

**East Wind** (1987)  
Shulamit Ran  
(b. 1949)  
Lynn Tsai, flute

**Duet** (2011)  
Charles Halka  
(b. 1982)  
Janis McKay, bassoon  
Andrew Smith, violoncello

**Persona IV: Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra** (2015)  
Virko Baley  
(b. 1938)  
I. Don Quixote  
II. Dulcinea  
III. Sancho Panza  
IV. Death of Cervantes/Don Quixote  
(the four parts are performed continuously)  
Timothy Bonenfant, bass clarinet

**Reste** (2016)  
Jennifer Bellor  
(b. 1983)  
*World premiere*  
Cory Tiffin, clarinet  
Luigi Ng, vibraphone  
Jae Ahn-Benton, piano

**INTERMISSION**

**34 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 16** (1973-78)  
Valentin Bibik  
(1940-2003)  
No. 21  
No. 29  
Timothy Hoft, piano
Under the Sun’s Gaze (Concerto da Camera III) (2003-4)  
Shulamit Ran

Carmella Cao and Lynn Tsai, flute  
Cory Tiffin and Timothy Bonenfant, clarinet  
Mark McArthur, soprano saxophone  
James Whiting, percussion  
Katie Leung, piano  
Yuri Cho, violin  
Andrew Smith, violoncello  
Virko Baley, conductor

Monday, March 14, 2016 7:30 PM  
Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall  
Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Shulamit Ran, a native of Israel, began setting Hebrew poetry to music at the age of seven. By nine she was studying composition and piano with some of Israel’s most noted musicians, including composers Alexander Boskovich and Paul Ben-Haim, and within a few years she was having her works performed by professional musicians and orchestras. As the recipient of scholarships from both the Mannes College of Music in New York and the America Israel Cultural Foundation, Ran continued her composition studies in the United States with Norman Dello-Joio. In 1973 she joined the faculty of University of Chicago, where she is now the Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Music. In addition to receiving the Pulitzer Prize in 1991, Ran has been awarded most major honors given to composers in the U.S., including two fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, grants and commissions from the Koussevitzky Foundation at the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Arts, and many more. Her music has been played by leading performing organizations including the Chicago Symphony under both Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez, the Cleveland Orchestra under Christoph Von Dohnanyi in two U.S. tours, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Gary Bertini, the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta and Gustavo Dudamel, the New York Philharmonic, the American Composers Orchestra, and various others. Chamber and solo works are regularly performed by leading ensembles in the U.S. and elsewhere, and recent vocal and choral ensemble works have been receiving performances internationally. Since 2002 she is Artistic Director of Contempo (Contemporary Chamber Players of the University of Chicago. Shulamit Ran is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, where she was Vice President for Music for a 3-year term, and of the American Academy of Arts and Science. The recipient of five honorary doctorates, her works are published by Theodore Presser Company and by the Israeli Music Institute and recorded on more than a dozen different labels.

MEET THE GUEST PERFORMERS

Dr. Timothy Bonenfant is Associate Professor of Clarinet and Saxophone at Angelo State University, where he also directs the ASU Jazz Ensemble and teaches Survey of Rock and Roll. He is a member of The Mesquite Trio and The Batik Quartet. He received degrees in clarinet performance from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and California Institute of the Arts. Bonenfant’s recently released solo album, Multiple Personae, features music by Virko Baley. It uses seven different members of the clarinet family, and includes two works written for Bonenfant. Bonenfant’s ensemble credits include the Nevada Symphony, Las Vegas Philharmonic, Houston Symphony Orchestra, Abilene Philharmonic, San Angelo Symphony Orchestra, Boise Symphony Orchestra, Nevada Opera Theater, and various groups on the Las Vegas Strip. Bonenfant has performed in the United States, Japan, Scotland, Portugal and Spain. His major teachers include Felix Viscuglia, William Powell, Raphael Sanders, Marina Sturm and Michele Zukovsky.

Cory Tiffin is the principal clarinetist of the Las Vegas Philharmonic and has also acted in this role for the Green Bay Symphony, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, and the New Millennium Orchestra, among others. Tiffin continues to perform with the Kalamazoo Symphony, the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and numerous orchestras throughout the United States. As a chamber artist and soloist, Tiffin has performed in recital with the Grammy Award-winning Chicago Chamber Musicians, collaborated with Fulcrum Point New Music Project, the University of Chicago New Music Ensemble, and the International Chamber Artists, among others. He also founded and ran the eclectic Chicago-based Anaphora Ensemble for several years, was a founding member of the New York City-based baroque and contemporary chamber opera company Operamission, and was featured on concerts and radio
programs throughout the United States and Europe. Upcoming performance highlights include soloing with the Las Vegas Philharmonic in April 2016, performing Leonard Bernstein’s “Prelude, Fugue, and Riffs.” Time Out New York called Tiffin a “clarinet maverick” and Lawrence Johnson of Chicago Classical Review said: “…Tiffin’s understated virtuosity was the fulcrum of the performance – as it was all afternoon…” Tiffin is the Instructor of Clarinet at Loyola University. He has also served on the faculties of DePaul University, UNLV, The Chicago High School for the Arts, and other institutions. He maintains a small private studio in both Chicago and Las Vegas and appears as a guest clinician and lecturer at universities and schools nationwide. Tiffin can be heard on the Southport and Albany labels.

MEET THE COMPOSERS

Jennifer Bellor is a versatile composer who enjoys collaborating with classical and jazz musicians, singers, dancers, and visual artists. Her works have been featured by Washington National Opera, Livin Philharmonic, Seattle Women’s Jazz Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, and many others in the U.S. and abroad. She was the winner of the 2015 IAWM Judith Lang Zaimont Prize for Skylark Lullaby, a 2015 American Prize Finalist for Uprising, and a 2013 DownBeat Award for Midnight Swim. Additionally, she was commissioned by Washington National Opera’s American Opera Initiative to write Duffy’s Cut, which was premiered at the Kennedy Center November 2013. Her writing was praised as showing a “flair for full-bodied, operatic sound” (Washington Post), and for “using contrasting rhythms and clever harmonies to an intriguing effect” (Huffington Post). Jennifer earned a PhD in music composition at Eastman School of Music, a Master of Music degree in composition at Syracuse University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music at Cornell University. Her teachers included David Liptak, Robert Morris, Andrew Waggner, Sally Lamb-McCune, and Steven Stucky. She is currently Visiting Lecturer at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she teaches courses in music composition and theory. For more information, please visit her website www.jenniferbellor.com.

Charles Halka’s music has been performed in North America, Europe, and Hong Kong, including performances by the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra conducted by Marin Alsop, counter)induction, Volti, and the Mexican National Symphony Orchestra, and at such venues as the ISCM World Music Days, Palacio de Bellas Artes, and the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress. As a Fulbright grantee, he spent a year in Lithuania writing an opera, Julius, which premiered in 2010. He has been in residency at the MacDowell Colony and at the M.K. Sarbievijaus Cultural Center in Kražiai, Lithuania, where he wrote a chamber opera that was performed at Fort Worth Opera’s 2015 Frontiers showcase. His most recent dance collaboration with Houston’s Frame Dance Productions received support from the Aaron Copland Fund for Music. Charles holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory and Rice University, and is Visiting Lecturer at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Virko Baley, composer, conductor, pianist and writer is a Distinguished Professor and Composer-in-Residence at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, a Jacyk Fellow at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, and contributor to The New Grove Dictionary of Music 2000 and The New Grove Dictionary of Opera; former music director of Nevada Symphony Orchestra and Las Vegas Chamber Players and current director of Nextet, a new music ensemble at UNLV; co-founder of the international Kyiv Music Fest, Ukraine; president and producer of TNC and TNC-Jazz Recordings; in 2007 he received the Grammy® Award as recording co-producer for TNC Recordings and for his work as composer, in 2008, the prestigious Academy Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

MEET THE PERFORMERS

Flutist Lynn Tsai is an active performer of solo, chamber, and orchestral music. Winner of the 2016 UNLV Concerto Competition, she is looking forward to performing the Otaka Flute Concerto with the UNLV Symphony Orchestra this September. Lynn was a prizewinner of the 2015 and 2016 Reno Chamber Orchestra’s College Concerto Competitions. She made her Carnegie Hall solo debut in 2009 as a winner of the 2008 Artist International Competition. Lynn holds a M.A. from New York University, where she studied with Keith Underwood. Her other teachers include Tara O’Connor, Andrée Martin, and Jennifer Grim. Lynn is currently a Doctoral Candidate in Music at UNLV.

Dr. Janis McKay is associate professor of bassoon at UNLV and principal bassoon of the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra. She also performs as principal bassoon for the Classical Music Festival in Austria and as Contrabassoon for the Reno Philharmonic. McKay has held positions and performed with numerous orchestras including the Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the Reno Chamber Orchestra, and the Louisville Orchestra among many others. McKay has performed with such artists as Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Charlotte Church, John Williams, Celine Dion, Metallica, Stevie Wonder, and Tony Bennett.
Cellist Andrew Smith is an Associate Professor of Music at UNLV, and the Principal Cellist of the Las Vegas Philharmonic. He is a member of Camerata Deià, a group founded in 2001 to be the resident ensemble with The Festival Internacional de Deià, a summer festival in Mallorca, Spain. He was also a founding member of The Adriatic Chamber Music Festival, a summer music program in southern Italy, where he taught and performed from 1998 until 2008. An avid chamber musician and recitalist, Smith has performed in Spain, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Japan, as well as throughout the U.S. His solo CD of Spanish music for cello and piano is scheduled for release on the Delos label in spring, 2016.

Timothy Hoft has given performances in concert halls in the U.S. and Europe including the Phillips Collection, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center, the Yamaha Piano Salon, and the Smith Center. A graduate of the University of Michigan and the Peabody Conservatory, Hoft holds Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degrees in piano performance. In 2012, Hoft joined the piano faculty at the University of Nevada- Las Vegas. Hoft is currently exploring and performing repertoire of 20th and 21st century Ukrainian composers for a series of forthcoming recordings for release on TNC Recordings (Troppe Note/Cambria).

Luigi Ng is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he also received his Bachelor of Music in 2014. Throughout his time at UNLV, Mr. Ng has extensively performed as a section percussionist for various ensembles including the UNLV Wind Orchestra, as well as timpanist for the UNLV Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he has also performed with the Henderson Symphony Orchestra and the Desert Winds. Mr. Ng’s recording credits include Ventanas by the UNLV Wind Orchestra (Klavier Music Productions, 2014) and Christmas by the Ragtime Rebels Marimba Band.

Jae Ahn-Benton (b. 1991) is a pianist and composer in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a solo pianist, Jae has performed at various venues in Las Vegas including the Historic Fifth Street School, the Henderson Pavilion, the Starbright Theater of Summerlin, and many others. In 2006, 2007, and 2010, Jae performed with the Henderson Symphony Orchestra as a part of its Young Artists concert series, under the direction of Taras Krysa. As a collaborative pianist, Jae has explored a vast area in both vocal and instrumental music. Academically and professionally, Jae has collaborated with many distinguished musicians such as Stephanie Weiss (mezzo-soprano), Julia Bentley (mezzo-soprano), William McCullough (tenor), Timothy Hoft (piano), Gabriel Bolkosky (violin), and many others. Jae is also the principal pianist of the Desert Winds, a contemporary wind ensemble directed by Charles A. Maguire. Jae studied with Roger Bushell and Mykola Suk, and is currently working on his Bachelor’s Degree in piano performance at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

Australian Percussionist, Drummer and Jazz Vibraphone specialist, James Whiting is a highly sought after Music Industry professional in several fields of performance, direction and education. Holding a Bachelor of Music (Jazz Vibraphone) and Masters of Music studies (Performance and Conducting) from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Australia, and a Graduate Diploma in Education from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia, James has been tutored by leading industry professionals including; Mark Charters (AUS), David Quinn (AUS), Tom O’Kelly (AUS), Steve Newcomb (AUS), Joe Locke (USA), Ed Saindon (USA), Dave Samuels (USA), Tony Miceli (USA). James is also completing his Doctor of Musical Arts in Applied Percussion at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas whilst maintaining a busy performing and workshop schedule between Australia and USA.

Pianist Katie Leung is a dedicated collaborative artist and chamber musician. A two-time winner of the Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition, she joined the UNLV faculty in 2015. She previously held staff pianist positions at Manhattan School of Music and Rutgers University and has been a collaborative pianist at The Banff Centre in Canada, the Castleman Quartet Program in Fredonia, NY, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival in Brunswick, ME. Katie Leung holds Bachelor’s degrees in both Piano and Flute Performance with highest honors from the University of Michigan and a Master’s in collaborative piano from Manhattan School of Music.

A versatile violinist, Ms. Yuri Cho gave her first performance at age 10 at the winner’s concert of Korean Newspaper Music Competition in Seoul. Since entering the Menuhin School, she had the rare honor to perform the Brahms sextet with Lord Menuhin in Buckingham Palace at age 15 and was selected as a soloist and a Concertmaster of the Yehudi Menuhin Orchestra in the 1993 Europe tour with Lord Menuhin conducting. Since then, her engagements have taken her throughout England, Europe, and Korea with orchestras such as the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, the Korean Symphony Orchestra, the Beethoven Society Orchestra, the Redhill Symphony Orchestra, the Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Menuhin School Orchestra. Cho began her musical education at the Yehudi Menuhin School. She also earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and a Master of Music degree from Eastman School of Music. She has completed all of her coursework for Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, where she was also a teaching assistant of Zvi Zeitlin, Distinguished Professor of Violin.

Please see insert for program notes.
The next NEXTET concert is on Wednesday, March 30 featuring works by UNLV student composers.