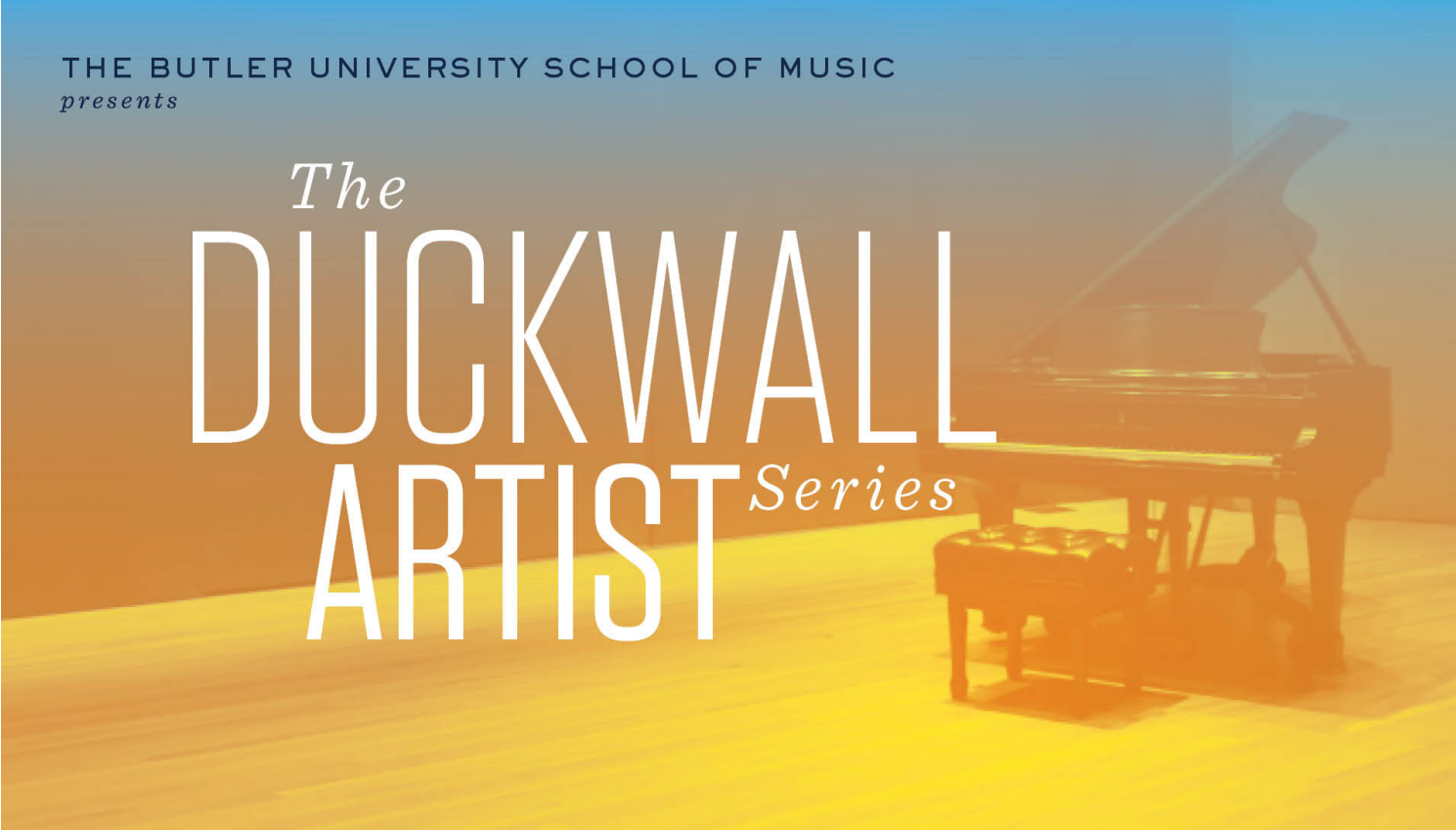


THE BUTLER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
presents

The DUCKWALL ARTIST *Series*



BUTLER UNIVERSITY WOODWIND FACULTY

Alistair Howlett, *flute*

Pamela Ajango, *oboe*

Trina Gross, Candice Kiser, *clarinets*

Doug Spaniol, *bassoon*

Zach Cooper, *horn*

Jonathan Dufresne, *saxophone*

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

7:30 P.M.

Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Umoja (2001)

Valerie Coleman (b. 1970)

Alistair Howlett, *flute*

Pamela Ajango, *oboe*

Trina Gross, *clarinet*

Doug Spaniol, *bassoon*

Zach Cooper, *horn*

Suite for Alto Saxophone and Piano, op. 55

Fazil Say (b. 1970)

I. Allegro

II. Andante

III. Presto

Jonathan Dufresne, *alto saxophone*

Ana Huerta Fernandez, *piano*

Sonatina for Flute and Piano (1946)

Pierre Sancan (1916-2008)

Alistair Howlett, *flute*

Kelleen Strutz, *piano*

Partita, op. 57

Franz Krommer (1759-1831)

I. Allegro vivace

II. Minuetto and Trio

III. Adagio – Andante cantabile

IV. Alla Polacca

Pamela Ajango, Madeline Flight, *oboes*

Candice Kiser, Trina Gross, *clarinets*

Zach Cooper, Kevin Cooney, *horns*

Doug Spaniol, Sophi Wroblewski, *bassoons*

Rory Bowers, *contrabassoon*

Trae Blanco, *conductor*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ALISTAIR HOWLETT

Alistair Howlett currently serves as Assistant Principal and Second Flute with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Prior to this, he held the positions of Principal Flute with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and Utility Flute with the Opera Australia Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House.

Howlett holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and a Master's degree in Performance from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Munich, where he studied under Professor András Adorján.

In addition to his orchestral work, Howlett is the co-artistic director of the Ronen Chamber Ensemble, which performs throughout the Indianapolis area.

An experienced educator, Howlett currently teaches at Butler University. He has held teaching positions at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, DePauw University, and Anderson University.

Outside of music, Howlett supports Liverpool FC and the Buffalo Bills, enjoys playing tennis, and spending quality time with his family.

PAMELA AJANGO

Pamela Ajango, Instructor of Oboe at Butler University and 2nd oboe/English horn of the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, has worked as a professional musician for over 25 years. She is the regular principal oboist for the Indianapolis Opera, top call for recording studio work for Hal Leonard and Alfred Publishing, substitute oboist for the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestras, and an in-demand chamber and solo musician. She has also performed the musical *Wicked* a total of 124 times, in both Indianapolis and San Diego. You could say she might be there...*for good*...

From 1996-2002, Pam lived and worked in NYC. After completing school, she quickly began working with the area's top ensembles, including the New York Philharmonic, the New Jersey Symphony, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra; for the Broadway shows *Ragtime*, *Cats*, and *Les Misérables*; and as a commercial recording artist. She also worked part-time for various arts organizations, skills she has utilized most recently as a member of the ICO's orchestra committee, the chair of ICO's negotiating team, and as a freelance writer/editor.

Professor Ajango has served on the faculties of University of Virginia, Earlham College, Anderson University, and the University of Indianapolis, prior to her appointment at Butler. She has taught at summer music festivals at Butler and IU, as well as internationally. She has been an invited performer and lecturer at the International Double Reed Society's conferences since 2008. In June of 2025, Pam co-hosted this society's annual conference at Butler University, with her colleague Doug Spaniol.

An Indianapolis native, Pam was fortunate to study with renowned oboists Malcolm Smith, Ralph Gomberg, Joseph Robinson, and Stephen Taylor. She received her degrees from Boston University and the Manhattan School of Music.

TRINA GROSS

Trina Gross joined the Butler faculty as Instructor of Clarinet in the fall of 2014. She currently is the second and E-flat clarinetist in the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's clarinet section, a position she has held since 2002. Prior to joining the ISO, she was principal clarinetist of the Louisville and Augusta Symphony Orchestras. Ms. Gross has also held positions with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra. An active chamber musician, she is a founding member of the Circle City Winds, and performs frequently with other ensembles in Indianapolis. In summer 2024, Trina participated in the Endless Mountain Music Festival in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania as principal clarinetist.

Ms. Gross performed Messiaen's *Quatour Pour la Fin du Temps* with the Eroica Trio during Butler's ArtsFest in April of 2016. She has also appeared as a soloist with the Butler University Wind Ensemble in Scott McAllister's *Concerto Americana for Clarinet and Saxophone* in the fall of 2015. Additionally, she performed the Weber *Concertino* with the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra in Rochester, NY in January of 2016. Ms. Gross has also appeared as soloist with

the Augusta Symphony Orchestra, the Indiana State University Wind Ensemble, and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ms. Gross earned her Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. She received her Master of Music degree, Performance Certificate, and Performer Diploma from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Her principal teachers include Eli Eban, James Campbell, Alfred Prinz, Charles Neidich, and William Osseck. As a clarinet instructor, Ms. Gross has also served on the faculties of Indiana State University and the University of Indianapolis. She also maintains a private clarinet studio in her home.

DOUG SPANIOL

Hailed as a 'master pedagogue and researcher' (*The Double Reed*), Doug Spaniol (he/him), is Professor of Music at Butler University where he teaches bassoon and related classes. At Butler, he has held a variety of other positions including Interim Associate Dean of the Jordan College of the Arts, Interim Director of the School of Music, Assistant Chair of the School of Music, and Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate. He also serves as Instructor of Bassoon at [Interlochen Arts Camp](#) each summer. He has twice been a visiting professor at The Ohio State University, and previously served on the faculty at Valdosta State University.

In 1992, Dr. Spaniol was named a [Marshall Scholar](#) enabling him to attend the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England, where he earned the Postgraduate Diploma in Performance. He has also earned a DMA degree from The Ohio State University as well as MM and BM degrees from the University of Illinois. His bassoon teachers include Christopher Weait, William Waterhouse, and E. Sanford Berry.

In 2011, Dr. Spaniol was named a [Fulbright Scholar](#), leading him to teach at the University of York (UK) and further his research into Julius Weissenborn's pedagogical bassoon works. His instructional book, [The New Weissenborn Method for Bassoon \(Hal Leonard\)](#), has been called "an invaluable addition to bassoon literature...a landmark in pedagogy" (*Double Reed News*). [Volume II of The New Weissenborn Method \(Hal Leonard\)](#) was described as a "testament to Spaniol's insight and loving attention to detail in all things Weissenborn." (*The Double Reed*). His edition of Weissenborn's [Advanced Studies, op. 8, no 2 \(Accolade Musikverlag\)](#) was noted as "a must buy for every bassoonist" (*The Double Reed*), largely because it makes available for the first time all 60 of these studies, including reconstructions of 10 previously lost etudes. Other recent scholarly work includes a new edition of Weissenborn's complete works for bassoon and piano, which features three recently discovered works ([Accolade Musikverlag](#)). Current projects include a biography of legendary bassoonist/scholar/pedagogue William Waterhouse.

His bassoon students have enjoyed remarkable success, placing in the [Yamaha Young Performing Artists Competition](#), the [International Double Reed Society's Young Artists Competition](#), and the [Meg Quigley Vivaldi Competition](#). Other competition successes have led to concerto performances with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (two students), the Butler Symphony Orchestra (seven students), and Interlochen's World Youth Symphony Orchestra (three students). His students have also performed on [National Public Radio's From the Top](#) and won positions and/or performed with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra (Washington DC), Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Sinfonia da Camera, and other professional ensembles.

Dr. Spaniol has presented masterclasses and workshops at the Royal Academy of Music (London), Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (Cardiff), the St. Petersburg (Russia) Conservatory, Indiana University, and many others. He frequently appears as a performer/presenter at conferences hosted by the International Double Reed Society (IDRS), College Music Society, Music for All, and other music education organizations. He also served for six years as the Bassoon Chair for the IDRS's Fernand Gillet – Hugo Fox Competition.

As a performer, Dr. Spaniol has appeared as concerto soloist with [Sinfonia da Camera](#), the St. Petersburg Classical Symphony Orchestra, Solisti St. Petersburg, the Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis, and bands and orchestras at Butler and Interlochen. He can be heard on recordings on Albany, Capstone, Centaur, Innova, and Zephyr Records. As principal bassoonist of Sinfonia da Camera, Dr. Spaniol has toured England, been heard on NPR's *Performance Today*, and appears on the *Classical Music for Dummies* CD. He has also performed with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Columbus (Ohio) Symphony Orchestra, and performed and/or recorded with popular artists such as The Rolling Stones, Art Garfunkel, Sandi Patty, and Michael Feinstein. He is now a proud original member of [Rock E Bassoon](#), a rock band comprised of six electric bassoonists and a drummer. A [Yamaha Performing Artist](#), Dr. Spaniol plays a Yamaha YFG-811 bassoon

ZACH COOPER

Dr. Zachary Cooper is a dedicated performer and educator who is passionate about cultivating the next generation of musicians. Cooper's devotion to teaching horn has shaped the careers of numerous students, many of whom have earned scholarships to renowned universities and conservatories across the United States. His guidance has led students to successful careers as both educators and performers, reflecting his commitment to nurturing talent and fostering excellence.

Cooper is newly appointed principal horn of the Carmel Symphony Orchestra and he has recently performed as guest principal with the Richmond (IN) Symphony and Evansville Philharmonic. His orchestral journey commenced at an early age, with notable performances alongside orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra (UK) and the Orlando Philharmonic when he was 16. At the age of 19, he won his first audition as second horn with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, marking the beginning of a flourishing career. His rich orchestral background includes positions as principal horn in the Missoula Symphony, associate principal horn in the Helena Symphony, and a multitude of performances with more than two dozen orchestras, including the Dayton Philharmonic, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Opera, Memphis Symphony, and Orquesta Sinfónica de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico, to name a few. Highlights of his performance career to date include performing Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings with the String Orchestra of the Rockies; the Corno Obligato for the Scherzo of Mahler's Symphony No. 5 with the Glacier Symphony; and performing alongside musical acts like Mannheim Steamroller.

An avid chamber musician, Cooper is a founding member of several chamber groups, including *Entropy*, a horn and trombone duo in collaboration with Dr. Nathan Dishman, and *Cooper Duo*, a horn and flute duo in collaboration with Dr. Jennifer Cooper. Most recently, Cooper has focused his scholarly research on commissioning new works to increase the horn repertoire with an emphasis on supporting minority and BIPOC composers, either as the sole commissioner or by joining commissioning consortiums. New works supported by his efforts include *Sonata* for horn and piano (Anthony Plog), *Sure-Fire* for horn and wind ensemble (Catherine Likhuta), *El Viaje* for horn ensemble (Aliyah Danielle), *One More Mountain* for horn, trombone, and piano (Amy Riebs Mills), *Entropy* for horn and trombone (Austin Hammonds), *Wunlit* for solo horn (Shawn Okpebholo), *Passages* for flute, horn, and piano (Paul Basler), *become/decay* for flute and horn (Tyler Kline), and *The Final Battle Cry* for solo horn (Alexis Carrier). Cooper has presented lectures and performances at the International Horn Symposium, International Women's Brass Conference, National Flute Association Convention, Southeast Horn Workshop, and Northwest Horn Symposium, to name a few.

Cooper's academic journey has been marked by significant achievements, including being named to his current position as Assistant Professor of Horn and Music Theory and Coordinator of Brass at Butler University. Previously, Cooper was a tenured professor at the University of Montana, where he worked for eight years as Chair of Music Theory and Chair of Brass and Percussion and received recognition as a Student Wellness Advocate. He has served in leadership roles for several organizations in the horn world. Cooper was three times elected by the membership to serve on the board of the Northwest Horn Society, as President (2023 until moving away from the region) and twice as Secretary (2023-2020, 2020-2017). He also served the International Horn Society as the State Representative of Montana.

Cooper holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Florida State University. He studied under the mentorship of esteemed teachers such as Dr. William Capps, Duane Dugger, Randy Gardner, and William C. Robinson, the founder of the International Horn Society.

JONATHAN DUFRESNE

Described as having a "deliciously smooth sound" (The News-Gazette), Jonathan Dufresne has been invited to perform internationally in Spain, Austria, Netherlands, Canada, and several venues across the United States, including Carnegie Hall. He also performed as a soloist with the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Wind Symphony, Hindsley Symphonic Band, St. James Episcopal Choir, and the LSU Jazz Ensemble, to name a few.

Recent accomplishments include first prize in the 2024 Krannert Debut Artist Competition, second prize in the 2023 MTNA Chamber Music Competition, first prize in the 2022 UISO Concerto Competition, first prize in the 21st

Century Talents International Solo Competition, finalist in the 2021 Coltman Chamber Music Competition, and semi-finalist in the 2021 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition.

Strongly valuing versatility, Jonathan is regularly hired to perform alongside cover bands and occasional celebrities, such as Ginuwine, for corporate events, festivals, and sporting events, including the Allstate Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As an educator, he has held several teaching positions as saxophone instructor across Indiana, Illinois, and Louisiana. He has maintained a private studio, in which many of his students have participated in All-State ensembles, and currently serves as Instructor of Saxophone at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Louisiana State University, a Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree, also from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Jonathan's former teachers include Debra Richtmeyer, Griffin Campbell, Chip McNeill, Ron Bridgewater, Doug Stone, and Jennifer C. Foret, with additional study under renowned composer/arranger and jazz bassist, Bill Grimes.

CANDICE KISER

Candice Kiser enjoys a multifaceted career as an orchestral and chamber musician, freelance artist, and educator. She maintains an active performing schedule as a Clarinetist with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and Bass Clarinetist with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, and has performed in orchestras nationwide including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Erie Philharmonic, and the Louisiana Philharmonic. Alongside her live performances, she has also been involved with various recording projects including commercial, educational, and religious projects, including publishers such as Hal Leonard, Alfred, FJH, and RSM.

Ms. Kiser teaches at Butler University as well as Carmel High School, where she is a member of the private lesson faculty and Clarinet Section coach. Prior to joining the faculty at Butler University, Professor Kiser served on the faculty of DePauw University, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Grove City College, and Mount Union University. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in clarinet performance from East Carolina University, and her Master of Music degree from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, with additional post-graduate studies at Louisiana State University. Her teachers include Nathan Williams, Eli Eban, Steve Cohen, and Richie Hawley.

TRAE BLANCO

Dr. Trae Blanco currently serves as Director of Bands in the School of Music at Butler University. His teaching responsibilities include conducting the Butler University Wind Ensemble, teaching undergraduate and graduate conducting, and overseeing the band program. Previously, Dr. Blanco served as the Director of Bands at Murray State University and the University of Southern Maine, where he was the conductor of the Portland Youth Wind Ensemble, Casco Bay Wind Symphony, and cover conductor for the Portland (ME) Symphony.

A native New Mexican, Dr. Blanco received his undergraduate degree in music education from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM; a Master of Music degree in conducting from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he studied with Professor Stephen Pratt; and his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from The Herberger Institute at Arizona State University. Dr. Blanco also served as Director of Bands at Las Cruces High School, where both the jazz ensemble and wind ensemble were selected as Honor Bands for the New Mexico All-State Convention in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

As a clinician, Dr. Blanco has worked with bands and orchestras in Maine, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois; he has also presented at state conferences in Maine, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Dr. Blanco served as the conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra for the annual Quad State String Day at Murray State, as well as the Paducah Symphony Summer Music Camp Orchestra in 2019. In summer of 2019, Dr. Blanco was an invited presenter to The Midwest International Clinic, and the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles in Bunol, Spain. He currently serves as a conductor for the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, directing the Symphony Band, and the Festival Band for the Falcone International Tuba and Euphonium Festival. Dr. Blanco has served as a leadership clinician to marching bands throughout the country including Texas State University, Murray State University, University of the Incarnate

Word, and Pearland High School. In 2023, Dr. Blanco conducted the Maine All State Band, and in January 2024, he conducted the Indiana Honor Band at the IMEA conference.

A strong proponent of new music, Dr. Blanco has commissioned new music for winds from Jim (James) Bonney, Steven Bryant, Aaron Perrine, Roshanne Etezady, Onsby Rose, Steve Danyew, James Syler, Jim Stephenson, Brett Kroening, David Dzubay, and others. Dr. Blanco's research on BCM International has appeared in the National Band Association Journal and the WASBE Journal.

Dr. Blanco was the recipient of the New Mexico Music Educators New and Emerging Teacher Award for 2010. He is currently a member of the Kentucky Music Educators Association, College Band Directors Association, WASBE, NBA, and the Percussive Arts Society. He has continued conducting studies with workshops across the country and in July 2015, Dr. Blanco was a guest conductor with the United States Army "Pershing's Own" Concert Band in Washington, D.C. In both 2015 and 2016, Dr. Blanco was a finalist for the American Prize in Wind Conducting. Currently, Dr. Blanco resides in Indianapolis, IN with his wife, Kelsey, and their two children, Ophelia and Ellis.

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JCA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We gather here at Butler University on the traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed from this place. These peoples include the Myaamiaki (Miami), Lenape (Delaware), Bodewadmi (Potawatomi), Saawanwa (Shawnee), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Peouaroua (Peoria) peoples. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the indigenous peoples past and present who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This acknowledgement calls us to commit to hearing and engaging Indigenous voices and perspectives and to being better stewards of the land we inhabit. It also calls us to action. Learn more by scanning the QR code for additional information.



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