



**BUTLER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**DUCKWALL ARTIST
SERIES**

presents

Night Birds: An Evening of Art and Sound

Heidi Radtke
soprano, alto, and tenor saxophones

**With artwork by
Monica Zunino-Mel**

Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 • 7:30 P.M.

The seventeenth program of the Butler University School of Music 2020-21 season

Night Bird for alto saxophone and electronics (1997)

Karen Tanaka (b. 1961)

“Night Bird is a love song filled with tender whispers of lovers. I have tried to weave colours and scent into the sound of alto saxophone and tape.” -- Karen Tanaka

“Bendita Luna” - The one that is displayed between veils in the middle of an exquisite twilight and eager to capture glances of souls in love. –
Monica Zunino-Mel

Like Lightnings (2005)

Hilary Tann (b. 1947)

The title for *Like Lightnings* is taken from the poem 'Spring' by Gerard Manley Hopkins. Subtitled 'Pastoral', the piece moves from birdsong, to song.

“The Sun Hums Softly at Me” - Many times poetry offers a deep, personal and inspirational connection. This painting was inspired by a poem my daughter wrote about finding moments among all the madness the world

may bring to feel grateful for the Earth and life itself. As Oscar Wilde once said, "To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people just exist, that is all." - Oscar Wilde

Westland for solo tenor saxophone (2018)

Andy Scott (b. 1966)

"Westland is an exploration of soundscapes that integrates carefully chosen multiphonics into the harmonic and melodic language, creating a musical journey that is at times fragile and at times robust. At the centre of the harmony are pivot notes that connect sections, whilst rhythmic tension and release is created almost as if notated rubato." -- *Andy Scott*

"Rhythms and Splendors of Nature" - What might the observable rhythms of nature tell you about the way you live? -- *Monica Zunino-Mel*

Penelope's Song for soprano saxophone and electronics (2007) Judith Shatin (b. 1949)

Judith Shatin's Penelope's Song is a compelling piece of musique concrète using the sound and rhythm of a weaver's loom to tell the story of Odysseus through his wife's view.

"Diary Trip" - It is a painting inspired by the path that we make daily towards ourselves, reaching the root of our own soul. -- *Monica Zunino-Mel*

Phoenix Rising for solo soprano saxophone (2019)

Stacy Garrop (b. 1969)

Legends of the phoenix are found in stories from ancient Egypt and Greece. While each culture possesses a range of stories encompassing the myth, these tales tend toward similar traits: a sacred bird with brilliantly colored plumage and melodious call lives for typically 500 years, then dies in a nest of embers, only to be reborn among the flames. Phoenix Rising consists of two movements: I. Dying in Embers represents an old phoenix settling on top of a pile of embers and breathing its last breath; II. Reborn in Flames depicts the newly-born phoenix getting its first taste of flight. -- *Stacy Garrop*

"Renaissance" - Rebirth like the Phoenix. It is the motivational power of man to overcome hardships and become stronger. It is the new life that arises after a disaster. -- *Monica Zunino-Mel*

Lullaby for alto saxophone and piano (2000)

Lori Laitman (b. 1955)

Kate Boyd, piano

Sleep, Little Child.

"Hugging Yourself" - "When you hug a tree you are hugging yourself"
~Baba Ram Dass

About the Program

The connection between instrumental performance and painting has always intrigued me. I often think about the parallels between shaping a phrase and crafting a brush stroke. In my experience, sitting and observing a painting can be just as engrossing as attending a symphony orchestra concert.

I came to know artist Monica Zunino-Mel because she is the mother of one of my former saxophone students at Carmel High School. I simply adore her daughter Matilda, and when I learned her mother was an artist, it was no surprise that I was drawn to her artwork. Over the years I have acquired a couple of Monica's works and they are treasured features in my home. During this pandemic, I found myself gravitating towards these paintings to feed my creativity, provide my mind rest, and motivate my own practice.

It seemed fitting to reach out to Monica for this recital, since her work has been a sincere factor in progressing my own art. After reading descriptions and listening to sound samples, Monica chose works from her portfolio to match each piece programmed this evening. I hope that viewers at home can find joy and pleasure from this pairing of live performance and art.



Dr. Heidi Radtke maintains an active career as a saxophonist and pedagogue. She is the Instructor of Saxophone at Butler University and provides applied saxophone and chamber music instruction for the Carmel High School band program. Since arriving in Indianapolis in 2014, Heidi has performed with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, several regional orchestras, at local recording studios, and area churches. In the spring of 2018, Heidi gave the Indiana premiere performance of Stacy Garrop's Saxophone Concerto *Quicksilver* with the Butler University Wind Ensemble under the direction of Michael Colburn. She is on the review team for the online periodical *thesaxophonist.org* and is a frequent adjudicator for the Indiana State School Music Association. Prior to pursuing her advanced degrees in saxophone, Heidi worked as a Music Librarian, Assistant

Professor for the University of Miami, Florida Frost School of Music. She completed bachelor's degrees in political science and saxophone performance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, master's degrees in library science and music performance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University Bloomington, where she also served as an Associate Instructor of Saxophone. Her primary teachers include Professor Debra Richtmeyer and Dr. Otis Murphy. Heidi Radtke is a Vandoren Regional Artist and Conn/Selmer Artist.



Monica Zunino-Mel, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, majored in speech therapy and neurolinguistics, and always had art as a hobby. When she moved to the United States ten years ago she enrolled in art classes.

“My paintings are inspired by my personal experiences. I don't usually sketch. They are based on a first impulse; a first intention that I express with colors, lines, and other elements that I use. I like to call this process “free play.” For my art to flow, I need to feel silence on the outside in order to connect with my interior. And it is in that precise moment, when everything dances uncontrollably, when I feel free to express my art. Many times I want to control everything and that is when I get stuck. My paintings are created through a layering process, with various colors that flow creating shapes such as silhouettes, circles, branches, leaves and other natural elements. Although I always start with a main idea, it changes as the painting evolves and develops. Each work of art is a new journey. My art is a tribute to life itself. When the viewer has the great opportunity to discover his/her inner universe through one of my paintings, my goal is grandly accomplished!”

For more information about the artwork seen this evening and to contact the artist, visit: www.moniczuninomel.com/

JCA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge that we gather here at Butler University on the traditional land of indigenous peoples including the Potawatomi, Miami, Delaware, and Shawnee. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the indigenous peoples past and present who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit, while also acknowledging that some were brought to this land not by choice.

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