

Erik Steighner, *saxophone*

Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 3pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
The College of Professional Studies and School of Music, Theatre & Dance present

Erik Steighner, *saxophone*

with Oksana Ejokina, *piano*

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM

Sapphire **Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)**
Billie..... **Jacob TV (b. 1951)**
Romance..... **William Grant Still (1895-1978)**
Jackdaw **Wayne Siegel (b. 1953)**
Pequeña Czarda **Pedro Iturralde (1929-2020)**

Program Notes

Jacob TV, *Billie*

I was scared to death
ne no a hum, ne no a hum etc.
I was scared to death
at that time you know
I'm always scared – You are?
I'm always scared
I was in the wings haha
and I couldn't control my knees
I'm always scared – You are?
Well, you can call it that...
I uh waited until the last minute
and said I wasn't gonna go on...
I had every chance
I had every chance I got and still gettin'
dare to sing !?- I'm always scared
dare to sing !?- I'm always scared
but anyway, I wet back and I did 16 songs
and I like to do a little tune
they make me cry, they make me happy
I walked out you know and then
and I like to do a little tune
they make me cry, they make me happy
I walked out you know and then
and I like to do a little tune
they make me cry, they make me happy
bend this note bend that note-boot
two kinds of blues:
there's happy blues and there's sad blues
I've been very happy, been very happy
The blues to me is like being very sad, very sick,
going to the church.
they was talkin' jazz, hihi, at that time you know – cook!
dare to sing – I'm always scared
they was talkin' jazz, hihi, at that time you know
bend this note bend that note – boot
dare to sing, dare to sing hahaha, when I got through it
can you sing and I said sure I sing all the time
can you sing and I said sure I sing all the time

I always knew I could sing 'cause I always did sing, but uh
so I sang, and everybody loved me and I made about a 40
dollars in tips
and I got the job!
they make me cry, they make me happy
blues, again blues, again blues
a little, a little a little too much
so I walk so I talk
and my voice is too loud when I'm out in the crowd
so that people are apt to stare
I can't hear the band at all! uh h h
Know know know do they know – do they care?
That it's only that I'm lonely and low as can be
And the tunes are not always the best – I request
And my voice is too loud – I can't hear the band at all!
But what else can you do, but what else can you do
At the end of a love affair
So I smoke and I joke uh hh a litt- a litt- a little too much
And I laugh, and the smile on my isn't really a smile at all!
And the smile on my face, on my face
Face face face – adadadada – for the trees
Face face face – for the sun into the rock
And now a little tune written 'specially for me
Strange fruit, strange fruit
I never had brothers or sisters, cousins or uncles–
All I had was my mom
My mom and I had a pretty rough time when we were in
Baltimore
All we had was one preacher, he used to come every
Sunday
to an an to an an c no t no t no s no t
Jesus Christ no! like Jesus no!
Like no Jesus cook like no some cook like no Jesus cook
Jesus Christ, they want me out of Chicago or uh Boston, he
said
Like Jesus no!
Oh man it took me ten years!
And I said: I can't go out there, there's too many people..."

About the Performers

Praised by the *Tacoma News Tribune* for his “effortless lyricism” as well as his “smooth tone and fluid virtuosity,” saxophonist **Erik Steighner** has performed with ensembles including the Austin Symphony Orchestra, the Federal Way Symphony, the Northwest Sinfonietta, the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra, the San Antonio Symphony, Symphony Tacoma, and the Tacoma Opera. Steighner teaches at Pacific Lutheran University, the University of Puget Sound, and Tacoma Community College, where his course load has included saxophone, chamber music, music theory, ear training, music appreciation, and digital music. He is also on faculty at the University of Puget Sound Community Music Department and is the founder and conductor of the South Sound Saxophone Ensemble. Steighner has premiered dozens of solo and chamber works and appears on CD releases from labels including Albany Records, Alea Publishing, Mark Custom, Naxos, Reference Recordings, and Vienna Modern Masters. Steighner holds bachelor's degrees in music and English from the University of Puget Sound and master's and doctoral degrees in saxophone performance from The University of Texas at Austin. While living in Austin, he served on the faculty at Texas State University. Steighner is a Conn-Selmer artist and plays on Selmer Paris saxophones and mouthpieces.

Russian-born pianist **Oksana Ejokina** is Coordinator of Keyboard Studies and Associate Professor of Music at PLU. An artist of great breadth and versatility, she appears frequently as guest recitalist and chamber musician on concert series across the United States and abroad. She has soloed with the Seattle Symphony, St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia, Tacoma Symphony, and performed in venues such as the Phillips Collection in Washington DC, Benaroya Hall in Seattle, Davies Orchestra Hall in San Francisco, and Klassik Keyifler Festival in Turkey. A dedicated performer of new music, she has premiered works by Marilyn Shrude, Wayne Horvitz, Bern Herbolzheimer, and Laura Kaminsky, among others. She has been featured on multiple live radio broadcasts on such stations as WFMT-Chicago, KUOW and KING FM in Seattle, Maine Public Radio and NPR Performance Today. Her collaborations have included concerts with the Seattle Chamber Players, Avalon String Quartet, violinists Ian Swensen and Andrew Jennings, and cellists Johannes Moser and Anthony Elliott. Ejokina holds a doctor of musical arts degree in piano performance from Stony Brook University. She is the pianist of the Volta Piano Trio, whose recordings for the Con Brio label received accolades in multiple international music magazines, such as *The Strad*, *Gramophone* and *American Record Guide*. A sought-after teacher, she has given piano and chamber music masterclasses in colleges and universities across the US and is in demand as an adjudicator. Additionally, Ejokina is Artistic Director of several flagship classical music programs at the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, including the International Chamber Music Festival/Institute and Winter Piano Festival, which annually welcomes advanced pianists from the most prestigious colleges and conservatories in the US and Canada.