



**Western
Music**

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**CLARINET & SAXOPHONE DAY 2017
GUEST ARTIST RECITAL**

Friday, September 29, 2017

8 p.m., von Kuster Hall

h2/4 Duo:

Jeffrey Loeffert & Jonathan Nichol, *saxophones*

Farfalle Cotte	Marc Mellits
Jeu d'Esprit	Augusta Read Thomas
Ximix	François Rossé
O My Dove	Forrest Pierce
Mvt. I Until the Day Breathes and the Shadows Flee	
Mvt. II Awake, O North Wind!	
Mvt. III Terrible as an Army with Banners	
Rock Us	Barry Cockcroft
Intermission	
Inventionen	Isang Yun
Mvt. I Triller	
Mvt. II Glissandi	
Mvt. III Vorschläge	
Mvt. IV Harmonie	
Neon Flicker	Takuma Itoh
Tachycardia	Marc Mellits

Clarinet and Saxophone Day has been made possible through the support of



THE ARTISTS

The **h2/4 Duo** is comprised of founding members of the h2 quartet, Jeffrey Loeffert and Jonathan Nichol. h2 is dedicated to commissioning and performing compelling new works for saxophone quartet, and operates as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The group is also in demand for appearances and residencies at summer music festivals both at home and abroad, including the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy. The h2 quartet also hosts the Great Plains Saxophone Workshop during the summer months. As members of the h2 quartet, the ensemble has released five critically-acclaimed recordings: *Generations*, *Times & Spaces*, *Groove Machine*, *Hard Line*, and *Enrapture*. The h2/4 Duo will release its first full-length album in December 2017. The members of the h2/4 Duo are Yamaha and Vandoren Performing Artists.

Jeffrey Loeffert serves as Associate Professor of Saxophone at Oklahoma State University. During the summer months, Loeffert teaches at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan, the Great Plains Saxophone Workshop in Oklahoma, New Music on the Point in Vermont, and the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Cortona, Italy. A dedicated teacher, Loeffert recently received the Oklahoma State University College of Arts & Sciences Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence, the Wise-Diggs-Berry Award for Teaching Excellence, and the Friends of Music Distinguished Music Professor Award.

Loeffert is a very active chamber musician. As a founding member of the h2 quartet, Loeffert has won numerous chamber music prizes including First Place at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, First Place at the North American Saxophone Alliance Quartet Competition, and First Place at the Union Française des Artistes Musiciens Chamber Music Competition (France), among others. Loeffert is featured on ten commercially available discs and a DVD, as well as on a PBS television episode of *Backstage Pass*. His recording of Groove Canon by Marc Mellits was recently used as the monologue theme music for the Broadway show *The Heidi Chronicles*, starring Elisabeth Moss (*Mad Men*) and Jason Biggs (*Orange is the New Black*).

Loeffert has performed at such prestigious venues as the Avalon Theatre in Easton, Maryland; the Cankar Dom in Ljubljana, Slovenia; Clowes Hall in Indianapolis, Indiana; the Guarnerius Center for the Performing Arts in Belgrade, Serbia; the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Ireland; the Sarajevo Music Academy in Sarajevo, Bosnia; the Times Center and Merkin Hall in New York City; and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, California; in addition to university recital halls across the country. An advocate of new music, Loeffert has premiered works by Drew Baker, Ross Bauer, Karl Blench, Sy Brandon, Thomas Dempster, Antoine Fachard, Benjamin Fuhrman, Takuma Itoh, Igor Karača, David MacDonald, John Mackey, Marc Mellits, Victor Marquez-Barrios, Roger W. Petersen, Forrest Pierce, David Rakowski, Jesse Ronneau, Billy Ryan, Matthew Schoendorff, Greg Steinke, Timothy Stuhlman, Tina Tallon, Amy Williams, Kevin Wilt, and Daniel Wohl, among others.

Loeffert graduated Summa Cum Laude from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Music double major in Saxophone Performance and Jazz Studies. At Northwestern, Loeffert won the Program Honors Award for his graduating class. A Frank Huntington Beebe Scholar, Loeffert studied in Paris at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Cergy-Pontoise where he received the Médaille d'Or à l'Unanimité - Saxophone, and the Médaille d'Or à

l'Unanimité - Musique de Chambre. Loeffert also studied at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Boulogne-Billancourt where he received the diploma Cycle d'Orientation Professionnel with an emphasis in contemporary music. Loeffert completed graduate studies at Michigan State University (MSU) as the recipient of a University Distinguished Fellowship. He received a Master of Music degree and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance as well as a Master of Music degree in Music Theory Pedagogy. At MSU, he was awarded the Paul Harder Award for music theory and composition.

Jonathan Nichol is an active performing saxophonist who champions new music and has presented concerts throughout the United States, Bosnia, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, Serbia, Slovenia, and Thailand. He has premiered pieces by renowned composers including Marc Mellits, Charles Ruggiero, Forrest Pierce, Paquito D'Rivera, Daniel Wohl, Marvin Lamb, Jeffrey Loeffert, Igor Karaça, Tina Tallon, and Drew Baker. Jonathan was a solo-artist semi-finalist in the 2009 Concert Artist Guild Competition and a finalist with the award-winning h2 quartet in the 2012 Concert Artist Guild Competition. Jonathan is also an accomplished orchestral soloist, having performed concerti with the Central Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, Grand Valley State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Michigan State University Symphony Orchestra, Oklahoma State University Wind Ensemble, University of Oklahoma Symphonic Band, University of Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra, Wichita State Symphony, and Wichita State University Symphonic Winds. Additionally, he has been prominently featured with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Flint Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Norman Philharmonic, Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra, and the West Michigan Symphony.

An active jazz musician, Jonathan Nichol has performed with Phil Woods, Randy Brecker, David Liebman, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, the Lansing Symphony Jazz Band, the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra, and The Four Tops. He leads his own jazz group, the Nichol Quartet, and is a member of Boyd Street Brass.

Jonathan Nichol is Associate Professor of Saxophone at the University of Oklahoma. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree (2010) and a Master of Music degree (2007) from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Music Education degree (2005) from Central Michigan University. Jonathan's primary teachers include John Nichol, Joseph Lulloff, Robbie Smith, Diego Rivera, and Rodney Whitaker.

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