

TAPESTRY OF SOUND:

**Marking Five Decades of
Composition
by Ofer Ben-Amots**



THURSDAY, OCT. 23, 2025

7:00 PM

PACKARD HALL



**COLORADO COLLEGE
Music Department**

PROGRAM

Bebe's Blues (2023)

Quattro Mani
Steven Beck and Susan Grace*, *pianos*

Music for Brass Trio (World Premiere)

- I. Overture*
- II. Call & Response*
- III. Remorse (A Winter Song)*
- IV. Soul of Calypso (with a Hint of Lime)*

Glen Whitehead, *trumpet*; Gerald Welker, *french horn*;
Joseph Hudson, *trombone*

Tango for the Road (2015)

Quattro Mani
Susan Grace* and Steven Beck, *pianos*

Echoes of Wilderness (2023)

- I. The Burning Bush*
- II. Oasis*
- III. Incantation*
- IV. The Desert Dance*

Won Lee, *flute*; Monica Ding*, *oboe*; Pamela Diaz*, *clarinet*;
Christopher Jackson, *bassoon*; Gerald Welker, *french horn*;
Joey Glassman, *percussion*

*CC Music Department Faculty

Kindly silence all electronic devices during the performance.

PROGRAM NOTES

BEBE'S BLUES (2023)

This work is an excerpt—the third movement, to be precise—from a larger composition titled *Montage Music*. *Montage Music* was written in memory of Santa Fe visual and mixed-media artist Bebe Krimmer. When Greg DePrince commissioned me to write this “In memoriam” piece, he mentioned Bebe's great fondness for jazz. For this reason, I chose to write the third movement in an old-time Dixieland jazz style. The movement, titled “Bebe’s Blues,” opens with a slow and mournful New Orleans funeral march but quickly shifts into a faster, bluesy section, ending with a cheerful Second-line dance. The two-piano arrangement of “Bebe’s Blues” was created later, in 2023, and is dedicated to Quattro Mani.

MUSIC FOR BRASS TRIO (World Premiere)

This composition was commissioned and written in early 2024 for the Hint of Lime Brass Trio. The four-movement work presents a variety of characters and moods, portrayed as a lively conversation among the members of the brass trio: trumpet, French horn, and trombone. The first movement, marked *Allegro Vivo*, follows an A-B-A form, where A features agitated fanfare-like motifs, and B offers a contrasting choral-like lyrical section. The second and third movements are played together, forming a Rondo or Rondo Sonata form with Call and Response, as well as a Fughetta (little fugue). The final movement is written in an Afro-Caribbean style reminiscent of light-hearted Calypso music and dance. This commission was funded in part by the Meir Rimon Commissioning Assistance Program of the International Horn Society.

TANGO FOR THE ROAD (2015)

I have always been fascinated by music that thrives at the boundary between popular and highbrow, and Argentinian Tango perfectly embodies this duality. I composed “Tango for the Road” during the summer of 2015, following an earlier tango in my *Odessa Trio*, titled “Tango Dorfman.” The genre is defined by a set of musical characteristics that often stand in contrast—rhythmically strict and precise, yet warm and sentimental; featuring melodious tunes with soft chromaticism and elegance, yet concealing tremendous spark and inner power. As a partner dance, tango sometimes highlights a Leader/Follower dynamic and at other times displays equal vigor and energy between the dancers. The tango easily adapts to a two-piano arrangement, where I sought to incorporate these qualities and allow both instruments to share in the dance. “Tango for the Road” was written for Quattro Mani.

ECHOES OF WILDERNESS (2023)

I grew up in the land of Israel, and my childhood and adolescent memories are deeply connected to its landscape and climate. Much of this Mediterranean land is covered by desert – a unique, powerful, archaic, and undeveloped wilderness where the concepts of time and space differ vastly from those in urban life. This piece, *Echoes of Wilderness*, is about the desert, with each of its four movements reflecting a different desert vision.

The first movement, titled *The Burning Bush*, is a biblical vision describing a miraculous event: a bush aflame yet not consumed. During this movement, players are asked to whisper the word “Esh” (Hebrew for “Fire”) repeatedly: “Esh, esh, esh, esh, esh...”

The second movement, *Oasis*, depicts a caravan of camels crossing the land in the heat with no end in sight. The caravan suddenly arrives at a place of rest—an oasis with fresh water and fruits like dates and figs. This moment of relaxation is expressed in *Oasis*, which can be heard as a temporary paradise.

The third movement, *Incantation*, is slower paced, signifying a moment of prayer or meditation, a reflection on the vast landscape and nature in general, while contemplating the wonders and perfection of creation.

The final movement, *The Desert Dance*, is a wild and exciting dance accompanied by the continuous drumming of the *Darbuka*, the most typical percussion instrument of the Middle Eastern desert.

The work was commissioned by the US Air Force Academy Winds, which includes a wind quintet and percussion.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

OFER BEN-AMOTS gave his first piano recital at the age of nine and, at sixteen, won first prize in the Chet Piano Competition. Following composition studies with Joseph Dorfman at Tel Aviv University, he studied at the Conservatoire de Musique in Geneva, Switzerland, with Pierre Wismer and privately with Alberto Ginastera. Ben-Amots is an alumnus of the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold, Germany, where he studied with Martin C. Redel and Dietrich Manicke, earning degrees in composition, music theory, and piano. In 1987, he moved to the United States to pursue doctoral studies with George Crumb at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving his Ph.D. in composition. He is currently a member of the Music Department faculty at Colorado College, teaching composition, music theory, and a variety of liberal arts subjects.

Ben-Amots' works are performed regularly in concert halls and festivals worldwide. His music has been played by orchestras including the Zürich Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, the Austrian Radio Orchestra, Bruckner Orchestra, Moscow Camerata, Heidelberg, Erfurt, Brandenburg, the Filarmonici di Sicilia, Milano Chamber Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, North/South Consonance in New York, Portland Chamber Orchestra, and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. His compositions have been professionally recorded by the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Barcelona Symphony, Odessa Philharmonic, BBC Singers, the Czech choirs Permonik and Jitro, and Duo Quatro Mani. Ben-Amots has received commissions and grants from the MacArthur Foundation, Fulbright Foundation, Amado Foundation, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Fuji International Music Festival in Japan, Delta Ensemble in Amsterdam, Assisi Musiche Festival, Geneva Camerata, Montage Music Society, and others.

He is the winner of the 1994 Vienna International Competition for Composers. His chamber opera, *Fool's Paradise*, premiered in Vienna during the 1994 festival Wien Modern and subsequently became part of the 1994/95 season of Opernhaus Zürich. He received the 1988 Kavannagh Prize for *Fanfare for Orchestra* and the Gold Award at the 1993 Roodepoort International Competition for Choral Composition in South Africa. His *Avis Urbanus* for amplified flute won First Prize at the 1991 Kobe International Competition for Flute Composition in Japan. In 1999, he was awarded both the Aaron Copland Award and the Music Composition Artist Fellowship by the Colorado Council on the Arts. In 2004, he won Festiladino, the international contest for Judeo-Spanish songs, part of the Israel Festival in Jerusalem. In 2015, Ben-Amots won First Prize at the 4th Smareglia International Composers Competition in Udine, Italy. His multimedia opera *The Dybbuk* has been produced in over ten productions in the U.S., Germany, and Israel, and has been described as “a uniquely beautiful and powerful new work” and “a service to music and to what is best in our humanity” (*Listen for Life Reviews*, Donna Stoering, Sep. 30, 2016).

Ben-Amots' works are widely recognized for their emotional depth and personal expression. The interweaving of folk elements with contemporary textures, combined with his imaginative orchestration, creates the haunting dynamic tension that defines his musical language. His music is available on Naxos, Vantage, Pläne, Stylton, and the Milken Archive of Jewish Music. His manuscripts, publications, recordings, and other personal and professional materials are preserved in the National Archive of the State of Israel in Jerusalem.

QUATTRO MANI is one of the most dynamic piano duos performing before today's concert-going public. Giorgio Koukl's *EarRelevant* review of their latest CD, *Hallelujah Junction*, says “..their incredible array of capacities is strong enough to place them precisely on the top of the piano duos of today.” *Fanfare's* Robert Carl writes that “Quattro Mani is one of the most enduring and leading keyboard duos anywhere” and the *Boston Globe* printed “Quattro Mani proved itself fearless and equal to every challenge.” The duo's performances and recordings, as well as their collaborations with important composers of our time has led to numerous dedications and premieres of new repertoire, including works by George Crumb, Paul Lansky, Tod Machover, Poul Ruders, Tania León, Paul Moravec, Michael Daugherty, Ofer Ben-Amots and Fred Lerdahl. QM's recent CDs, *Hallelujah Junction*, featuring new works by American and European composers, and *Inner Life* dedicated to Quattro Mani by Fred Lerdahl, have been released to widespread critical acclaim. Other discs include *Lounge Lizards*, featuring composer Michael Daugherty, *Restructures* featuring Tod Machover, and a CD of Stefan Wolpe's works for two pianos among others.

Following Quattro Mani's premiere of Paul Lansky's double concerto, *Shapeshifters* and Fitkin's *Circuit* with the Austin Symphony, the *Austin Chronicle* cited their orchestra's performance with Quattro Mani as one of the Top 10 Classical Treasures. Recent QM performances include the Alabama Symphony, Colorado College Intermezzo Series and Summer Music Festival, Colorado Symphony Drum Show, as well as Subculture, Bargemusic, National Sawdust, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall, all in NY, La Laboratoire Cambridge, and Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. Quattro Mani records for and is managed by Bridge Records.

Grammy nominated pianist and Steinway Artist **SUSAN GRACE** has performed solo and chamber recitals and has appeared as soloist with orchestras in the United States, Europe, the former Soviet Union, Korea, India and China. She has also performed in the Aspekte Festival in Salzburg, St Paul Chamber Orchestra's new-music series Engine 408, Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., the Grand Teton Festival, the Cape Cod Music Festival, Festival Mozaic, Concordia Chamber Players, Music at Oxford, and the Helmsley Festival in England.

Grace is associate chair, artist-in-residence, and senior lecturer in music at Colorado College. She is also music director of the renowned Colorado College Summer Music Festival, now celebrating its 42nd season. Grace was awarded the 2020 Gresham Riley Award, the Alumni Association's highest honor for service to Colorado College, and the 2023 Jane Cauvel Cultivating Collaboration and Community Presidential Leadership Award. She was awarded the Christine S. Johnson Professorship of Music from 2014-16. In June 2014, Mayor Steve Bach and the city of Colorado Springs presented Ms. Grace with the Spirit of the Springs award for her work with the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. Grace was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Small Ensemble Performance category.

Pianist **STEVEN BECK** continues to gather acclaim for his performances and recordings. Recent career highlights include performances of Beethoven's variations and bagatelles at Bargemusic, where he first performed the Beethoven sonata cycle.

Steven Beck is an experienced performer of new music, having worked with Elliott Carter, Pierre Boulez, Henri Dutilleux, Charles Wuorinen, George Crumb, George Perle, and Fred Lerdahl, and performed with ensembles such as Speculum Musicae and the New York New Music Ensemble. He is a member of the Da Capo Chamber Players, the Knights, and the Talea Ensemble. He is also a member of Quattro Mani, a piano duo specializing in contemporary music. As an orchestral musician he has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the New York City Ballet Orchestra, Orpheus, the Mariinsky Orchestra and many others.

Mr. Beck's discography includes Peter Lieberman's third piano concerto (for Bridge Records) and a recording of Elliott Carter's "Double Concerto" on Albany Records. He is a Steinway Artist.

As an interdisciplinary sound artist, trumpet player **GLEN WHITEHEAD** explores ecoacoustics, improvisational phenomena, interactive communication and environmental collaboration between living cultures, technologies and the natural world. His background includes international appearances as a solo artist along with the EcoSono Ensemble, Wai, Psychoangelo, the Bottesini Project, Nexus Brass as well as solo tours across the U.S., Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and more. He released his Ecoacoustic solo recording *Pale Blue* on Neuma Records in Spring 2023 to rave reviews and international airplay. His recording, *the Living Daylights* (2018) on pfMENTUM remained on the top 10 of radio playlists across the U.S. for over a year. With Michael Theodore, Psychoangelo's release *panauromni* (2010) was listed on the top ten cd's by *Chicago Time Out*. He has composed for professional theatre and dance, commissioned works from the world's finest composers including concertos by Matthew Burtner with Grammy Award winner, trumpeter Cuong Vu, and Grammy Award Winner Dr. George E. Lewis. He received his BMus from the New England Conservatory, MA and DMA from the University of California, San Diego, and is a Professor of Music and Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

GERALD L. WELKER earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in horn performance from the University of Alabama, holding the graduate teaching assistantship for horn and performing as principal horn with the Alabama Wind Ensemble, the symphony orchestra, and the contemporary ensemble.

Gerald served as principal horn with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Associate Principal/3rd Horn with the Macon Symphony Orchestra, and the Assistant Principal Horn with the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra. He was also the principal hornist of the Orvieto Musica Workshop in Orvieto, Italy for two summers. Gerald has performed as a soloist with the Alabama Wind Ensemble, the Marquette Wind Ensemble, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Academy of Music Orchestra, the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, and the United States Air Force Academy Band.

Mr. Welker has performed as a featured artist at numerous workshops, most notably the 37th and 56th International Horn Society Summer Symposiums, the 2009 Southeast Horn Workshop, and twice for the Hornswoggle Workshop, held at Hummingbird Music Camp in Jemez Springs, NM. He has been named both the National Federation of Music Club's Brass Soloist of the Year, and a 2001 Yamaha Young Performing Artist. He was the top-prize winner at the 2001 American Horn Competition (University Division), and in 2007, Gerald was named the 2nd Prize Winner of the International Horn Competition of America (Professional Division).

In addition to numerous other honors, Gerald has performed on numerous occasions with the world-renowned TransAtlantic Horn Quartet, including a live performance on BBC Radio in the UK. Since 2006, he has held the position of Principal Horn with the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, The United States Air Force Academy Band, and The United States Air Forces in Europe Band based in Ramstein, Germany. Currently, he performs as a hornist with the United States Air Force Academy Band in Colorado Springs, CO, where he also serves as Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the Ceremonial Band and a Drum Major.

Technical Sergeant **JOSEPH HUDSON** joined the United States Air Force Academy Band, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, in 2021. He is a trombonist in the Concert Band, Falconaires Jazz Ensemble, and Marching Band. Since joining the Air Force in 2016, TSgt Hudson has been blessed to perform in Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, Palau, Hawaii, and various states throughout the southwestern United States.

TSgt Hudson is a native of Lexington, KY. He was a fellow at the Aspen Music Festival (Aspen, CO) in 2012 and 2013 and a member of the National Repertory Orchestra (Boulder, CO) in 2014. TSgt Hudson is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, where he received his Bachelor of Music degree in 2014 under the tutelage of Per Brevig. In 2016, TSgt Hudson received a Master of Music degree from the University of Kentucky, where he studied with Brad Kerns.

WONPYO LEE joined the Boulder Philharmonic as Principal Flute in 2025. He has also performed with the United States Air Force Academy Band at Peterson Space Force Base as a premier band flutist and piccoloist since 2021. Prior to this, he served as Principal Flute with the Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra, Garland Symphony Orchestra, and Symphony Arlington in Texas. As an active soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, He has appeared with ensembles including the Abilene Philharmonic, Berkeley Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Dallas Wind Symphony, Fort Collins Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Round Rock Symphony, San Francisco Contemporary Players and South Dakota Symphony Orchestra. He was invited as a flute fellow at Brevard Music

Festival, Eastern Music Festival, and the Music Academy of the West.

Lee has earned top prizes in prestigious competitions such as the National Flute Association Young Artist Competition, NFA Orchestral Audition Competition, Young Texas Artists Music Competition, Seattle Flute Society Young Artist Competition, Chicago Flute Club Solo Artist Competition, Myrna Brown Artist Competition, and Mid-South Flute Society Young Artist Competition. He also participated in the 9th Kobe International Flute Competition in Japan. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Music degree from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, and a Professional Studies Diploma from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His principal teachers include Timothy Day, Marianne Gedigian, Marina Piccinini, Dr. James Scott, Monica Song, and Terri Sundberg.

MONICA DING grew up in a musical family. She performed and grew up with world class conductors such as Sir George Solti, Leonard Slatkin, Zubin Mehta, John Paynter and many more. With this foundation, it inspired her to attend the Peabody Institute at the Johns Hopkins University on a full president's scholarship, followed by a Master of Music at Northwestern University. Her teachers have included Ray Still, Sara Watkins, Carl Sonic, and Thomas Indermuhler. She has held the principal and co-principal oboe position with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Guanajuato and was the professor of oboe at the University of Zacatecas. She has performed with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, Chicago Philharmonic, International Chamber Music Festival in Prague, and has soloed all over Asia and North America. Currently she plays with the USAF Academy Band and teaches oboe at Colorado College.

PAMELA DIAZ is the Director of the Purple Mountain Clarinet Choir, an ensemble of the New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs. Before her appointment to Colorado College, she was Lecturer of Clarinet and Clarinet Choir director at Colorado State University-Pueblo for 10 years. She performs regularly as a solo, chamber music and orchestral musician, and also maintains a private clarinet studio. Pam graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy, received her Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University, and Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan. She has been an invited performer at multiple International Clarinet Association's conferences, Colorado Clarinet Day, the International Double Reed Society, and also presented recitals and master classes at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music in Chengdu, China. Pam's principal teachers have included Burt Hara, Fred Ormand, Russell Dagon, Clark Brody, Robert Marcellus and Frank Kowalsky.

CHRISTOPHER JACKSON, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, is a bassoonist with the United States Air Force Academy Band. He began his bassoon studies under the guidance of Dr. Shelly Unger, later continuing with Leon Daugherty and Dr. Bruno Paige, all of whom played important roles in his musical development.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music degree from the University of Memphis, where he studied with John Hunt and Lecolion Washington respectively. He also pursued doctoral studies while at the University of Memphis.

As a performer, Chris has appeared with a wide range of ensembles, including the Rochester Oratorio Society, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Eroica Ensemble, Jackson Symphony, and the Westpfälz Symphony Orchestra in Germany. In addition to his work with the Air Force Academy Band, he remains an active freelance musician and dedicated educator.

When he's not making music, Chris enjoys reading, working in the garden, and growing his knowledge about plants and their uses as an amateur herbalist.

JOSEPH GLASSMAN is a Percussionist, Drummer, Jazz Vibraphonist, and Composer. Joseph began playing drum set in grade school. In 2014, Joseph received his Bachelor's in Classical Percussion Performance at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music, under the study of John Kinzie, Principal Percussionist of the Colorado Symphony. He received scholarships for both academic and musical achievement. During these studies, Joseph was also studying drum set and jazz vibraphone. In 2019, Joseph received his Masters in Jazz Vibraphone Performance at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, under the study of Chip Stephens, Professor of Jazz Piano. He received a Tuition Waiver as well as a Teaching Assistantship with the Music Theory Department.

As a classical percussionist, Joseph has performed with ensembles including The Colorado Symphony and Colorado Springs Philharmonic. He has played in prestigious venues including Red Rocks Amphitheater, Boettcher Concert Hall, Gates Concert Hall, and Foellinger Great Hall. As a Jazz musician, Joseph has played with artists such as Chip Stephens, Chip McNeill, Tito Carrillo, Larry Gray, Joel Spencer, Donnie Heitler, Kevin Matthews, Tom Amend, Alex Heffron, and Hunter Roberts. Most recently, Joseph accepted a percussion/drum set position with the United States Air Force Academy Band, one of two premier bands in the Air Force, earning him the rank Technical Sergeant out of Basic Training.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Susan Grace, *Associate Chair in Performance*
Lisa Gregory, *CC Music Office Coordinator*
Shane Groothof, *CC Music Production Coordinator*
Sarah Pont, *CC Music Events Coordinator*
Schylar Woods, *CC Technical Director*

Colorado College is located within the unceded territory of the Ute Peoples. The earliest documented peoples also include the Apache, Arapaho, Comanche, and Cheyenne. An extended list of tribes with a legacy of occupation in Colorado can be accessed through the Music Department website.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COLORADO COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Unless indicated, all concerts are in Packard Hall, are free, and require no tickets.

www.coloradocollege.edu/music

Live from Packard Hall Faculty Artists Concert

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 3 p.m.

Music at Midday

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 12:15 p.m.

CC Choir and Chamber Chorus

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., Shove Chapel

Bluegrass Ensemble

Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

Fall Musical – *Anastasia*

Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m.

Kathryn Mohrman Theatre, Armstrong Hall

**Ticketed Event - \$25; FREE with CC ID
coloradospringsconservatory.org/events

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., Shove Chapel

Chamber Orchestra

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Music at Midday

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 12:15 p.m.

Concert Band

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Celeste Theatre

Tiger Jazz

Thursday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Celeste Theatre

Wintersong

Saturday, Dec. 13, 4:00 and 7:30 p.m., Shove Chapel

Indonesian Music and Dance

Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.



COLORADO COLLEGE
Music Department