

UC SANTA BARBARA
Department of Music

CONTACT:
Adriane Hill
Marketing and Communications Manager
UC Santa Barbara Department of Music
(805) 893-3230
adrianehill@ucsb.edu
music.ucsb.edu

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WEST COAST PREMIERE AND CELEBRATION OF STEVEN GROSS' 25th YEAR AT UCSB

Program to feature West Coast premiere of Grammy Award-winning composer William Bolcom's Trio for Horn, Violin and Piano (2017), horn and piano compositions of Václav Nelhýbel and Jiří Havlík, plus a violin sonata by Bolcom

Santa Barbara, CA (October 25, 2019)— Dr. Steven Gross (Professor of Horn, UC Santa Barbara) will celebrate 25 years at UC Santa Barbara with a special recital featuring the West Coast premiere of William Bolcom's *Trio for Horn, Violin, and Piano* (2017) on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 7:30 pm at Hahn Hall at the Music Academy of the West. Professor Gross will be joined by American Double members violinist Philip Ficsor and pianist Constantine Finehouse for Bolcom's West Coast premiere. The program will also include Václav Nelhýbel's *Scherzo Concertante*, a movement from Jiří Havlík's *Concerto for Horn*, and Bolcom's *Second Sonata for Violin and Piano*. Dr. Derek Katz (Associate Professor of Musicology, UC Santa Barbara) will give a talk on Bolcom and his works.

"I am thrilled to present the West Coast premiere of William Bolcom's *Trio for Horn, Violin, and Piano*, joined by American Double," said Professor Gross. "This is an exciting new work that promises to be a significant contribution to the chamber music repertoire. The program will also include solo and duo compositions by other composers."

Commissioned by Professor Gross and American Double in 2017, Bolcom's *Trio for Horn, Violin and Piano* was recorded in Prague, with a release anticipated in the near future. The titles of the four movements ("Plodding, implacably controlled," "Headlong, brutal," "As if far away, misterioso," and "Very controlled and resolute") give the listener a preview of the vastly different moods and colors at play within the piece. Bolcom—a National Medal of Arts, Pulitzer Prize, and Grammy Award-winner—notes the work was "occasioned...by the era we're living in. So many of us feel desperation from the constant endangering of our country and the world; I wrote the *Trio* to express this, hoping listeners might possibly feel less alone."

Václav Nelhýbel's *Scherzo Concertante* (1966) takes the listener on a journey filled with vigorous rhythms, cascading notes, and interlocking melodies between the horn and the piano. A prolific composer, Nelhýbel's output included over 600 works. He is most remembered for his wind compositions, but his repertoire also includes opera, ballet, symphonic, band, keyboard, instrumental solo, and choral works.

Jiří Havlík's *Concerto for Horn* (1976) was written during Havlík's time as a composition student at the Prague Conservatory. Now a hornist in the Czech Philharmonic, as a young composer Havlík sought to create a piece he could not only submit for his composition requirements, but also perform. The piece was inspired by the rich Czech tradition of wind instrument concertos, and was modeled after the classical three-movement concerto form. The work incorporates sweeping melodic lines and utilizes the full range of horn registers. In 1978, the work was awarded the "Special Award of the Czech Ministry of

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“STEVEN GROSS” 2-2-2

Culture for Composition and Performance.” Professor Gross will perform the second movement, “Molto lento.”

Violinist Philip Ficsor—who served as Associate Professor of Music at Westmont College from 2006-2013—and pianist Constantine Finehouse will also play Bolcom’s *Second Sonata for Violin and Piano* (1979). The sonata was inspired by a collaboration between Bolcom and violinist Serge Luca, who shared Bolcom’s interest in jazz, particularly in the playing of jazz violinist Joe Venuti. The piece unfolds in four movements: “Summer Dreams”, “Brutal-fast”, “Adagio”, and “In Memory of Joe Venuti”.

PROGRAM

Václav Nelhýbel: *Scherzo Concertante* (1966)

William Bolcom: *Second Sonata for Violin and Piano* (1979)

Jiří Havlík: *Concerto for Horn* (1976)

William Bolcom: *Trio for Horn, Violin, and Piano* (2017) *West Coast Premiere

TICKETS

General admission (\$15); non-UCSB students with ID (\$5); UCSB students with ID (FREE); children under 12 (FREE).

Tickets may be purchased online at music.ucsb.edu/news/purchase-tickets or by calling the UCSB Associated Students Ticket Office at (805) 893-2064.

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING INFORMATION

Parking on the Music Academy of the West campus is free. Parking along the driveway in front of Hahn Hall is exclusively and entirely “reserved” or “handicapped.” Please visit musicacademy.org/about-us/contact for directions to the Music Academy of the West.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All artist and composer bios can be found at music.ucsb.edu/news/event/1969.

ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a multi-faceted department with a fully established research and professional graduate program with degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, musicology, music theory, and performance, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music has produced many hundreds of graduates who have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Alumni have gone on to teach on faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, or in outstanding secondary school positions. Many graduates of the program have published extensively and become widely renowned, prize-winning scholars, while others are award-winning and frequently performed composers writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 150 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department’s rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website at music.ucsb.edu.

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