



WISCONSIN
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

THE MUSICIAN SESSIONS

Concert I: Bach to Banfield

November 12–15, 2021

wcoconcerts.org

Welcome to the season premiere of The Musician Sessions. This is the second season of digital chamber music, brought to you in the comfort of your own home. We recorded the Bach to Banfield concert in October 2021 in beautiful downtown Madison at the new Madison Youth Arts Center.

In addition to this digital concert series, we're very proud to introduce you to our new Composer in Residence Dr. Bill Banfield, bring back live Masterworks Series concerts at Capitol Theater beginning January 28, and celebrate the WCO's return to the Capitol Square in June 2022 for Concerts on the Square.

Tonight's performance is not possible without the generous support of our sponsors. I want to give a special thank you to our Series Sponsor, Dr. Jun and Sandy Lee, and our Concert Sponsor, Fran and Brad Taylor.

So, sit back, relax, and all weekend long enjoy the beautiful chamber music from the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra.

Joe Loehnis
CEO



GET CLOSER TO THE MUSIC

The Musician Sessions grew out of a need during the COVID pandemic to find a way to let the musicians communicate to us, the audience, and to have the opportunity of playing music that perhaps stretches them. We like to keep performing. It's what turns our cranks as musicians.

A year ago, we used the Winter Chamber Series as a pilot to explore how we would continue to operate under these pandemic conditions. As a result, we discovered a shorter program format that engaged our audience and gave the musicians the chance to perform movements and compositions special to them.

In collaboration with the players, The Musician Sessions has evolved as a new way of presenting music. Shorter, rarely performed contemporary works mingle with chamber classics with close-up portraits and filmwork to keep you, our audience, involved and engaged.

We're delighted to present The Musician Sessions.

Andrew Sewell
Music Director



THE MUSICIAN SESSIONS

This recorded online concert series emphasizes works by contemporary composers, women, and composers of color and focuses the lens on conversations with our core musicians.

PRICING

3-Concert Pack: \$75
Single Concert: \$30

DIGITAL CONCERT ACCESS

Access will be granted on Fridays, with viewing open for 72 hours.



Concert I: Bach to Banfield

November 12–15, 2021

REPERTOIRE

J.S. Bach | Brandenburg Concerto No. 3
Cliff Alexis | Many Faces
William Banfield | Dance like the Wind
Bohuslav Martinů | Quartet, H. 139
Louise Farrenc | Piano Quintet No. 1

Concert II: Bohemian Blueprint

February 18–21, 2022

REPERTOIRE

Joseph Bologne | String Quartet No. 5
Gabriela Lena Frank | Quijotadas
Stacy Garrop | Bohemian Café
Caroline Shaw | Blueprint
Louis Spohr | Nonet in F major

Program subject to change



Concert III: Forgotten Gems

March 18–21, 2022

REPERTOIRE

Fanny Mendelssohn | Piano Trio in D minor
Eric Ewazen | Mandala
Florence Price | String Quartet in A minor
Adolphe Blanc | Septet in E major

Program subject to change

Musician Roster

Concert I: Bach to Banfield NOVEMBER 12–15, 2021



JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

**Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in
G major BMV 1048**

Jerry Loughney, Violin 1
Tim Kamps, Violin 2
Anna Carlson, Violin 3
Nora Frisk, Viola 1
Christopher Dozoryst, Viola 2
Diedre Buckley, Viola 3
Karl Lavine, Cello 1
Robin Hasenpflug, Cello 2
Timothy Archbold, Cello 3
Charles Block, Bass
Trevor Stephenson, Harpsichord

CLIFFORD ALEXIS

Many Faces

Lana Wordel, Steel Pans

WILLIAM BANFIELD

**Dance Like the Wind from
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf**

Elizabeth Marshall, Flute
Laura Medisky, Oboe
JJ Koh, Clarinet
Midori Samson, Bassoon
Dafydd Bevil, Horn

BOHUSLAV MARTINŮ

Quartet, H. 139

Nancy Mackenzie, Clarinet
Linda Kimball, Horn
Robin Hasenpflug, Cello
Lana Wordel, Snare Drum

LOUISE FARRENC

Piano Quintet No. 1 in A minor, op.30

Jerry Loughney, Violin
Nora Frisk, Viola
Karl Lavine, Cello
Charles Block, Bass
Jason Kutz, Piano

REPERTOIRE

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH | Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in
G major BMV 1048

I. Allegro

CLIFFORD ALEXIS | Many Faces

WILLIAM BANFIELD | *Dance Like the Wind* from *Who's Afraid of
Virginia Woolf*

BOHUSLAV MARTINŮ | Quartet, H. 139

III. Allegretto ma non troppo

LOUISE FARRENC | Piano Quintet No. 1, op.30

III. Scherzo: Presto

IV. Finale: Allegro

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Bach to Banfield is a 40-minute performance that features both contemporary and traditional classical chamber works, curated and performed by the musicians of the WCO in collaboration with Music Director Andrew Sewell.

Our first concert, *Bach to Banfield*, takes the audience on a journey from the Baroque period to the present day. The series opens with the third of Bach's six famous *Brandenburg Concerti Grossi* from 1722. Nineteenth century French composer Louise Farrenc's Quintet is steeped in the Romantic style, with beautiful melodies and long phrases. In between is a unique combination of four instruments, a quartet by early 20th century composer, Bohuslav Martinů, for clarinet, horn, cello, and snare drum.

Works from the early twenty-first century are woven into tonight's performance. Our Composer in Residence Dr. Bill Banfield's woodwind quintet, entitled *Dance Like the Wind* from *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, was commissioned by Duke University over 20 years ago in 2000 as a live score to accompany the movie, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. This jazz-infused selection is extracted from a score totaling over an hour in length.

Many Faces, a commissioned work for double tenor steel pans by steel pan icon, Cliff Alexis, was written specifically for WCO's principal percussionist Lana Wordel in 1988. Alexis, Lana's college professor and mentor at Northern Illinois University, composed the piece for her final recital and custom-built Lana's steel pans, still used by her today. Alexis (1937–2019) spent his life performing, teaching, composing, arranging, building, and tuning steel pans for musicians around the world.



DR. BILL BANFIELD

Banfield is an award-winning composer whose symphonies, operas, and chamber works have been performed and recorded by major symphonies across the country. He is one of the most performed, recorded composers of his generation. Banfield's work to date includes twelve symphonies, seven operas, nine concerti, chamber, as well as jazz and popular forms.

We are delighted to perform Bill's work for woodwind quintet, *Dance Like the Wind*, in this weekend's Musician Sessions concert, Bach to Banfield. Please join us on January 28, 2022, for the world premiere of Banfield's Symphony No. 8, *Here I Stand*, inspired by Paul Robeson.

“ Bill Banfield is one of the most original voices on the scene today. He tunes us into the conversation happening worldwide between the notes of contemporary musical culture.”

– Henry Louis Gates

Banfield joined the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra for a three-year residency partnership in July 2021. We are commissioning two major works for the WCO and the greater Madison community as well as significant community outreach while Bill is in residence.



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Andrew Sewell

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GET CLOSER TO THE MUSIC



2021



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2022

Masterworks I: The Triple

January 28, 2022

Suzanne Beia | VIOLIN

Karl Lavine | CELLO

Christopher Taylor | PIANO

Masterworks III: Paganini Passion

March 25, 2022

Eric Silberger

VIOLIN

Masterworks II: Harp and Haydn

February 25, 2022

Yolanda Kondonassis

HARP

Masterworks IV: The Emperor

April 22, 2022

John O'Connor

PIANO

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