



University of North Texas
College of Music

Lecture Recital | Friday, October 4, 2024 | 5:00 p.m.
Recital Hall

Ruiqian Zhang, saxophone

Xiao Wang, Piano

A PERFORMANCE GUIDE TO THE SONG CONCERTO BY LIBBY LARSEN

Libby Larsen is a Grammy award-winning composer and one of America's most frequently performed living composers. She wrote over five hundred works spanning various genres, including vocal, chamber, orchestral, and opera. The Song Concerto for solo saxophone (alto and soprano, one performer) and piano or chamber orchestra holds particular significance in the contemporary saxophone repertoire, as it is the only concerto that Larsen composed for the saxophone. Larsen melded four different aspects of song and uses the concerto form as musical vehicle to emphasize the saxophone's impressive lyrical strength in this work. The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive performance guide and formal analysis. This guide will include historical background of both the composer and the piece, a formal analysis of each movement, fingering suggestions for notes written in the altissimo range and performance considerations, supplying information essential for an informed and high-level artistic performance.