



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Senior Recital | Sunday, March 22, 2026 | 8:00 p.m. | Recital Hall

Nguyen Nguyen, clarinet

Donna Meinecke, piano*

from Suite from The Victorian Kitchen Garden (1987)..... Paul Reade
I. Prelude (1943–1997)

Sophie Chien, harp

Première Rhapsody (1909)*..... Claude Debussy
(1862–1918)

Sonata (1962)*.....Francis Poulenc
I. Allegro tristamente (1899–1963)
II. Romanza
III. Allegro con fuoco

City Pop Medley (2026)arr. Nguyen Nguyen
Tasogare Mai Yamane (b. 1958),
Remember Summer Days Anri (b. 1961),
SUPER RISER! Chieri Ito (b. 1971),
1984 Junko Yagami (b. 1958),
Stay With Me Miki Matsubara (1959–2004)

UNT Clarinet Choir

B-flat Clarinet

Benson Preston | Corey Law | Dominick McCaskill |
Henry Torresi | Jilin Zhang | Matthew Olin | Neill Williams | Treyvion Greer
Vincent Miravella, E-flat clarinet
Jay Berry and Kyle Norberg, bass clarinet

Program three hundred forty-one of the 2025–2026 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

-INTERMISSION-

52 Shades of Red (2015/2016) Shin Lim (b. 1991)
Utsukushiki Zankoku na Sekai Music by Yoko Hikasa,
Oblivion M83
Un Nouveau Soleil
Outro

Program Notes

The Creation of 52 Pasts, Presents, and Futures

When I started creating my recital in Fall 2025, I had always been fascinated by the properties of time. The specific routes I took and the decisions I made in the past allowed me to develop my present character for traversing the earth. Pasts. Now imagine if I had made decisions that were ever so slightly different? Take in account all of those possibilities over my whole 22 years. Presents. All the parallel worlds and timelines would likely total to the millions, with many variations of Nguyen Nguyen. Futures. In the end, I had settled on the title, "*52 Pasts, Presents, and Futures*", similar to Michael Jackson's *HIStory* album.

So why did I choose the number 52? The obvious answer for some would be that there are 52 cards in a deck of playing cards, but the reason is way more complex than that. 52 is actually referencing the number 52 factorial, which is also the total number of orders a deck of cards can be in. Each time you thoroughly shuffle a deck of cards, the finished order has most likely never existed before. There are many examples online that can put into perspective on how big 52 factorial is, but for the sake of keeping this program short, all I will say is that the scale for this number transcends the cosmos.

About **City Pop Medley**

City pop is a music genre from the 70s and 80s of Japan primarily combining funk, jazz, and disco into one. When I got introduced to city pop a few years back, I was immediately entranced by its upbeat style and rich bass lines. When I drove my car during nighttime, I would often put on city pop to match the atmosphere of all the city lights shining through my windows as I passed.

There are many songs in city pop spanning over the course of two decades, but I could only choose five to work on from some of my favorite artists featured within the genre. The fifth song is the tribute version of the late Miki Matsubara's *Stay With Me*.

This performance features me conducting my own arrangement with the UNT clarinet choir as a bridge to two of the possible 52 future paths in my life, which is composing and conducting.

About **Shin Lim and 52 Shades of Red**

Liang-Shum Lim, known professionally as Shin Lim, is a Canadian-American magician known best for his card manipulation and sleight of hand in close-up magic. Shin Lim's first rise to stardom was when he won the 2015 FISM world championship for close-up card magic featuring his first major act, *The Dream Act*. Shin Lim earned the respect of many magicians and showed up on Penn and Teller's show, *Penn and Teller: Fool Us*, later that same year, where he fooled them. Two years later, Shin Lim got invited back to the show where he fooled the magic duo again with his second major act, *52 Shades of Red*.

When Shin Lim went on his journey to the critically acclaimed *America's Got Talent* in 2018, he used his two famous magic acts through the judge-cuts, quarter-final, and semi-final rounds. He won the whole competition that year, securing his place as the second-ever magician to win in the television show's history. As a bonus, Shin Lim got invited on the spinoff version one year later, *America's Got Talent: The Champions*, where he won a second time. To this day, Shin Lim is the only person to ever win the competition twice.

I decided to present *52 Shades of Red* as my closer to my recital due to its moments of impact and musical ideas throughout. I had originally bought the act sometime during my high school years, but didn't feel like I was ready to learn it... until now. The music selections featured in the act are mainly from M83, with *Oblivion and Outro* featured in all of Shin Lim's performances of *52 Shades of Red*. With the act being dreamlike, I included *Utsukushiki Zankoku na Sekai* at the beginning of the set and *Un Nouveau Soleil* as the third selection to complete the atmosphere.

Shin Lim's routine was heavily inspired by David Copperfield's *Grandpa's Aces*, showcasing card manipulations and productions. Shin Lim also incorporates the theme of beginning and ending the same way, creating a continuous loop for the act. When I perform *52 Shades of Red*, I want my audience to see how magic and music can be combined at an extremely high level.

Special Thanks

To my family in Dallas

Ông Nội, Bà Nội, Bác Thuy, Bác Chieu, Chú Van, Bác Tram, Quan, Vy, và Minh, thank you so much for creating an environment at home where I could be successful in my endeavors at UNT. With your help, I was able to avoid problems that others had during this time, such as paying rent, dealing with roommates, and homesickness. During these four years, I was able to refine my character from high school into someone mature, unique, and inspiring to move onto bigger stages in the world. You saw how happy I was to tell you about my performances and how you wanted to watch every concert livestream. I love you all. Thank you for everything in the present and future to come.

To my family in Austin

Ba và Mẹ, thank you for taking care of me ever since I was little and creating an environment where I could learn so much about the world. I would not be the person I am today without your guidance and lessons. I would not have excelled in my passions if you weren't there to provide necessary equipment and support for me. I am forever grateful for my professional clarinet, first car, personal computer, and magic supplies. Thank you so much for putting me through the challenges of my high school years in order to build my endurance against remarks to my character and fighting for the values I hold dear to me, and letting me pursue music for my lifelong career. I love you, and I forgive you.

To my friends from Leander High School

You all were, and still are the backbones of my success. You made me laugh, smile, and think about each of you as I progressed on my journey of four years, the sequel. I first noticed my luck around this time, especially when attending Leander High School. I was able to learn and grow in a place where people my age and teachers supported me for who I was and helped me in my war; not everyone gets access to that treatment or environment. I still have my yearbook from our senior year that I look through and read your messages in times of need. Even when we are away, I know we are still connected in our hearts. Thank you for cheering me on, making music with me, becoming great role models, and taking care of me mentally. May our 52 futures align where we cross paths once again!

To my friends and colleagues from UNT

I am blessed that I was able to journey together with you throughout our time of discovery at this institution we call home. Many memories stay fresh in my mind such as winning UNT's Got Talent, performing in the Margot and Bill Winspear Performance Hall, performing at open mic nights, attending TMEA, and our slice of life moments. You were all there for it, and I am forever grateful for our growth and social bonds that stretch across time. Thank you for teaching me about yourselves, teaching me about myself, and sharing our values together that we will fight for. Thank you for all your support and memories created together. May our 52 futures bring peace, union, and happiness!

To my high school band directors

Mr. Selaiden, Mr. Sirna, and Mr. Swiren, thank you for guiding the young and vulnerable teen through not just music, but through life as well. Watching each of you conducting and teaching on the podium allowed me to look at music through a different lens. Combining your lessons with my self-taught musicianship, I was able to create a foundation for my clarinet playing that made up for being in lessons like all of my peers. Only through you did I experience times of self-reflection, resilience, and confidence gain. During my senior year, I knew that I had grown to be an outstanding person and made the most of opportunities presented to me. Thank you for helping me make region band, perform at Midwest, perform magic and music for audiences, and dance the night away with friends.

To my clarinet professors

Thank you Professor Fabian, Professor Coad, Dr. Luevano, and Dr. Paglialonga, for helping me advance to the next stage of my clarinet playing. Whether it was through lessons, studio classes, or on the stage, you allowed me to grow so much over my four years here. I had never enjoyed playing the clarinet so much in my life before attending UNT. Professor Fabian, thank you for working one-on-one with me, as I cherish every lesson we ever had and page of notes written. I still remember the one time during my sophomore year where I had gone through the hardest time in my clarinet playing and college years, but you encouraged me to keep going. And now as I graduate and go into the world beyond, I can rest assured that playing clarinet at UNT was worth it, alongside meaningful memories and experiences.

To my eternal love

Ris, our meeting at UNT is something I like to call fate. Ever since we met during our sophomore year, you have shown me how amazing, hardworking, and supportive one's partner can be. I know that during this time people can struggle to find their soulmate due to other focuses, but we both made it look so easy. Our passions and values aligned perfectly for our relationship to bond, and it will stay that way. Even when we part for a little bit to continue our studies, I know that we will still be together. Thank you so much for your affection, your kindness, your laughter, and your character. I would not trade you for the world, and I always smile when I see you every day. You brought more magic into my life, and I cannot wait to spend the rest of my life with you. I love you so much, my lovebird.