



University of North Texas
College of Music

Master's Recital | Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 5:00 p.m. | Paul Voertman Concert Hall

Sarah Griego, jazz composition and conductor

"Fun O'Clock" Lab Band

Benny Benack III, jazz voice *, trumpet Λ , and flugelhorn +

Sassy (1991)* Janis Siegel (b. 1952),
Cheryl Bentyne (b. 1954)
arr. Sarah Griego

Jonathan Arcangel, tenor saxophone solo
Brenin Coin, piano solo
Aiden Frier, talkbox solo
Spencer Paulsen, bass solo

(They Long To Be) Close To You (1970)* Burt Bacharach (1928–2023),
Hal David (1921–2012)
arr. Sarah Griego

Ryan Yumang, alto saxophone solo

I Could Fall in Love (1995) \wedge Keith Thomas
(b. 1957)
arr. Sarah Griego

Hannah Claire Goodwin, voice solo

Dive (2024) + Hannah Claire Goodwin
(b. 2002)

Hannah Claire Goodwin, voice solo

Iris
Margaret Nicholson, voice
Georgia Barge, voice

Program five hundred six of the 2025–2026 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Sentimiento (1968).....Al Hurricane Sr.
(1936–2017)
arr. Sarah Griego

Sarah Griego, tenor saxophone solo
Mario Montes Lara, alto saxophone solo

It's You I Like (1984)*^ Fred Rogers
(1928–2003)
arr. Sarah Griego

Isabella Grace Ebo, harp solo
Brenin Coin, piano solo

Make 'Em Laugh (1952)* Nacio Herb Brown (1896–1964),
Arthur Freed (1894–1973)
arr. Sarah Griego

Jonathan Arcangel, tenor saxophone solo
Auxiliary Percussion
Ella Dodd | Mitchell Weber | Isabella Sandvall

Program Notes

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"Sassy" is an explosive, high-energy piece ready to call you onto the dance floor and let you express your inner feminine attitude. Originally recorded by *The Manhattan Transfer*, this arrangement is inspired by jazz vocalist Kurt Elling and jazz guitarist Charlie Hunter's version from their record *Superblue 2021*.

*This arrangement is dedicated to Alan Baylock.
Thank you for your unwavering support and mentorship.*

(They Long To Be) Close To You (1970): Burt Bacharach

"(They Long To Be) Close To You" is a jazz-pop-afro-cuban influenced hybrid that's sure to bring nostalgia and interest to your ear. This version is inspired by Benny Benack III's small group version from his album "*One Of A Kind*" (2017).

*This arrangement is dedicated to the UNT College of Music Jazz Division
faculty and their continuous support*

I Could Fall In Love (1995): Keith Thomas and Selena Quintanilla-Perez

Originally recorded by Grammy-winning Tejano artist Selena Quintanilla-Perez, this arrangement blossoms with feminine grace and sentimentality. "I Could Fall In Love" was one of the last recorded pieces of music in Selena's music career; a career cut tragically short.

*This arrangement is dedicated to my husband Mitchell Weber
I love you dearly. You are my best friend, my rock, and my biggest
cheerleader.*

Dive (2024): Hannah Claire (Goodwin)

"Dive," written by my dear friend Hannah Goodwin, offers a glimpse into her upcoming album and her evolving artistic voice. Drawing inspiration from artists such as Yebba and Olivia Dean, the piece blends R&B influence with a modern jazz palette. This version seeks to preserve the intimacy of Hannah's original while expanding its world through the colors of the big band.

Sentimiento (1968): Al Hurricane Sr.

This piece is a tribute to my hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Written by New Mexico's Godfather Al Hurricane Sr., "Sentimiento" is a standard in New Mexican music culture. Although we have left our home, home will never leave us.

This arrangement is dedicated to my parents Wil and Vanessa Griego, my sister and brother-in law Kevin and Brittany Hollander, their children Sophia, Luke, and Colton Hollander, the Weber family, & Mark Ellington

It's You I Like (1984): Fred Rogers

This piece is an expanded orchestration of Benny Benack III's version in *A Lot of Livin' To Do (2020)*. During a time in which the world was isolated, and people were categorized as "essential" vs. "non-essential", Benny's recordings comforted us in our fear and uncertainty. His music made us feel closer as a community, and gave us hope. In our small 1-bedroom apartment, I turned and said to my husband, "Benny is so great, and someday, I'm gonna write for him!"

This arrangement is dedicated to Benny Benack III, my incredible friend, mentor, and brother-in jazz. You gave me a chance; a chance many wouldn't have been willing to gamble on. Here's to many more years of laughs, charts, and friendship.

This performance is dedicated to my wonderful friends in Florida, Texas, New Mexico, and all over the world.

Make 'em Laugh (1952): Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed

This piece is a topsy-turvy reimagination from the Golden Globe Award-winning film, *Singing in The Rain (1952)*. This piece will have your head spinning, guts busting, and feet stomping with its quirky and comedic charm. This piece is inspired by pieces of my favorite shows, recordings, and movies including Harry Connick Jr.'s "Just Kiss Me", Nickelodeon's, *The Fairly Odd Parents*, Fuzzy Door Production's, *Family Guy*, and many others.

This arrangement is dedicated to Richard DeRosa. Thank you for always seeing my imagination just as vividly, reminding me to always tell a story through my music, and to remember the characters we play through the music we write.

This performance is dedicated to composer Guy Moon (1962-2026), Butch Hartman, and Seth Macfarlane

Thank you for inspiring me for years to chase my wacky, animated, whimsical dreams

Biographies

Sarah Griego is an American composer, orchestrator, performer, and conductor. Sarah has actively taught students with ages from children to seniors jazz and classical saxophone as well as music theory, composition, and arranging. As a music lover, Sarah strives to achieve versatility in her writing, teaching philosophies, and listening while omitting musical prejudices. As a performer, Sarah has played with a wide variety of artists both domestically and internationally. Sarah's specialties include Jazz Composition and Performance, Latin, Contemporary, and Classical music.

Sarah remains active writing music for the concert hall, chamber pieces, big band and vocalist pieces, orchestral music, marching band, mariachi, and much more. Her work has been performed by several artists and groups including Lorenzo Antonio, Dionne Warwick, the American Pops Orchestra, Vincent Herring, Daymé Arocena, RaiNao, Gerry Lopez, Baptiste Herbin, and the seven-time Grammy nominated One O' Clock Lab Band.

As a band leader, Sarah has led several bands including The Eddie Brewer Big Band, Parker's Lab Band, and The University of New Mexico Marching Band. Her eclectic background makes her a versatile musician and writer, putting her in high demand for musical projects.

Sarah holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music (Jazz Studies) from the University of New Mexico and currently pursuing a Master's in Jazz Composition from the University of North Texas.

Emmy-nominated Trumpeter and Vocalist **Benny Benack III** (BBIII) has quickly become a leading voice in Jazz for his generation, headlining clubs and festivals around the world on the heels of his latest critically acclaimed live album "This Is The Life," which has been garnering thousands of streams and topping the JazzWeek Radio Charts. He is the rare talent who is formidable as a fiery trumpeter -- ranging from Freddie Hubbard to Louis Armstrong and everyone in between -- while as a singer he delivers sly, mature, naturally expressive post-Sinatra vocal stylings.

His sophomore album "A Lot of Livin' to Do" (2020) featured the likes of bass luminary Christian McBride, achieving viral online fame w/his vocalese rendition of "Social Call," ft. Veronica Swift, which has been transcribed and covered by singers around the world. He has crooned his way to millions more listeners alongside groups such as the Grammy-winning "8-Bit Big Band" and YouTube sensation "Postmodern Jukebox". His 2023 album "Third Time's the Charm" went all the way to #2 on the charts, and featured a notable line-up of special guests such as Peter Bernstein, Bria Skonberg, Chad LB, and more.

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Benny's double-threat credentials were first apparent when he was a finalist in the 2014 Thelonius Monk Competition on trumpet, before going on to win Third Place in the 2021 Sarah Vaughan Vocal Competition. His resume for both was recently bolstered by Downbeat Magazine's Readers Poll for 2025, where he placed #1 for Rising Star Male Vocalist, and was also #8 for Rising Star Trumpet.

BBill's global recognition has been bolstered by his collaborations with the GRAMMY-award winning "8-Bit Big Band," as well as touring with Postmodern Jukebox. The recent advent of live-streaming concerts has also proved a boon, both through his residency at Smalls Jazz Club, and frequent appearances at fellow superstar Emmet Cohen's "Emmet's Place" online series. Benny has established himself as one of the most in-demand touring artists and music educators in the Jazz world, with a seemingly unending intercontinental schedule reflecting his indefatigable love for the music, and with his smile and panache ever on display wherever he goes.

Hannah C. Goodwin (she/her) received an Associate of Applied Arts degree in Professional Music from the School for Music Vocations where she was a student of Grammy-nominated Dr. Jeremy Fox, Tobi Crawford, and Ryan Howe/Tommy Boynton of the iconic vocal group e Four Freshman. She graduated in May of 2022. During her studies, she was involved in numerous vocal and instrumental ensembles including the award-winning vocal jazz group First Take, where they recorded albums, went on tour, and performed at the Jazz Education Network.

Hannah is a graduate of the University of North Texas where she majored in Jazz Voice. She is a private voice student of Rosana Eckert, and a student of Jennifer Barnes. During her years at UNT, she's participated in the award-winning vocal jazz group UNT Jazz Singers where she performed at the 2023 Jazz Education Network, gigged around the DFW area, recorded music, and arranged three pieces for the group. She has also had the privilege of singing with the One O'Clock Lab Band.

Hannah Claire Goodwin Photographer: Domanic Aguilar Hannah has worked with the Grammy-winning group säje (Sara Gazarek, Amanda Taylor, Johnaye Kendrick, and Erin Bentlage), e Real Group, Michael Mayo, Voces8, Jacob Collier, Kate McGarry, Laila Biali, Darmon Meader, Benny Benack III, Bria Skonberg, and the recent Grammy winner of the Jazz Vocal Album category Nicole Zuraitis.

Hannah has been nationally recognized for her hard work, dedication, and talent. She has received multiple Downbeat awards including "Vocal Jazz Soloist" for both 2021 & 2022.

Personnel

Jasper Kashou, conductor

Alto Saxophone

Mario Montes Lara

Ryan Yumang

Tenor Saxophone

Jonathan Arcangel

Aidan Schwarz

Bari/Bass Saxophone

Kyle Leonard

Trumpet

Isidoro Ramos

Carter Stanton

Trumpet and Flugelhorn

Miles Mabrey

Mitchell McCollom

Jack Phillips

Trombone

Alex Parker

Scott Schaffer

Madison Shupe

Bass Trombone

Jeremy Kvale

Bass Trombone and Tuba

Donald Nagle

Iris

Margaret Nicholson, voice

Georgia Barge, voice

Rhythm

Jacob Landrum, guitar

Brenin Coin, piano

Aiden Frier, electric piano and talkbox

Spencer Paulsen, bass

Zach Johnson, drumset

Isabella Grace Ebo, harp

Ella Dodd, percussion

Isabella Sandvall, percussion

Mitchell Weber, percussion