



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Guest Artist Masterclass | Tuesday, November 1, 2022 | 4:30 pm | Recital Hall

Sylvain Blassel Harp Masterclass

Odysée, Opus 37 (1990).....Caroline Lizotte (b. 1969)
Gabi Logan, harp

from *French Suite No. 3 in*

B minor, BWV 814 (1722)..... Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

I. Allemande

II. Courante

Alisa Coffey, harp

Le Jardin Mouillé (1913).....Jacques de la Presle (1888–1969)

Zoe O'Shaughnessy, harp

from *Children's Hour*, Opus 25 (1950).....Marcel Grandjany (1891–1975)

I. Into Mischief

II. Little Angel

III. Giddap Pony

from *Sonate pour harpe* (1957)..... Germaine Tailleferre (1892–1983)

III. Perpetuum mobile

Margaret Anne Gunter, harp

from *Concierto de Aranjuez* (1939) Joaquín Rodrigo/Nicanor Zabaleta

(1901–1999)/(1907–1993)

II. Adagio

Maria De Jesus Contreras, harp

Fantaisie pour violon et harpe,

Opus 124 (1907).....Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)

Polly Klein, violin • Ruth Mertens, harp

Two hundred sixth program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

about our guest artist

Sylvain Blassel is a harpist and conductor. Very early in his career, his position as Pierre Boulez's assistant with the Ensemble InterContemporain led to many formative experiences: working for example with György Kurtag, György Ligeti, Brian Ferneyhough, and Helmut Lachenmann.

As an instrumentalist, Sylvain Blassel's regular orchestral appearances also afforded him many defining musical moments - for example with Claudio Abbado, Sir Simon Rattle, Gustavo Dudamel, Valery Gergiev, and Alan Gilbert.

Keen to expand the repertoire available to him as a harpist, Blassel has come to specialise in the virtuoso adaptation of music hitherto undreamt-of on the harp. He performs not simply transcriptions of digestible solos, but giants of the piano and orchestra repertoire. These span periods from Guillaume de Machaut to the present day, and include deep explorations of Bach, Beethoven, Haydn and Liszt. These include works that tax the best of pianists (Liszt's *Campanella*, *Hungarian Rhapsodies...*), and above all such masterpieces as the *Goldberg Variations* and Beethoven's last sonatas.

Fascinated by the organological development of his instrument, he also often plays with period orchestras. He has an extensive personal collection of instruments, and often presents multiple harps in the course of his recitals.

Sylvain Blassel is Professor of Harp at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague, and at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Lyon. He is regularly invited to give masterclasses throughout the world: in New York, Tokyo, Toronto, Hong Kong, Hamburg, Berlin, Prague, Chicago, Seoul, Beijing, and Shanghai.

