



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

# University of North Texas College of Music

Doctoral Lecture Recital | Sunday, April 23, 2023 | 12:30 pm | Recital Hall

**Hyunjee Lee, flute**  
**Gabriel Sánchez, piano**

**GUILLAUME CONNESSON'S *LE RIRE DE SARAÏ*:  
STYLISTIC ANALYSIS FOCUSING ON HIS ECLECTICISM**

*Le Rire de Saraï* for flute and piano was written in 2001 by Guillaume Connesson. Although the composer's works have been commissioned and performed by numerous leading orchestras and musicians in Europe and the United States, his music has hardly received any scholarly examination. Despite the increasing popularity of *Le Rire de Saraï*, the piece also has never received scholarly attention. Therefore, an analytical study of the piece, its influences, and its context in Connesson's output will provide for a deeper understanding and informed performance of this significant element of the flutist's repertoire.

*Le Rire de Saraï*, like much of the composer's music, is notable for the eclecticism of its language and its inspiration from an extramusical source. This study will first discuss his biography, inspirational sources, and various musical influences, which provide essential background information to understand his musical world. This document then will explore the story of Hagar and Sarah in the book of Genesis as the inspirational source for the piece and how Connesson draws on the story without crossing into the domain of program music. Finally, the study will examine the interactive elements of his eclecticism in the piece, such as French sensibility, American minimalism, Baroque toccata, and popular music.

Le Rire de Saraï (2001) .....Guillaume Connesson (b. 1970)  
I. La plainte d'Agar  
II. Bénédiction de l'alliance

Eight hundred forty-sixth program of the 2022–2023 season  
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