



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas  
College of Music

Guest Artist Recital | Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | 8:00 pm | Recital Hall

**Émile Naoumoff, piano, Indiana University**  
**Philip Lasser, composer, The Juilliard School**

**Nadia and Lili Boulanger Symposium Concert: Original Works of  
Philip Lasser and Solo Piano Program by Émile Naoumoff**

Unwanted Blues (1996, 7') .....Philip Lasser (b. 1963)  
*A Blues style tone-poem in one movement written with a  
distinctive French accent. This work is unique in Lasser's output.  
Though completely written out, the sense of tremendous  
Jazz-influenced improvisation permeates the work. It was  
premiered in 1996 by Dorota Anderszewska, violin at The Juilliard School.*

**Mevlan Mecid, violin • Ran Feng, piano**

Chorale Prelude and Passacaillesque (2023, 14.30') .....Philip Lasser  
*A dark opening Chorale Prelude yields to a sunny Passacaglia  
movement. "In this piece, I work with overtones, spacing and  
doublings to create a truly combined sound between the two  
instruments. The second movement uses a simple descending scale  
as the passacaglia motif that prevails throughout its length."*

**Isaac Morgan, marimba • Teng Cao, piano**

--Intermission--

**Émile Naoumoff, piano**

Vers la vie Nouvelle (1919) .....Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979)  
Pièce sur des airs populaires  
flamands (1918)  
Lux Aeterna (1910)

Pie Jesu (1918) .....Lili Boulanger (1893–1918)  
Thème et Variations (1915)  
D'un vieux jardin (1914)  
D'un jardin clair (1914)

from *String Quartet in E minor*,  
Opus 121 (1923).....Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)  
II. Andante  
from *In Paradisum de Requiem*  
in D minor, Opus 48 (1900)  
VI. Libera Me

Le parfum de l'âme (2013)..... Émile Naoumoff (b. 1962)  
La cathédrale en pleurs (2019)

*about our guest artists*

**Émile Naoumoff** is a professor of piano at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he has been on faculty since 1998. Émile revealed himself as a musical prodigy at age five, taking up the piano and adding composition to his studies a year later. At the age of seven, after a fateful meeting in Paris, he became the last disciple of Nadia Boulanger, who referred to him as "the gift of my old age." Naoumoff studied with her until her death in late 1979. During this auspicious apprenticeship, Mlle. Boulanger gave him the opportunity to work with Clifford Curzon, Igor Markevitch, Robert and Gaby Casadesus, Nikita Magaloff, Jean Francaix, Leonard Bernstein, Soulima Stravinsky, Aram Khachaturian and Yehudi Menuhin. Lord Menuhin conducted the premiere of Émile's first piano concerto, with the composer as a soloist when he was ten years old. At the same time, he pursued studies at the Paris Conservatory with Lelia Gousseau, Pierre Sancan, Genevieve Joy-Dutilleux, as well as at the École Normale de Musique de Paris with Pierre Dervaux (conducting). Upon the death of Mlle. Boulanger, Naoumoff took over her classes at the summer sessions of the Conservatoire d'Art Américain in Fontainebleau.

**Philip Lasser** is a composer with both French and American cultural roots. At an early age, Lasser entered Nadia Boulanger's famed École d'Arts Américaines in Fontainebleau, France. Following his studies at Harvard College, Lasser lived in Paris, where he worked with Boulanger's closest colleague and disciple, Narcis Bonet, and legendary pianist Gaby Casadesus. He received his master's degree from Columbia University while studying with René Leibowitz's disciple, Jacques-Louis Monod, and his doctorate from The Juilliard School, where he worked with David Diamond. Lasser has been a distinguished member of The Juilliard School faculty since 1994. Lasser is Director of the European American Music Alliance (EAMA) Summer Music Institute and Academy, dedicated to the training of composers, chamber musicians, and conductors in the serious study of musical discourse.

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**Two hundred seventy-fourth program of the 2023–2024 season**  
**Photography and videography are prohibited**