

## Faculty Recital:

2022-12-07 – Courtney Miller, oboe, Volkan Orhon, double bass, and Réne Lecuona, piano



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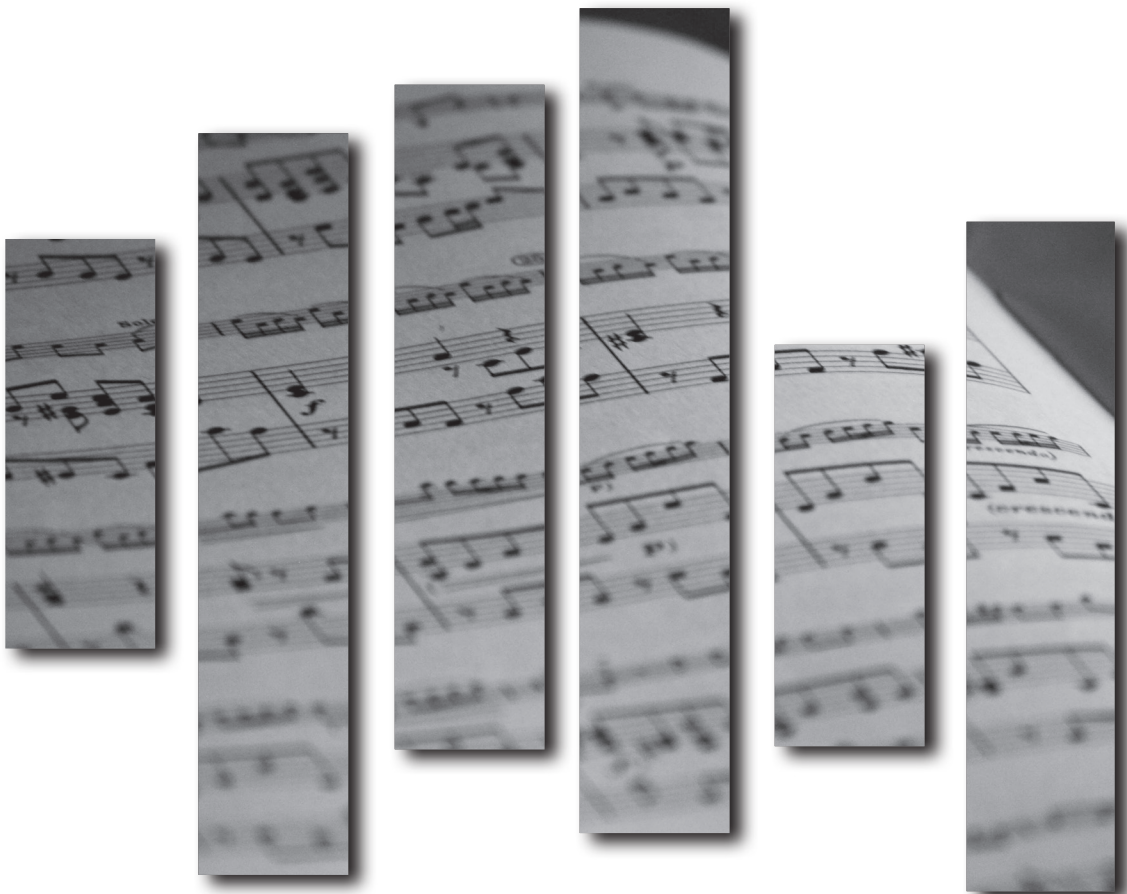


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# IOWA

School of Music



## FACULTY CHAMBER RECITAL: OBOE, BASS, AND PIANO TRIO

Courtney Miller, *oboe*  
Volkan Orhon, *double bass*  
Réne Lecuona, *piano*

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:30pm  
Voxman Music Building Concert Hall

# Faculty Chamber Recital

Courtney Miller, *oboe*  
Volkan Orhon, *double bass*  
Réne Lecuona, *piano*

## PROGRAM

Impressions for Solo Oboe  
I. Moderato  
II. Leggiero  
III. Siciliana  
IV. Allegro

Marilyn ZUPNIK

Courtney Miller, *oboe*

Suite Romantique  
II. Intermezzo  
III. Berceuse  
IV. Nocturno

Antonio FRAGOSO  
(1897-1918)

Courtney Miller, *oboe*  
Réne Lecuona, *piano*

Cloud Songs\*  
I. Cirrus  
II. Nimbostratus  
III. Cumulonimbus

Alyssa MORRIS  
(b. 1984)

Courtney Miller, *oboe*  
Volkan Orhon, *double bass*  
Réne Lecuona, *piano*

*\*denotes world premiere*

# PROGRAM NOTE

## **Cloud Songs** (Alyssa Morris)

CIRRUS- Cirrus clouds are the wispy, feathery clouds that form at high altitudes. They are usually white, and when they are present they are usually accompanied by pleasant weather. The chord progression of the famous Irving Berlin jazz standard “Blue Skies” underscore this cloud song.

NIMBOSTRATUS- Nimbostratus clouds form thick, dense, dark gray cloud layers that are accompanied by continuously falling rain. This movement draws upon the popular ballad form ABABCB to depict an overcast and mournful cloud song.

CUMULONIMBUS- Cumulonimbus clouds are generally known as thunderstorm clouds. These clouds can be accompanied by heavy rain, hail, lightning, and even tornadoes. This cloud song begins with a frenetic figure in 7/8-time, casting a nervous and anticipatory ambiance. A pleading melody follows and makes its first appearance. The melody, from a hymn by John R. Sweney, is accompanied by the following text by James Nicholson:

*The Lord is my Light*

*(Verse 2)*

*The Lord is my light; though clouds may arise  
Faith, stronger than sight, looks up thru the skies  
Where Jesus forever in glory doth reign.  
Then How can I ever in darkness remain*

The 7/8 figure returns again, as though someone is fighting anxiety, darkness, and uncertainty while trying to find the light. The hymn melody returns, this time with more optimism and grandeur:

*(Verse 3)*

*The Lord is my light; the Lord is my strength.  
I know in his might I'll conquer at length.  
My weakness in mercy he covers with power  
And, walking by faith, I am blest every hour.*

*(Verse 4)*

*The Lord is my light, my all and in all.  
There is in his sight no darkness at all.  
He is my Redeemer, my Savior, and King.  
With Saints and with angels His praises I'll sing.*

## PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



A highly regarded performer and pedagogue, **Dr. Courtney Miller** tours as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America. She has performed in many orchestras in the United States including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Iowa, the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, and Waterloo–Cedar Falls Symphony. A versatile artist, Dr. Miller is devoted to championing both established repertoire, new compositions, and lesser-known works. Her album *Portuguese Perspectives* introduces world-premiere recordings and several new

commissions by Miller. This album and her 2015 release *Modern Fairy Tales* are readily available on iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify. American Record Guide praises her “seamless consistency in the various registers of the oboe...and sensitive phrasing and articulation.” Fanfare Magazine hails her as “a performer of considerable skill, with an unfailingly lovely sound, abundant technical ability, and a special gift for turning notes into poetry.” Courtney Miller is a Lorée Artist: <http://www.loree-paris.com/musiciens/courtney-miller>

**Volkan Orhon** was a finalist and prizewinner in the Concert Artists Guild Solo Competition in New York City and was the co-first-place winner of the International Society of Bassists Solo Competition. Additionally, he distinguished himself as the first double bass player ever to win the grand prize overall and first prize for double bass at the American String Teacher’s Association Solo Competition. Orhon has performed with internationally recognized musicians including Gary Karr, Fazil Say, and JACK, Emerson, and Tokyo String Quartets and has



played solos with orchestras and recitals around the world. He was one of the performers for the international consortium of Pulitzer Winner composer John Harbison’s *Concerto for Bass Viol and Orchestra*. Most recently he recorded the *Double Bass Concerto* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, a work written for him by David Gompper. Mr. Orhon has been an invited clinician to workshops across the U.S. and abroad, including Berlin World Bass Festival, Ouro Branco Festival in Brazil, World Bass Festival in Paris, and BASS2016 Prague as

well the International Society of Bassists. He is currently a professor of double bass at the University of Iowa.



**Dr. Réne Lecuona** has been praised by critics in Germany, the UK, and the US for her chamber music interpretations and solo performances: “The imagery of the music is perfectly conveyed by Vogel and Lecuona in an inspired performance... this is chamber music at its best” ([www.klassik.com](http://www.klassik.com)); “As throughout the entire album, Lecuona’s performance is magnificent...” (David Murray: Bass World); “Lecuona’s interpretation of Mozart was outstanding...” (Daily Iowan). Dr. Lecuona has performed throughout South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the United States. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in Weill Recital Hall with mezzo-soprano Katherine Eberle and in the Goodman Hall at Lincoln Center with soprano Rachel Joselson. Her playing has been featured on many compact discs, including a recording of the music of Margaret Brouwer (CRI label), which won the 2000 Contemporary Art Music Burton Award. She may be heard on Centaur Records, Innova Recordings, Capstone Records, Cybele Recording, Albany Records, and Composers Recordings International.

Dr. Lecuona is professor of piano at The University of Iowa. A devoted teacher, Réne has prepared students for admission and scholarship in performance programs at prestigious institutions such as the New England Conservatory, the University of Michigan, Florida State University, the Manhattan School of Music, the Eastman School of Music, Northwestern University, Peabody Conservatory, and Aspen Music Festival. Her former students hold teaching posts in Germany and Brazil as well as in the U.S.

Réne Lecuona earned a doctor of musical arts degree in piano performance and was awarded a performer’s certificate at the Eastman School of Music. She received undergraduate and master’s degrees at the Indiana University School of Music. Her major teachers have included Menahem Pressler of the Beaux Arts Trio, the late György Sebök, Edward Auer, Shigeo Neriki, and Rebecca Penneys. Réne was raised in Corning, New York and studied piano for many years with Laurie Conrad of Ithaca, New York. She lives in Coralville, Iowa with her husband Andrew and their son Sebastian.




# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## DECEMBER 2022

8	4:00pm	Opera Workshop Performance	Stark Opera
8	7:30pm	Chamber Music Residency Program: Recital #1 	Recital Hall
9	12:30pm	Holiday Tubas 2022	Old Capitol Museum
9	7:30pm	Double Bass Studio Recital	Choral Room
9	7:30pm	Chamber Music Residency Program: Recital #2 	Recital Hall
10	11:30am	Clarinet Studio Recital	Choral Room
10	3:00pm	Holiday Percussion Pops 	Concert Hall