

Faculty Lecture:

2023-02-22 – William Menefield, speaker and Nathan Platte, speaker



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School of Music



FACULTY LECTURE

In Conversation with Dr. William Menefield on *FIERCE*

Dr. William Menefield, *speaker*

Dr. Nathan Platte, *speaker*

Monday, February 22, 2023 at 5:30pm
Voxman Music Building Recital Hall

Faculty Lecture

Dr. William Menefield, *speaker*

Dr. Nathan Platte, *speaker*

In Conversation with Dr. William Menefield on *FIERCE*

In July 2022, Cincinnati Opera premiered *FIERCE*, an opera with music by William Menefield and words by novelist Sheila Williams. *Fierce* uses the prompt of the college admission essay to follow four young women as they seek to better understand themselves at a difficult juncture in their lives.

Join us for a conversation with William Menefield, who will share stories about the opera's development, play excerpts from the premiere, and field questions about the creative process of making an opera.

BIOGRAPHIES

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, **Dr. William Menefield** took a few piano lessons when he was six years old, but was primarily a self-taught pianist early in his career. Since then, he has studied with Erwin Stuckey, Diana Belland, and Elaine Leung-Wolf.

William has recorded two albums as a solo artist. His debut album, *Big Will Leaps In* (J-Curve Records), was released in the spring of 1999 and later reached #13 on the national Gavin Jazz Charts. His second album, *Will's Revenge* (413 Records), was released in May of 2003.

William was sought out by the Cincinnati Arts Association to initiate their emerging artist concert series at the Aronoff Center for the Arts on April 10, 1999. He also was a featured soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in 2005, as well as the Cincinnati Opera Company in 2006, and again in 2013. He has performed at a variety of venues with various notable musicians including Roy Ayers, Clark Terry, David “Fathead” Newman, Gary Bartz, Steve Wilson, Javon Jackson, and others.

Additionally, William has produced music for the HBO series, *The Watchmen* and his choral/orchestral piece, *Prism*, was performed at Carnegie Hall in May 2019. His new opera, *FIERCE*, commissioned by the Cincinnati Opera, premiered in July 2022. He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Iowa.

Nathan Platte teaches courses on film music and other 20th- and 21st-century topics for the School of Music and Department of Cinematic Arts. Platte’s publications explore the sound of Hollywood’s studio era from a variety of angles, including the collaborative process of film scoring, the intersection of technology and music, the role of studio orchestras, and soundtrack albums. This work has taken him to film and music-related archives around the country, and he has contributed to conferences on film sound and archival research at the British Library and the University of Huddersfield.

His articles have appeared in *The Journal of Musicology*, *Music & Politics*, *19th-Century Music*, *The Journal of the Society for American Music*, *Music and the Moving Image*, and *The Journal of Film Music*. Platte’s work has also been published in many anthologies, including *The Oxford Handbook of the Hollywood Musical* (2022), where he contributed an essay on actor and pianist Oscar Levant, and *The Cambridge Companion to Gershwin* (2019), where he wrote an article on *Shall We Dance* and *A Damsel in Distress*.

Platte’s books include *The Routledge Film Music Sourcebook* (Routledge, 2012; coedited with James Wierzbicki and Colin Roust) and *Franz Waxman’s “Rebecca”: A Film Score Guide* (Scarecrow Press, 2012; coauthored with David Neumeyer). His most recent book, *Making Music in Selznick’s Hollywood* (Oxford University Press, 2018), investigates the scores for films like *Gone With the Wind*, *Since You Went Away*, and *Spellbound*.

Since 2020, Platte has worked as a writer, producer, and co-host for two podcasts: *Sounding Cinema*, a film music podcast made in collaboration with students, and *FilmCastPodScene*, a podcast cohosted with Ben Delgado, the programming director of Iowa City’s independent cinema, *FilmScene*.

Platte received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, where he also completed bachelor’s degrees in history and trombone performance. Before joining the faculty at the University of Iowa in 2011, he taught at Michigan and Bowling Green State University. He served as President for the Midwest chapter of the American Musicological Society from 2020 to 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS





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All events are FREE unless otherwise indicated 

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FEBRUARY 2022

23	1:30pm	UI Lab Ensemble Concert	VOX 2400
24	1:30pm	Mark Laver, "Sands of Time: Improvisation, Aging, and Virtuosity"	VOX 2
24	7:30pm	Iowa Steel Band with Victor Provost, NSSBE Host Concert	Concert Hall
25	3:00pm	Northern Illinois University Steel Band NSSBE Concert	Concert Hall
25	7:30pm	Larnell Lewis with Joy Lapps-Lewis & Friends NSSBE Closing Concert 	Concert Hall
26	3:00pm	Key Change: Piano Revolutionaries Series, Concert #5 	Concert Hall
26	7:30pm	Faculty Recital: Wolfgang David, <i>violin</i> & David Gompper, <i>piano</i> 	Concert Hall
27	7:30pm	Iowa Symphony Band: American Bandmasters Association Conference Preview Concert 	Concert Hall

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